

Institutional Information for Self-Study Development: Specialized Accreditation (College or Program)

As part of its institutional responsibility, Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) represents itself accurately to all U.S. Department of Education recognized accreditation agencies with which it holds accreditation. Moreover, BCM and its programs provide to each accrediting agency consistent descriptions regarding the university's purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituents. To ensure this consistency, programs seeking specialized (re)accreditation should refer to the institutional information contained herein when developing their self-study materials.

Institutional Accreditation (SACSCOC)

BCM is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges & Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC): www.sacscoc.org. Since 1970, the College has continuously maintained its SACSCOC accreditation, which was most recently reaffirmed in 2016 and then again in 2022 on our 5th year report. An official letter verifying the College's SACSCOC accreditation is often required as part of the self-study materials that programs must provide to their respective discipline-specific accrediting agencies. BCM has continued to provide reports as necessary to maintain SACSCOC accreditation.

For accreditation purposes, BCM is a Level VI, Track B institution. Level VI institutions are distinguished as such based on the number of doctoral programs offered by the institution. Title IV institutions are accredited to award doctoral degrees in four or more academic or professional disciplines. Track B institutions offer undergraduate and graduate degrees or graduate degrees only.

As required by SACSCOC, the university's **official statement of accreditation** must appear exactly as follows:

Baylor College of Medicine is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award masters and doctorate degrees. Questions about the accreditation of Baylor College of Medicine may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

BCM Mission Statement

BCM's [mission statement](#) is provided below.

Baylor College of Medicine is a health sciences university that creates knowledge and applies science and discoveries to further education, healthcare and community service locally and globally.



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Carnegie Designation

Baylor College of Medicine is adopting the comparison institution group chosen by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) by the following Carnegie Classification Criteria:

- Control of Institution: Private Not-for-profit
- Special Focus Four-Year: Research Institutions

Baylor's profile and more information about other classifications conducted by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education can be found on their [website](#).

BCM's History/Background

In 1900, a small group of dedicated physicians and community leaders started a medical school in Dallas to improve the practice of medicine in North Texas. The fledgling school was called the University of Dallas Medical Department, although no such university existed. The school opened its doors Oct. 30, 1900.

In 1903, the school affiliated with Baylor University in Waco. At that time, the name changed to Baylor University College of Medicine. The College struggled in those early years to improve its curriculum, facilities, faculty, and students, and, by 1918, it was the only private medical school in Texas.

Over the next several decades, the College continued to grow, but faced many financial challenges.

In 1943, the MD Anderson Foundation invited Baylor University College of Medicine to join the newly formed Texas Medical Center. The College opened in Houston July 12, 1943, in a converted Sears, Roebuck & Co. building, with 131 students. Four years later, the College moved into its present site in The Roy and Lillie Cullen Building, the first building completed in the new Texas Medical Center.

In 1948, Michael E. DeBakey, M.D., joined the faculty as chair of the Department of Surgery, and the following year, The Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences was established. During the next several years, the College began its affiliation with a number of hospitals, which created superior training facilities for students and residents.

The College's rise in prominence began in the 1950s when Dr. DeBakey's innovative surgical techniques garnered international attention. The 1960s brought the first major expansion of College facilities, along with a major turning point for the institution.

In 1969, by mutual agreement, the College separated from Baylor University to become an independent institution. This encouraged broader, nonsectarian support and provided access to federal research funding. The institution's name changed to Baylor College of Medicine.



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That same year, the College entered into an agreement with the state legislature to double its class size in order to increase the number of physicians in Texas. The agreement remains in place today.

Governance

Baylor College of Medicine has a governing board (Board of Trustees) that is the legal body with specific authority over the institution. The College's Board of Trustees is an active policy-making body for the institution and is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the financial resources of the College are adequate to provide a sound educational program. The Board is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or interests separate from it and both the presiding officer of the Board of Trustees and a majority of other voting members of the governing board are free of any contractual, employment, or personal or familial financial interest in the institution.

Frequently use resources, include:

- [BCM Board of Trustees](#)
- [College Organizational Chart](#)

Programs/Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates

A complete list of the college's programs, degrees, diplomas, and certificates is available under Education Programs within the BCM website:

- [Education Programs](#)

Trend Data

Trend data for general information (tuition and fees), students (e.g., admissions and entering); enrollment and student attributes; and degrees), and personnel are available via the BCM website:

- [Tuition and Fees](#)
- [Student Achievement](#)
- [Fast Facts](#)

Finances

BCM's current tuition, insurance and fees schedules are available via the College website for each of the schools within BCM:

- [Tuition and Fees](#)

Related SACSCOC Policies

- [SACSCOC Policy Statement: Accrediting Decisions of Other Agencies](#)
- [SACSCOC Policy Statement: Institutional Obligations for Public Disclosure](#)
- [SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation—14.4 "Representation to Other Agencies"](#)