

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of  
HOWARD PAYNE UNIVERSITY  
Brownwood, Texas  
Issued June 23, 2017, 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 Howard Payne University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of SACSCOC cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Howard Payne University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees took place on June 15, 2017, and the institution's next review is June 2018.

**What is the accreditation status of Howard Payne University?** Howard Payne University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was placed on Warning for twelve months after review of (1) the establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the Registered Nurse degree (RN to BSN) and (2) unsolicited information from the Texas State Board of Nursing. Prior to the institution's next review by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees in June 2018, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of SACSCOC. SACSCOC's accreditation includes all components of the institution—all programs, branch campuses, off-campus sites, and distance learning programs as reported to SACSCOC; thus, the Warning status applies to the entire institution.

**What does Warning mean?** Warning is a public sanction imposed by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees following determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, or the Federal Requirements of SACSCOC's *Principles of Accreditation*; 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 June 2018, Howard Payne University will have been on Warning for twelve months. 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 Howard Payne University placed on Warning?** Howard Payne University was placed on Warning because SACSCOC's Board of Trustees determined that the institution had failed to demonstrate compliance with Principle 1.1 (Integrity), Comprehensive Standard 3.5.4 (Terminal degrees of faculty), and Comprehensive Standard 3.7.1 (Faculty competence) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an institution to provide evidence that it (1) operates with integrity in all matters, (2) ensures that 25 percent of course hours in each major are taught by faculty holding an appropriate terminal degree, and (3) employs qualified faculty members. (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 June 2018?** SACSCOC's Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Howard Payne University following review of a Monitoring Report addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance, and the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in spring 2018. The Board will have the following options: (1) remove the institution from Warning without an additional report; (2) continue accreditation, continue Warning, request a Monitoring Report, and may authorize a Special Committee visit; (3) continue accreditation, place on Probation, request a Monitoring Report, and authorize a Special Committee visit; 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 SACSCOC's Board of Trustees in June 2018.

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