

ASU SACS SELF-STUDY MISSION

Purpose Statement

In its Self-Study, Augusta State University will examine every aspect of the university's educational programs, support services, administrative processes, and its measures of institutional effectiveness, to determine the institution's compliance with the SACS criteria. It will do this with continuous reference to the institution's own mission statement. Where problems with compliance are discovered, recommendations will be made so that the area in question can achieve compliance. For the institution, however, mere compliance is our Self-Study's minimal objective. The Self-Study process will be an opportunity to fine tune what we already do successfully and change what impedes us from serving our students.

The Self-Study will describe the current state of Augusta State University. It will do this through analysis, based on documentation, of every function of every unit in the University. The Self-Study will examine each of these units and procedures for their compliance with SACS criteria as enumerated by the "must" statements. It will document the degree to which compliance has been met in every instance. Where it finds less than complete compliance, it will acknowledge the problem and make a recommendation for achieving compliance.

Beyond these activities of examination, analysis, documentation, recommendation, and correction to ensure compliance with criteria defined by SACS, the Self-Study will take as its **significant issues** the commitments made in the institution's Mission Statement, with a particular focus on the commitment to student success. This aspect of the Self-Study is detailed under Goals.

Self-Study Goals

As a result of an initiative by the President's Advisory Council in 1994, Augusta State University revised its Mission Statement to reflect more accurately the institution's goals and aspirations. To ensure that this statement is more than a rhetorical exercise, and that the institution is serious in making certain that its assertions are grounded in actuality, the Self-Study, following the *SACS Handbook for Institutional Self-Study*, will attempt to answer the following questions:

- To what extent does the current institutional purpose statement adequately characterize the institution at the present time?
- What are the more significant internal or external factors affecting the institution's ability to fulfill its purpose?
- To what extent and in what ways should the existing range of educational programs and services be modified to enhance the institution's ability to fulfill its purpose?

In light of five commitments stated in Augusta State University's Mission

Statement — to excellence in teaching, to accessibility by a diverse student population, to the success of those students, to the enrichment of the Augusta area, and to the advancement of knowledge — the goal of the Self-Study will be to examine the degree to which the institution is keeping those commitments. Student success, which is the primary goal of the institution and the goal to which the other four must contribute, will be the central focus. To this end it will be necessary to determine the nature of the institution's student body, to define "success," and to determine the means to measure it. In the process of Self-Study, the institution will attempt to analyze in every aspect of its programs and procedures the ways in which it contributes to or impedes the success of the student population which it serves.

Guidelines for Applying the University Mission Statement

Each Principal Committee should, in the examination of its area, keep in mind the basic assertions of Augusta State University's Mission Statement, noting the extent to which the unit under consideration does, in fact, contribute to

- the success of students
- excellence in teaching
- accessibility by a diverse student population
- the enrichment of the Augusta area
- the advancement of knowledge