

**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)**
<http://www.sacscoc.org>

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
NORTHWEST VISTA COLLEGE
San Antonio, Texas
Issued December 15, 2016, by SACSCOC**

The following publicly available information is provided by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) concerning the accreditation of Northwest Vista College. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Northwest Vista College. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees took place on December 4, 2016, and the institution's next review is December 2017.

What is the accreditation status of Northwest Vista College? Northwest Vista College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was denied reaffirmation of accreditation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning for 12 months following delay of SACSCOC's Board action on its comprehensive decennial review in June 2016 and a review by a Special Committee in fall 2016. SACSCOC's accreditation includes all components of the institution—all programs, branch campuses, off-campus sites, and distance learning programs as reported to the Commission; thus, the Warning status applies to the entire institution.

What does it mean to be denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning? Warning imposed by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees at the time of an institution's comprehensive decennial review follows a determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, or the Federal Requirements of the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of SACSCOC; failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies that led to the finding of non-compliance; or failure to comply with SACSCOC's policies and procedures. The maximum total time during one monitoring period that an institution may be on Warning is two years. In December 2017, Northwest Vista College will have been on Warning for one year. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" that can be accessed at <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>.

Why was Northwest Vista College denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning? Northwest Vista College was denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning because SACSCOC's Board of Trustees determined that, at the time of the institution's Special Committee's review, it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.2.6 (Board/administrative distinction), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.4 (Acceptance of academic credit), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.5 (Academic policies), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.10 (Responsibility for curriculum), Comprehensive Standard 3.13 (Policy compliance: "Reaffirmation of Accreditation and Subsequent Reports"), and Federal Requirement 4.7 (Title IV program responsibilities) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The cited standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence of compliance in the following areas: (1) clear and appropriate distinction between the institution and its governing board to administer and implement policy, (2) policies that include criteria for evaluating, awarding, and accepting credit, (3) academic policies that adhere to principles of good educational practice, (4) faculty responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of curriculum, and (5) compliance with program responsibilities under Title IV. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>)

What will happen in December 2017? SACSCOC's Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Northwest Vista College following review of a Second Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance. The Board will have the following options: (1) reaffirm accreditation and remove the institution from Warning without an additional report, or with a Fifth Year Follow-Up Report; (2) deny reaffirmation, continue accreditation, continue Warning, request a Third Report with/without a Special Committee Report; (3) deny reaffirmation, continue accreditation, place on Probation, request a Third Report, and authorize a Special Committee; and (4) remove the institution from membership for failure to comply with the *Principles of Accreditation*. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the SACSCOC's Board of Trustees in December 2017.

For additional information regarding SACSCOC's accreditation process, access the *Principles of Accreditation* (<http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>).