The following publicly available information is provided by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) concerning the accreditation of Shorter University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC’s disclosure policy; staff of SACSCOC cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Shorter University. 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 Shorter University? Shorter University 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. Prior to the institution’s next review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in June 2020, 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 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, Shorter University will have been on Warning for twelve (12) months. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC’s policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.”

Why was Shorter University placed on Warning? Shorter University was placed on Warning because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that the institution had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources) and Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility). For this Core Requirement and Standard, an institution is expected (1) 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; and (2) to manage its financial resources in a responsible manner. (To read the full statement for the standards cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement.)

What will happen in June 2020? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Shorter University 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: Foundations for Quality Enhancement.