Provost's Report
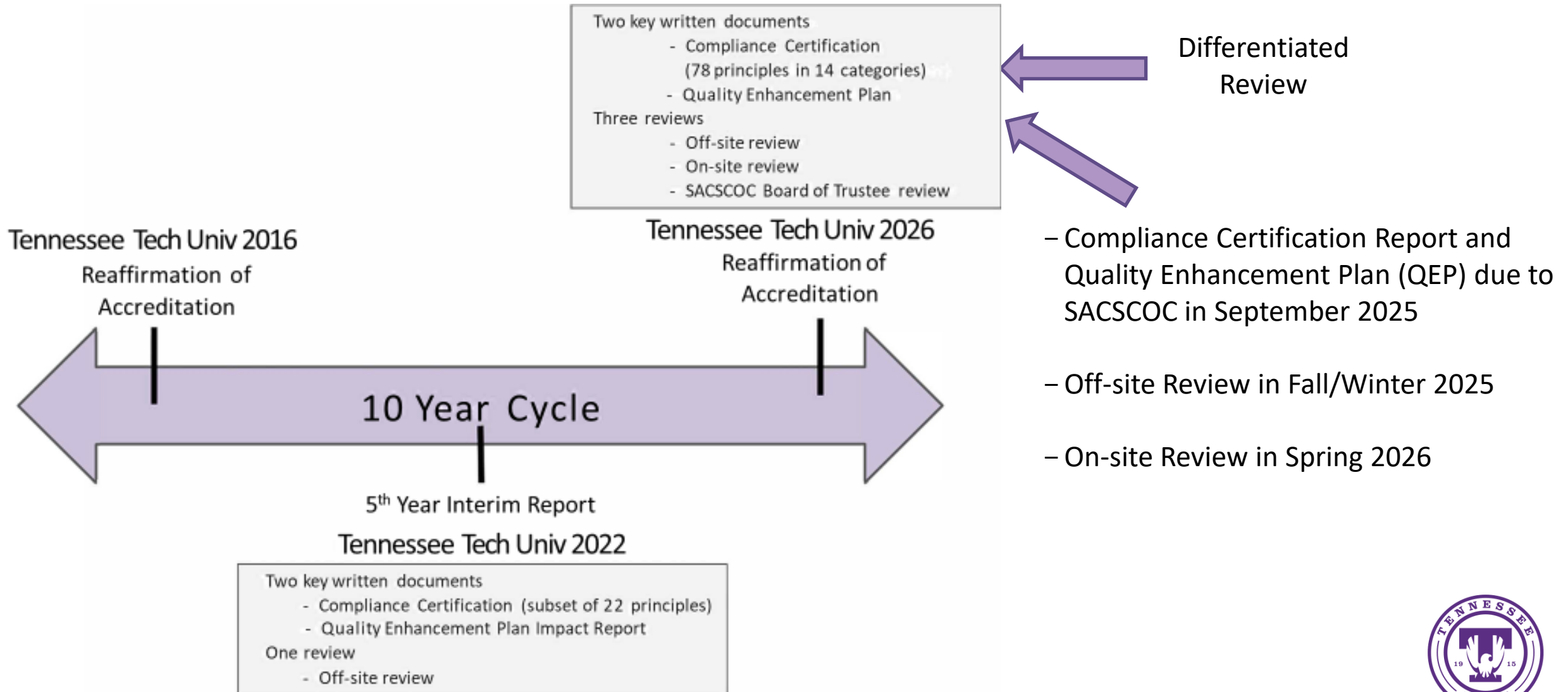
Presentation to Academic & Student Affairs Committee
Board of Trustees

June 26, 2025

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SACSCOC Accreditation

University Accreditation – SACSCOC

Two key written documents
- Compliance Certification
  (78 principles in 14 categories)
- Quality Enhancement Plan

Three reviews
- Off-site review
- On-site review
- SACSCOC Board of Trustee review

