Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
http://www.sacscoc.org
Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of

COLUMBIA COLLEGE
Columbia, South Carolina
Issued June 13, 2019, 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 Columbia College. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC’s disclosure policy; staff of SACSCOC cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Columbia College. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to its public posting.

Action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees took place on June 13, 2019, and the institution’s next review is June 2020.

What is the accreditation status of Columbia College? Columbia College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was placed on Warning for twelve (12) months after review of the institution’s Referral Report following submission of the institution’s Fifth-Year Interim Report in June 2018. SACSCOC 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 the SACSCOC Board of Trustees following determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements or Standards 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 policies and procedures. The maximum total time during one monitoring period that an institution may be on Warning is two years. In June 2020, Columbia College 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.”

Why was Columbia College placed on Warning? Columbia College was placed on Warning because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that the institution had failed to demonstrate compliance with Standard 8.2.a (Student outcomes: educational programs), Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources), Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility), and Standard 13.4 (Control of finances) of the Principles of Accreditation. A Special Committee was not authorized to visit the institution. This Core Requirement and Standards expect an institution (1) to identify expected student learning outcomes, assess the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provide evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results for each of its educational programs; (2) to have sound financial resources and a demonstrated stable financial base to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services; (3) to manage its financial resources in a responsible manner; and (4) to exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources. (To read the full statement for the standards cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement.)

What will happen in June 2020? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Columbia College following review of a Monitoring Report addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance. The Board will have the following options: (1) remove the institution from Warning without an additional report; (2) continue on Warning, request a monitoring report, with or without authorizing a Special Committee visit; (3) place the institution 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 standards. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in June 2020.

For additional information regarding SACSCOC’s accreditation process, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement.