

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
THOMAS UNIVERSITY
Thomasville, Georgia
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 Thomas University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Thomas University. 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 Thomas University? Thomas University 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 its comprehensive decennial review. 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, Thomas University 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 Thomas University denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning? Thomas University 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 decennial review, it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 2.8 (Faculty), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.7 (Consortial relationships/contractual agreements), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.11 (Academic program coordination), Comprehensive Standard 3.5.4 (Terminal degrees of faculty), Comprehensive Standard 3.7.1 (Faculty competence), and Comprehensive Standard 3.8.3 (Qualified staff) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The cited standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it: (1) has an adequate number of full-time faculty, (2) ensures the quality of educational programs offered through contractual agreements, (3) assigns responsibility for program coordination to academically qualified persons, (4) ensures that 25% of course hours are taught by faculty members holding the terminal degree, (5) employs competent faculty members qualified to accomplish its mission, and (6) provides sufficient qualified staff in area of library and other learning resources. (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 Thomas University following review of a First Monitoring 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 Second Monitoring Report with/without a Special Committee Report; (3) deny reaffirmation, continue accreditation, place on Probation, request a Second Monitoring 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 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>).