Tennessee Tech Univ 2026
Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Differentiated Review

– Compliance Certification Report and Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) due to SACSCOC in September 2025

– Off-site Review in Fall/Winter 2025

– On-site Review in Spring 2026

Tennessee Tech Univ 2016
Reaffirmation of Accreditation

10 Year Cycle

5th Year Interim Report
Tennessee Tech Univ 2022

Two key written documents
- Compliance Certification (subset of 22 principles)
- Quality Enhancement Plan Impact Report

One review
- Off-site review

University Accreditation – SACSCOC

Compliance Certification Report Writing Team

Compliance Committee

- Dr. Sharon Huo, Chair
- Dr. Alice Camuti
- Dr. Mike Gotcher
- Dr. Kevin Harris
- Dr. Amy Hill
- Prof. Sharon Holderman
- Dr. Barbara Jared
- Dr. Allan Mills
- Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi
- Dr. Lisa Zagumny

Faculty Credentials Committee

- Dr. Curtis Armstrong, Chair
- Dr. Chris Wilson
- Dr. Jeannette Luna
- Dr. Michael Allen
- Dr. Colin Hill
- Dr. Scott Christen
- Dr. George Chitiyo
- Dr. Rachel Hall
- Dr. Dennis Duncan

Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment Committee

- Dr. Kevin Harris, Chair
- Ms. Lindsay Young
- Dr. Ashley Akenson
- Dr. Mike Gotcher
- Dr. Barbara Jared
- Dr. Lori Maxwell
- Dr. Linda Null
- Dr. Mohan Rao

- Dr. Martin Sheehan
- Dr. Matthew Trengove
- Prof. Kimberly Winkle
- Ms. Sandra Storie
- Dr. Melinda Anderson
- Dr. Stephen Robinson
- Dr. Kumar Yelamarthi

Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Reports

Additional 47 faculty and staff serve as IE Report Facilitators and are actively engaged in preparing the 2024–25 IE Reports.

2026 Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Timeline

- 2023-2024: Topic Selection
- 2024 – 2025: Program Development
- 2025 – 2026: Launch Pilot Program
- Spring 2026: SACSCOC Site Visit

Topic: Elevating Career Readiness Across the Student Experience

- **ELEVATE** is Tennessee Tech's five-year initiative to help students build the durable skills they need to thrive—on campus, in the workplace, and in life.

- Rooted in the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) Career Competencies, **ELEVATE** connects academic experiences with real-world preparation, ensuring every Golden Eagle graduates with the confidence and tools to succeed.

2026 Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP)

Core Focus Areas

🎯 Career Readiness
💬 Communication & Collaboration
💡 Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
📈 Professionalism & Work Ethic
🌍 Leadership & Career Exploration

- First Year – Foundation
  - Student Success Outcome (SSO): Complete the Gold Career Ready Certificate
  - Action: Required in All First-Year Foundations Courses

