Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
El Paso, 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 University of Texas at El Paso. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC’s disclosure policy; SACSCOC staff cannot comment further on questions specifically related to The University of Texas at El Paso. 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 December 2023.

What is the accreditation status of The University of Texas at El Paso? The University of Texas at El Paso is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution continued in accreditation and placed on Warning after review of a Referral 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 December 2023, The University of Texas at El Paso will have been on Warning for six (6) months. For additional information about sanctions, see the SACSCOC policy entitled “Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.”

Why was The University of Texas at El Paso placed on Warning? The University of Texas at El Paso 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 6.1 (Full-time faculty), Core Requirement 9.2 (Program length), Standard 5.4 (Qualified administrative/academic officers), Standard 6.2.b (Program faculty) and Standard 6.2.c (Program coordination). These standards expect the institution to (1) employ an adequate number of full-time faculty members to support the mission and goals of the institution; (2) to offer one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. Further, this standard expects an institution to provide an explanation of equivalencies when using units other than semester credit hours and provide an appropriate justification for all degree programs and combined degree programs that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit; (3) employ administrative and academic officers with appropriate experience and qualifications to lead the institution. Further, this standard expects an institution to evaluate those administrative and academic officers regularly; (4) employ a sufficient number of full-time faculty members for each of its educational programs to ensure curriculum and program quality, integrity, and review; and (5) assign appropriate responsibility for program coordination for each of its educational programs. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement.)

What will happen in December 2023? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of The University of Texas at El Paso 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 December 2023.

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