

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

<http://www.sacscoc.org>

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
BETHEL UNIVERSITY
McKenzie, Tennessee**

Issued December 8, 2020, 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 Bethel University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Bethel University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees occurred on December 4, 2020, and the institution's next review is December 2021.

What is the accreditation status of Bethel University? Bethel University 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 2021, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the SACSCOC accreditation standards. 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 times that an institution may be on Probation is two years. In December 2021, Bethel University will have been on Probation for Good Cause for one year. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership".

Why was Bethel University continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation? Bethel University was continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed 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 13.3 (*Financial responsibility*). This standard expects an institution to manage its financial resources in a responsible manner. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*.)

What will happen in December 2021? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Bethel 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 2021. The Board will have the following options: (1) continue accreditation and remove the institution from Probation without an additional report; (2) continue accreditation, continue on 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*. SACSCOC staff will not speculate on the decision of the Board of Trustees in December 2021. For additional information regarding SACSCOC's accreditation process, access the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement*.