- Throughout – Integration & Practice
  - Student Learning Outcome (SLO): Students develop and articulate durable skills
  - Action 1: Courses supported by Durable Skills Infusion Grants
  - Action 2: Summer & Academic Year Research / Creative Activities
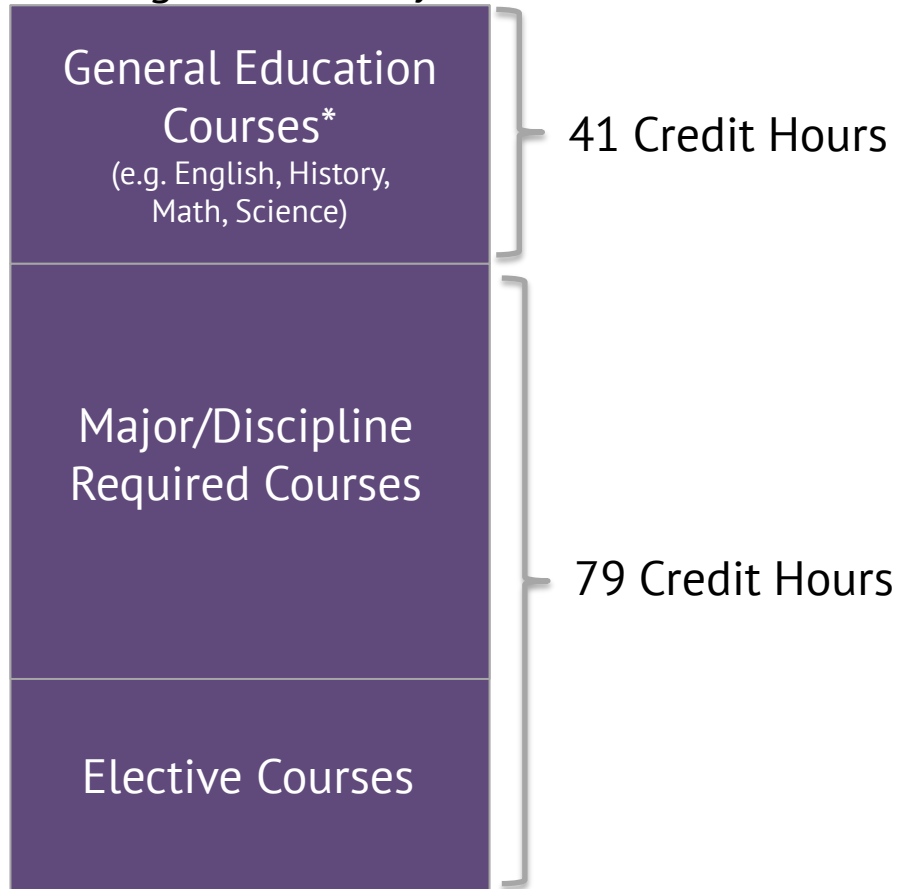 - Action 3: Travel Grants to Present at Conferences

Undergraduate
General Education

General Education

Typical Undergraduate
Program of Study

General Education Courses*
(e.g. English, History, Math, Science)

41 Credit Hours

Major/Discipline Required Courses

Elective Courses

79 Credit Hours

*Must meet criteria defined in TCA 49-7-202, TCA 49-7-110

2023-24

Vision Committee gathers input from students, faculty, staff, & industry partners about design of a new Gen Ed core

2024-25

Implementation Committee works with students, faculty, staff, to redesign Gen Ed core through shared governance processes

2025-26

Transition Team ensures new Gen Ed core is integrated into academic programs via design & approvals of new courses, undergraduate course catalog, student records software, etc

Fall 2026

Launch of new Gen Ed!

General Education -- VISION

GENERAL EDUCATION VISION COMMITTEE

- **Holly Anthony** (co-chair), Curriculum & Instruction
- **Allan Mills** (co-chair), College of Arts & Sciences
- **Steven Anton**, Mechanical Engineering
- **Heather Bertram**, Education & Human Sciences (student)
- **Jeremy Blair**, Art, Craft, & Design
- **Kent Dollar**, History
- **Helen Hunt**, English
- **Samantha Hutson**, Human Ecology
- **Jeannette Luna**, Earth Sciences
- **Linda Null**, English & Chair of General Education Committee
- **Richard Pirkle**, Biology
- **Lenly Weathers**, Civil & Environmental Engineering

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- Through our general education curriculum, Tennessee Tech provides a pathway to tomorrow's opportunities.
- Rename the current categories/buckets for General Education such that no name is the same as a department/unit on campus.
- Provide more choices in the various General Education categories/buckets.
- Incorporate Career Exploration, Financial Literacy, ideas of Global Citizenship, and Digital/Technological Literacy (Artificial Intelligence) into general education.

Recommendations were compiled from data gathered from students, faculty, staff, and administration via:

➢ 27 Town Hall Open Forums (200+ attendees) from August-November 2023.

