

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
THE SOUTHWESTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Fort Worth, Texas**

Issued June 23, 2023, 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 The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; SACSCOC staff cannot comment further on questions specifically related to The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by SACSCOC Board of Trustees took place on June 15, 2023, and the institution's next review is June 2024.

What is the accreditation status of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary? The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution is continued in accreditation and placed on Warning after review of a Special Report. 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 it mean to be continued in accreditation and placed on Warning?

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 Warning is two years. In June 2024, The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary will have been on Warning for twelve (12) months. For additional information about sanctions, see the SACSCOC policy entitled "[Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.](#)"

Why was The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary placed on Warning? The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was continued in accreditation and placed on Warning because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that the institution had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 4.1 (*Governing board characteristics*), Core Requirement 13.1 (*Financial resources*), and Standard 13.3 (*Financial responsibility*) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an institution to (1) have a governing board of at least five members that (a) is the legal body with specific authority over the institution; (b) exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution; (c) ensures that both the presiding officer of the board and a majority of other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, personal, or familial financial interest in the institution; (d) is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or institutions separate from it; and (e) is not presided over by the chief executive officer of the institution; (2) 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 (3) 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 June 2024? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of The Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary following a 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 Warning without an additional report; (2) remove the institution from Warning and request a Fifth-Year Follow-Up Report; (3) continue accreditation, continue the institution on Warning, request a Monitoring Report, with or without a Special Committee authorized, (4) continue accreditation, place the institution on Probation, request a Monitoring Report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (5) 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 June 2024.

For additional information regarding SACSCOC's accreditation process, access the [Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement.](#)