

## College of Business Achieves Reaffirmation of Accreditation by International Accrediting Agency

Contributed by Jan May - 601.266.5854  
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HATTIESBURG, Miss. - The University of Southern Mississippi College of Business has received official notice that its bachelor's and master's degree programs in business administration and accounting have earned reaffirmation of accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International).

Reaffirmation of accreditation assures that the COB will keep its place in an elite group that makes up less than 10 percent of the world's business schools that have achieved both business and accounting accreditation from AACSB International.

"Accreditation reaffirmation is a clear indicator that Southern Miss continues to strive toward excellence in a very competitive management education marketplace. It represents the collective efforts of all stakeholders in focusing resources toward a common vision of distinction in the creation and delivery of business-related knowledge. AACSB accreditation is an instantly recognizable measure of value and quality," said Dr. Alvin Williams, interim dean of the COB.

To maintain AACSB accreditation, a business school must undergo meticulous internal review, evaluation and adjustment and a peer review every five years in order to maintain its accreditation.

"It takes a great deal of self-evaluation and determination to earn AACSB accreditation," said Jerry Trapnell, chief accreditation officer of AACSB International. "These schools have met rigorous standards of excellence, as well as made a commitment to ongoing improvement that ensures that they will deliver a high-quality education to students," he added.

AACSB International is the longest serving and largest global accrediting body for business schools that offer undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees in business and accounting. The Southern Miss College of Business, which first achieved AACSB accreditation in 1976, is the only AACSB accredited business school in South Mississippi.

Southern Miss President Martha Saunders, right, and Dr. Alvin Williams, interim dean of the College of Business, pose during a reception Monday celebrating the college's reaffirmation of its AACSB International accreditation. (Southern Miss Photo by Jana Bryant)

### About The University of Southern Mississippi

The University of Southern Mississippi, founded in 1910, is a comprehensive doctoral and research-extensive university fulfilling its mission of being a leading university in engaging and empowering individuals to transform lives and communities. In a tradition of leadership for student development, Southern Miss is educating a 21st century work force providing intellectual capital, cultural enrichment and innovation to Mississippi and the world. Southern Miss is located in Hattiesburg, Miss., with an additional campus and teaching and research sites on the Mississippi Gulf Coast; further information is found at [www.usm.edu](http://www.usm.edu).

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