➢ A Qualtrics Survey (1200+ respondents; 64% students) was conducted February-March 2024.

GENERAL EDUCATION IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

- **Holly Anthony** (co-chair), Curr & Instr
- **Linda Null** (co-chair), English
- **Deborah Barnard**, Foreign Languages
- **Stacey Browning**, Nursing
- **Amanda Carroll**, Chemistry
- **Brittany Copley**, Registrar
- **Chuck Craig**, Student Success Center
- **Dennis Fennewald**, Agriculture
- **Colin Hill**, Music
- **Kelly McCallister**, Volpe Library
- **Collen Mestayer**, Communication
- **Alma Núñez**; Econ, Finance, & Mkt
- **Lindsey Roberts**, Honors
- **Cara Sisk**, Human Ecology
- **Doug Talbert**, Computer Science
- **Chris Wilson**, Gen & Industrial Engr

- **Tony Baker**, English
- **Allan Mills**, Mathematics
- **Arthur Banton**, History
- **Kim Winkle**, Art, Craft, & Design
- **Lori Maxwell**, Sociology & Political Sci
- **Daniel Combs**, Biology
- **Melinda Anderson**, Human Ecology
- **Scott Christen**, Communication
- **Julie Galloway**, Student Success Center
- **Steve Isbell**, Econ, Finance & Mkt
- **Barbara Jared**, Nursing
- **Krystal Kennedy**, Curriculum & Instr
- **Jeannie Smith**, Student Success Center
- **Tammy Keylon**, Student Success Center
- **Jerri Winningham**, Enrollment Mngt
- **Lenly Weathers**, Civil & Env Engr

SUMMARY OF MAJOR COMMITTEE ACTIONS

- **New titles of categories**
- **Addition of a new category - Financial and Digital Literacy**
- **New learning outcomes for each category**
- 32 faculty members served 7 subcommittees
- 230+ additional full-time faculty and SGA senators consulted/involved
- 9 Full committee meetings
- Numerous subcommittee meetings & emails
- 12 alternative "hours proposals" considered/reviewed
- Multiple surveys/votes and metrics analysis
- 2 Faculty Senate Meetings (Oct 2024, Jan 2025)
- SGA Meeting (Feb 2025)
- History Dept. Meeting (Jan 2025) & English Dept. Meeting (Feb 2025)
- Gen Ed Info Meeting, open to campus (Mar 2025)

New General Education Curriculum

Current Category	New Category	Current Hours	New Hours
Mathematics	Quantitative Reasoning and Analysis	3 hours	3 hours
Humanities/Fine Arts	Humanities and Cultural Expression	9 hours -3 hours literature required	6 to 9 hours
History	Historical Foundations	6 hours	3 to 6 hours
Social Behavioral Sciences	Social and Behavioral Sciences	6 hours	6 hours
Communication	Communication	9 hours -6 hours comp -3 hours oral comm	9 hours -6 hours comp -3 hours oral comm
Natural Sciences	Scientific Reasoning	8 hours	4 to 8 hours
New	Financial and Digital Literacy	0 hours	3 to 4 hours
	Total Hours	**41 hours designated**	**34 hours designated** **7 hours flexible**

Approved by the University Curriculum Committee March2025,
Academic Council on April 2025, and University Assembly on April 2025.

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2025 Faculty Awards

2024-2025
Outstanding Faculty Award for Professional Service

Dr. Stephen Canfield

Professor of Mechanical Engineering
College of Engineering

2024-2025
Caplenor Faculty Research Award

Dr. Muhammad Ismail

CEROC Director and Associate Professor of Computer Science
College of Engineering

2024-2025
Outstanding Faculty Award in Teaching

Dr. Chelsea Dowell

Lecturer of Economics, Finance, and Marketing
College of Business

2024-2025
Outstanding Faculty Award in Teaching

Dr. Krystal Kennedy

Assistant Professor of Curriculum & Instruction
College of Education