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

Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
DENMARK TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Denmark, South Carolina
Issued December 8, 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 Denmark Technical College. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC’s disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Denmark Technical College. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by SACSCOC’s Board of Trustees took December 8, 2019, and the institution’s next review is December 2020.

What is the accreditation status of Denmark Technical College? Denmark Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation for 12 months following the SACSCOC Board’s action on a Second Monitoring Report. Prior to the institution’s next review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in December 2020, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its 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 Probation status applies to the entire institution.

What does it mean to be continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation? When an institution has exhausted its two-year monitoring period for complying 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 the SACSCOC Board of Trustees short of loss of accreditation. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. In December 2020, Denmark Technical College will have been on Probation for Good Cause for one (1) year. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC's policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership”.

Why was Denmark Technical College continued in accreditation for Good Cause and continued on Probation? Denmark Technical College was continued in accreditation for Good Cause and continued on Probation because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that while the institution met the conditions for Good Cause, it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Standard 4.2.c (CEO evaluation/selection), Standard 4.2.d (Conflict of interest), Standard 4.2.g (Board self-evaluation), Standard 5.4 (Qualified administrative/academic officers), Standard 10.4 (Academic governance), Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources), Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility), Standard 13.4 (Control of finances), Standard 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities); and Standard 13.7 (Physical resources). These standards expect an institution to (1) have a governing board to select and regularly evaluate the institution’s chief executive officer; (2) have a governing board to define and address potential conflict of interest for its members; (3) have a governing board to define and regularly evaluate its responsibilities and expectations; (4) employ and evaluate administrative and academic officers with appropriate experience and qualifications to lead the institution; (5) (a) publish and implement policies on the authority of faculty in academic and governance matters, (b) demonstrate that educational programs for which academic credit is awarded are approved consistent with institutional policy, and (c) place primary responsibility for the content, quality, and effectiveness of the curriculum with its faculty; (6) 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; (7) manage its financial resources in a responsible manner; (8) to exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources; (9) (a) is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended and (b) audits financial aid programs as required by federal and state regulations; and (10) ensure adequate physical facilities and resources, both on and off campus, that appropriately serve the needs of the institution’s educational programs, support services, and other mission-related activities. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement).

What will happen in December 2020? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Denmark Technical College 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 2020. The Board will have the following options: (1) continue accreditation and remove the institution from Probation without an additional report; (2) continue accreditation, continue Probation for Good Cause, request a monitoring report and authorize a special committee visit; or (3) 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 the Board of Trustees in December 2020.

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