

# Does FAMU's School of Journalism and Graphic Communication have what it takes to be accredited?

Accreditation is a review process that determines if an educational institution meets the standard of quality.



The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's School of Journalism and Graphic Communication is among the nation's leading programs and ranked number 7 in the state of Florida. Florida A&M University takes pride in the high quality education that is provided at their school of Journalism. However, each year there will always be the question of if the program is still worthy of accreditation.

## What is accreditation?

Accreditation determines if an educational institution meets certain standards and is also something that can be taken away once reached. According to ABET.org academic accreditation is voluntary, decentralized, and carried out by many non-governmental, non-profit organizations. So being accredited is not a requirement but something that just makes a university better. Being the number 1 public HBCU in the

nation it is the standard to have accredited programs.

Although accreditation does not solely rely on one individual, it is imperative to have great leadership in order to be successful. In August of 2021, FAMU named Mira Lowe to be dean of School of Journalism and Graphic Communication. Lowe has a long background in journalism and was previously assistant dean of student experiences at the University of Florida. Incorporating a new dean will definitely have an impact on whether or not the program stays accredited.

According to the SJGC website, Florida A&M's School of Journalism and Graphic Communication goes through a rigorous process and requirements in order to continue to be an accredited program. "We celebrate full accreditation based on the following eight ACEJMC standards: 1. Mission, Governance, and Administration 2. Curriculum and

Instruction, 3. Diversity and Inclusiveness, 4. Full-time and Part-time Faculty, 5. Scholarship: Research, Creative and Professional Activity, 6. Resources, Facilities and Equipment, 7. Professional and Public Service, 8. Assessment of Learning Outcomes."

## Expert insight

Keeping these requirements in mind raises the question; Do Florida A&M Journalism students believe that SJGC passes the test to be accredited?

Wesley Boone, 21, who is a senior graphic communications student, said that the journalism program has been everything he expected and more.

"Ever since high school I wanted to attend FAMU's school of Journalism and Graphic Communications. All of my professors have been great, I definitely do think that J school has what it takes to be accredited and to continue to be." Back in May of 2020 FAMU'S SJGC division of journalism earned ACEJMC reaccreditation for another six years according to rattlernation.com. Although the program recently passed the test, in 2018 FAMU j-school was placed on provisional accreditation by ACEJMC.

## DID YOU KNOW?



Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU) is accredited by the The Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The College of Education is accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Source: FAMU.edu

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Dr. Thigpen, SJGC professor at Florida A&M University, said that although she is new to the program, she is positive that SJGC is worthy of accreditation.

"There is a lot that goes into accreditation, there has to be a specific amount of professors that are doctors, a specific amount of graduation rates and more. J school definitely passes the test." SJGC goes above and beyond to prepare their students for the real world. Capstone is one example of how the program differs from others.

Christian Streat, who is a SJGC graduate, said that the program definitely prepared him for the real world.

"Having all of my work from capstone helped me in the real world and set me apart from others. I am forever grateful for this program."

## **Conclusion**

Florida A&M's J school is an accredited program that has a high retention rate and graduation rate. The professors care about their student's success and make sure the students are getting the best education possible.