

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE  
Louisville, Kentucky  
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 the University of Louisville. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to the University of Louisville. 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 the University of Louisville?** The University of Louisville is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was placed on Probation following review of the institution's response to unsolicited information from media sources addressing compliance with standards related to the governing board, CEO evaluation and selection, external influence, Board dismissal, and substantive change. Prior to the institution's next review by the SACSCOC's Board of Trustees in December 2017, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of the institution's compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission. 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 Probation status applies to the entire institution.

**What does it mean to be placed on Probation?** Probation is the most serious public sanction imposed by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees short of loss of accreditation. It can be imposed on an institution for failure to correct deficiencies of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, or Federal Requirements of the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission; failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies; or failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures. Probation is an indication of the gravity of non-compliance with the *Principles*. Probation may be imposed upon initial institutional review, depending on the judgment of the Commission of the seriousness of the non-compliance or in the case of repeated violations recognized by the SACSCOC's Board of Trustees over a period of time. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. In December 2017, the University of Louisville will conclude 12 months on Probation. For additional information about sanctions, refer to 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 the University of Louisville continued in accreditation and placed on Probation?** The University of Louisville was continued in accreditation and placed on Probation because SACSCOC's Board of Trustees determined that it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 2.2 (Governing board), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.1 (CEO evaluation/selection), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4 (External influence), and Comprehensive Standard 3.2.5 (Board dismissal) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The cited standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it has a governing board that (1) is the legal body with specific authority over the institution, (2) is responsible for selection and evaluation of the chief executive officer, (3) is free from undue influence, and (4) has a policy whereby members can be dismissed only for appropriate reasons and by a fair process. (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 the University of Louisville following review of a Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance, and the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in fall 2017. The Board will have the following options: (1) remove the institution from Probation without an additional report; (2) continue accreditation, continue Probation, authorize a Special Committee, and request an additional report; and (3) 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>).