

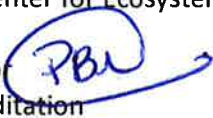
# UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 1, 2017

**TO:** Meryl Shriver-Rice, Director, Environmental Media  
The Leonard and Jayne Abess Center for Ecosystem Science & Policy

**FROM:** Patty Murphy, Executive Director   
Office of Assessment and Accreditation

**RE:** ADDENDUM to February 27<sup>th</sup> Memo re: New Concentration in Environment, Culture and Media (ECM) for the Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Professional Sciences (MPS)

This memorandum is to follow up on the Abess Center's proposal to offer the Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Professional Studies (MPS) programs in Environment, Culture and Media (ECM) effective Fall 2017. The programs will be offered both on campus and via distance education. In my previous memo dated February 27th, I stated that these new programs would require notification to our accrediting agency, SACSCOC. However, after reviewing the SACSCOC Substantive Change Policy and your proposal, I do not believe that notification is required for these new programs. They do not "represent a significant departure, either in content or method of delivery" from what we are currently approved by SACSCOC to offer due to the following:

- The program length for the master's and doctoral degree programs meets the SACSCOC requirement of a minimum of 30 credit hours.
- The MA program will require a research thesis and the MPS program will require a professional internship with an internship report.
- The curriculum for the programs is generally a repackaging of existing courses, though 4 new courses will be developed.
- The University is currently approved to offer both the MA and MPS degrees as well as a PhD in a related area: Environmental Science and Policy.
- The programs will not be offered via distance education. However, even if this were to change, the University is currently approved to offer 100% distance education programs so it would not represent a substantive change.

SACSCOC only requires notification of new programs that represent a significant departure from our current programs. Therefore, no notification or approval is required for this change.

Please contact me if you have any questions at [pattymurphy@miami.edu](mailto:pattymurphy@miami.edu) or (305) 284-3276.

**CC:** Faculty Senate  
Guillermo Prado, Dean of the Graduate School  
Kenneth Broad, Director of the Leonard and Jayne Abess Center for Ecosystem Science & Policy  
Karen Beckett, University Registrar