

Public Comments Sought in USM Accreditation Process

The University of Southern Maine (USM) will undergo a comprehensive evaluation visit on April 10-13 by a team representing the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education is one of seven accrediting commissions in the United States that provide institutional accreditation on a regional basis. Accreditation is voluntary and applies to the institution as a whole. The Commission, which is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, accredits some 240 institutions in New England.

USM was last reviewed in 2001 and for the past two years has been engaged in a process of self-study, addressing the Commission's Standards for Accreditation. A copy of this self-study report is available at <http://usm.maine.edu/accreditation>.

During its April visit, the evaluation team will gather evidence that USM's self-study is thorough and accurate. The team will recommend to the Commission a continuing status for the institution. Following a review process, the Commission itself will take the final action.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:

**Public Comment on the University of Southern Maine
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
New England Association of Schools and Colleges
209 Burlington Road, Suite 201
Bedford, MA 01730-1433
E-mail: cihe@neasc.org**

Public Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution. The Commission cannot settle disputes between individuals and institutions, whether those involve faculty, students, administrators, or members of other groups.

Comments will not be treated as confidential and must include the name, address, and telephone number of the person providing the comments.

Public Comments must be received by April 13, 2011. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after that date will be considered.



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE