

**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)**

<http://www.sacscoc.org>

Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of

**JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY
Charlotte, North Carolina**

Issued December 14, 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 Johnson C. Smith University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of SACSCOC cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Johnson C. Smith University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees took place on December 3, 2017, and the institution's next review is December 2018.

What is the accreditation status of Johnson C. Smith University? Johnson C. Smith University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was denied reaffirmation, continued accreditation for good cause, and placed on Probation following (1) action on the decennial review of its accreditation, and (2) a review of a Second Monitoring Report, including financial statements. Prior to the institution's next review by the SACSCOC's Board of Trustees in December 2018, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its 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 SACSCOC; thus, the Probation status applies to the entire institution.

What does denied reaffirmation, continued accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation mean? When an institution has exhausted its two-year monitoring period for failure to comply with SACSCOC's *Principles of Accreditation*, instead of removing the institution's accreditation, SACSCOC's Board of Trustees can extend accreditation for good cause if (1) the institution has demonstrated significant recent accomplishments in addressing non-compliance, **and** (2) the institution has provided evidence which makes it reasonable for the Board to assume it will remedy all deficiencies within a 12-month period, **and** (3) the institution has provided assurance to the Board that it is not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the Board, why the institution cannot be continued for good cause. An institution must be placed on Probation when it is continued in membership for good cause beyond the maximum two-year monitoring period. Probation is the most serious public sanction imposed by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees short of loss of accreditation. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. In December 2018, Johnson C. Smith University will have been on Probation for one year. 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 Johnson C. Smith University denied reaffirmation, continued accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation? Johnson C. Smith University was denied reaffirmation, continued accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation because SACSCOC's Board of Trustees determined that the institution had failed to demonstrate compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1 (Financial stability) and Comprehensive Standard 3.10.3 (Control of finances). These standards expect an institution to provide evidence that it (1) demonstrates financial stability, (2) exercises control over its financial resources, and (3) demonstrates that the institution exercises appropriate control over all its financial resources, including financial aid. (To read the full statement for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>.)

What will happen in December 2018? SACSCOC's Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Johnson C. Smith University following review of a Third 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 2018. The Board will have the following options: (1) reaffirm accreditation, remove the institution from Probation without an additional report; (2) reaffirm accreditation, remove the institution from Probation, and request additional documentation of continued compliance by requiring a Fifth-Year Follow-Up Report as part of the Fifth-Year Interim Report; (3) continue accreditation for good cause, continue on Probation, and request a Fourth Monitoring Report, with or without authorizing an additional 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 December 2018.

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