What is the accreditation status of Roanoke-Chowan Community College? Roanoke-Chowan Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was placed on Probation for six (6) months after review of a Special Committee's Report and the institution’s response. The Special Committee visited the institution following the SACSCOC Board of Trustee’s review of a Special Report following receipt of unsolicited information alleging non-compliance with the standards related to the governing board, board/administrative distinctions, control of the institution by the Chief Executive Officer, and the appointment and evaluation of personnel. 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 Probation status applies to the entire institution.

What does it mean to be placed on Probation? Probation is the Commission’s most serious sanction, short of loss of membership, and can be imposed on an institution for failure to correct deficiencies of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements and Comprehensive Standards 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. The imposition of 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 Board of Trustees over a period of time. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. Additionally, the maximum consecutive time an institution may be on monitoring is two years. In December 2019, Roanoke-Chowan Community College will have been on Probation for six months and on Warning for the previous twelve (12) months. Consequently, the institution will have been on monitoring for 18 months. For additional information about sanctions, refer to SACSCOC’s policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.”

Why was Roanoke-Chowan Community College placed on Probation? Roanoke-Chowan Community College was placed on Probation because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that the institution had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 1.1 (Integrity), Standard 4.2.b (Board/administration distinction), Standard 4.2.g (Board self-evaluation), Standard 5.2.a (CEO control), and Standard 5.5 (Personnel appointment and evaluation) of the Principles of Accreditation. A Special Committee was not authorized. These standards expect that an institution (1) to operate with integrity in all matters; (2) has a governing board to ensure a clear and appropriate distinction between the policy-making function of the board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy; (3) has a governing board to define and regularly evaluate its responsibilities and expectations; (4) the institution’s chief executive officer has ultimate responsibility for, and exercises appropriate control over the institution’s educational, administrative, and fiscal programs and services; as well as (5) the institution publishes and implements policies regarding the appointment, employment, and regular evaluation of non-faculty personnel. (To read the full statement for the standards cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement.)

What will happen in December 2019? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Roanoke-Chowan Community College following review of a Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance. The Board will have the following options: (1) remove the institution from Probation without an additional report; (2) continue Probation, request a monitoring report and authorize a special committee visit; or (3) 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 December 2019.

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