Assessment is mandated by federal and state government systems as well as regional and professional accrediting agencies. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requirements and standards that address assessment are noted below.

- **Core Requirement 2.5:** The institution engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide, research-based planning and evaluation processes that (1) incorporate a systematic review of institutional mission, goals, and outcomes; (2) result in continuing improvement in institutional quality; and (3) demonstrate the institution is effectively accomplishing its mission. *(Institutional effectiveness)*

- **Core Requirement 2.12:** The institution has developed an acceptable Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) that includes an institutional process for identifying key issues emerging from institutional assessment and focuses on learning outcomes and/or the environment supporting student learning and accomplishing the mission of the institution. *(Quality Enhancement Plan)*

- **Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1:** The institution identifies expected outcomes, assesses the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provides evidence of improvement based on analysis of the results in each of the following areas: *(Institutional effectiveness)*
  - 3.3.1.1 educational programs, to include student learning outcomes
  - 3.3.1.2 administrative support services
  - 3.3.1.3 educational support services
  - 3.3.1.4 research within its educational mission, if appropriate
  - 3.3.1.5 community/public service within its educational mission, if appropriate

- **Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1:** The institution identifies college-level general education competencies and the extent to which students have attained them. *(General education competencies)*

- **Federal Standard 4.1:** The institution evaluates success with respect to student achievement consistent with its mission. Criteria may include: enrollment data; retention, graduation, course completion, and job placement rates; state licensing examinations; student portfolios; or other means of demonstrating achievement of goals. *(Student achievement)*