

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY**
Frankfort, Kentucky

Issued December 5, 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 Kentucky State University. Information presented below is in accordance with the SACSCOC disclosure policy; SACSCOC staff cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Kentucky State 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 3, 2023, and the institution's next review will occur December 2024.

What is the accreditation status of Kentucky State University? Kentucky State 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 (2) years. In December 2024, Kentucky State 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 Kentucky State University continued in accreditation and placed on Warning? Kentucky State 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 13.1 (*Financial resources*), Core Requirement 13.2 (*Financial documents*), Standard 4.2.b (*Board/administrative distinction*), Standard 4.2.c (*CEO evaluation/selection*), Standard 4.2.g (*Board self-evaluation*), Standard 5.2.a (*CEO control*), Standard 5.3 (*Institution-related entities*), Standard 5.4 (*Qualified administrative/academic officers*), Standard 5.5 (*Personnel appointment and evaluation*), Standard 12.5 (*Student records*), Standard 13.3 (*Financial responsibility*), Standard 13.4 (*Control of finances*), Standard 13.5 (*Control of sponsored research/external funds*), Standard 13.6 (*Federal and state responsibility*), and Standard 13.7 (*Physical resources*). A Special Committee was 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:

- (1) has a governing board that (b) exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution;
- (2) has sound financial resources and a demonstrated, stable financial base to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services;
- (3) to 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;
- (4) has a governing board to ensure a clear and appropriate distinction between the policy-making function of the board and the responsibility of the administration and faculty to administer and implement policy;
- (5) has a governing board to select and regularly evaluate the institution's chief executive officer;
- (6) has a governing board to define and regularly evaluate its responsibilities and expectations;
- (7) has a chief executive officer to have ultimate responsibility for, and exercise appropriate control over the institution's educational, administrative, and fiscal programs and services;
- (8) has organized separately from the institution and formed primarily for the purpose of supporting the institution or its programs;
- (9) to employ administrative and academic officers with appropriate experience and qualifications to lead the institution;
- (10) to publish and implement policies regarding the appointment, employment, and regular evaluation of non-faculty personnel;
- (11) to protect the security, confidentiality, and integrity of its student records and maintain security measures to protect and back up data;

- (12) to manage its financial resources in a responsible manner;
- (13) to exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources;
- (14) to maintain financial control over externally funded or sponsored research and programs;
- (15) 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
- (16) to 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: Foundation for Quality Enhancement](#).)

What will happen in December 2024? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Kentucky State 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 the institution from Warning and request a Follow-Up Report submitted as the same time as the Fifth-Year Interim Report; (3) continue accreditation, continue on Warning, request a Monitoring Report, with or without authorizing a Special Committee; (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 2024.

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