

Definition Centers and Institutes

Adopted by the Academic Leadership Team, November 26, 2013 and the Board of Trustees on April 11, 2014, the following definitions apply to centers and institutes at Clemson University:

Academic Centers and Institutes

By definition academic centers and institutes are a means of organizing faculty to conduct and disseminate research and scholarship and contribute to the education of students, public service, and economic development as appropriate. The success of centers and institutes is measured by its ability to generate external funding [proposals submitted, awards received, expenditures], conduct research leading to innovation [disclosures, patents, licensures, start-ups], disseminate the research and scholarship [presentations, publications, citations], and provide opportunities for educational experiences [undergraduate student research, creative inquiry, graduate assistantships], and public service [community involvement, outreach, service learning].

Programmatic Centers and Institutes

A formal program that may or may not be funded externally that exists for a specific purpose and is organized by a faculty member(s) within the college may be called a center or institute. For example, the Advanced Placement Summer Institute or the *Clemson Thinks²* Faculty Institutes are programs with specific purposes that use the title of institute because of the length of time (more than a workshop or a conference) or formal structure (representing a national model). The Community University Service Alliance provides a structure that guides the University in its service learning initiatives.

Buildings and Instructional Sites

The terms centers and institutes also are used for identifying stand-alone buildings and instructional sites. For example, the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts, the Watt Innovation Center, the Clemson Architecture Center-Charleston, and the Equine Center are places on and off campus that are called centers. These are formal sites that provide a variety of services for students and faculty. A center or institute may host classes or offices, be a place for advising, or for innovative teaching. The Sullivan Center in the College of Health Education and Human Development provides health services to the campus and the community and serves as a place for site for experiential student learning and for faculty to conduct applied research.

ASSESSMENT and REVIEWS: Clemson University has a systematic approach to annual assessment of all academic and non-academic programs, services, and departments including centers and institutes. The annual process is divided into two segments: a planning document and an annual report. In addition to annual assessment reports, all centers and institutes undergo a comprehensive fifth year review.