

**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 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 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 the 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 Virginia Union University? Virginia Union 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. 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 Probation status applies to the entire institution.

What does it mean to be continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation? Virginia Union University had been on monitoring for two (2) years and the maximum consecutive time for a monitoring period is two (2) years. Virginia Union University was at the end of its two-year monitoring period, however, instead of removing the institution's accreditation, the SACSCOC 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. Probation is the most serious public sanction imposed by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees short of loss of accreditation. In December 2024, Virginia Union University will have been on Probation for Good Cause for one 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 for Good Cause and placed on Probation? Virginia Union University was continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation 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 13.3 (*Financial responsibility*), Standard 13.4 (Control of finances), and Standard 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities). These standards expect an institution (1) has a governing board that (b) exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution; (2) 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; (3) to manage its financial resources in a responsible manner; (4) exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources; and (5) (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 full statements for the standard cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations of Quality Enhancement*.) A Special Committee was authorized to visit the institution (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the [Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement](#)).

What will happen in December 2024? 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 Probation without an additional report; (2) remove the institution from Probation and request a Follow-Up Report at the time of the submission of the Fifth-Year Interim Report; (3) continue accreditation for Good Cause, continue 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 2024.

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