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

Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY
Richmond, Virginia
Issued December 9, 2022, 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 Virginia Union University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC’s disclosure policy; SACSCOC staff cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Virginia Union University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting and was invited to submit official comments regarding SACSCOC Board of Trustees action.

Action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees took place on December 4, 2022, and the institution’s next review will occur December 2023.

What is the accreditation status of Virginia Union University? Virginia Union University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and was placed on Warning. SACSCOC accreditation includes all components of the institution—all programs, branch campuses, off-campus sites, and distance education programs as reported to SACSCOC; thus, the Warning status applies to the entire institution.

What does it mean to be continued in accreditation and placed on Warning? A Warning imposed by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees follows a determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements or Standards of the Principles of Accreditation, the accreditation standards of SACSCOC; failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies that led to the findings of non-compliance; or failure to comply with SACSCOC policies and procedures. The maximum total time during a monitoring period that an institution may be on sanction is two years. In December 2023, Virginia Union University will have been on Warning for one (1) year. For additional information about sanctions, see the SACSCOC policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.”

Why was Virginia Union University continued in accreditation and placed on Warning? Virginia Union University was continued in accreditation and placed on Warning because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that the institution failed to demonstrate compliance with the Principles of Accreditation, namely, Core Requirement 4.1 (Governing board characteristics), Core Requirement 13.2 (Financial documents), Standard 7.3 (Administrative effectiveness), Standard 8.2.a (Student outcomes: educational programs), Standard 8.2.c (Student outcomes: academic and student services), Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility), Standard 13.4 (Control of finances), and Standard 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities). A Special Committee was not authorized to visit the institution. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement.)

These standards expect an institution to:
(1) have a governing board that (b) exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution;
(2) provide the following financial statements: (a) an institutional audit (or Standard Review Report issued in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the AICPA for those institutions audited as part of a system-wide or statewide audit) for the most recent fiscal year prepared by an independent certified public accountant and/or an appropriate governmental auditing agency employing the appropriate audit (or Standard Review Report) guide; (b) a statement of financial position of unrestricted net assets, exclusive of plant assets and plant-related debt, which represents the change in unrestricted net assets attributable to operations for the most recent year; and (c) an annual budget that is preceded by sound planning, is subject to sound fiscal procedures, and is approved by the governing board;
(3) identify expected outcomes of its administrative support services and demonstrate the extent to which the outcomes are achieved;
(4) 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;
(5) identify expected outcomes, assess the extent to which it achieves these outcomes, and provide evidence of seeking improvement based on analysis of the results for its academic and student services that support student success;
(6) manage its financial resources in a responsible manner;
(7) exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources; and
(8) that an institution (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.

(To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement.)

What will happen in December 2023? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Virginia Union University following a review of a Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above. The Board will have the following options: (1) remove the institution from Warning without an additional report; (2) remove from Warning and request a Follow-Up Report at the time of the submission of the Fifth-Year Interim Report; (3) continue accreditation for Good Cause, place the institution on Probation, request a Monitoring Report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (4) remove the institution from membership for failure to comply with the Principles of Accreditation. SACSCOC staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Board of Trustees in December 2023.

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