

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

Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
CONCORDIA COLLEGE
Selma, Alabama
Issued July 2, 2009, by the Commission on Colleges

The following publicly available information is provided by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Inc., concerning the accreditation of Concordia College. Information presented below is in accord with the Commission's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Concordia College. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by the Board of Trustees of the Commission on Colleges took place on June 25, 2009, and the institution's next review is June 2010.

What is the accreditation status of Concordia College? Concordia College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges; however, the institution has been denied reaffirmation of accreditation and placed on Probation. The Commission's accreditation includes all components of the institution—all programs, branch campuses, off-campus sites, and distance learning programs as reported to the Commission; thus, the Probation status applies to the entire institution. Prior to the institution's next review by the Commission in June 2010, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission.

What does it mean to be denied reaffirmation and placed on Probation? Probation is the Commission's most serious sanction, short of loss of membership, and can be imposed on an institution for failure to correct deficiencies of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, or Federal Requirements of the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission, failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies, or failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures. The imposition of Probation is an indication of the gravity of non-compliance with the *Principles*. Probation may be imposed upon initial institutional review, depending on the judgment of the Commission of the seriousness of the non-compliance or in the case of repeated violations recognized by the Commission over a period of time. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. Concordia College will conclude a twelve-month period on Probation in June 2010. For additional information about sanctions, see page two of the Commission's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership."

Why was Concordia College denied reaffirmation and placed on Probation? Concordia College was denied reaffirmation of accreditation and placed on Probation because, at the time of the institution's decennial review, the Commission determined that it failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 2.2 (Governing Board), Core Requirement 2.5 (Institutional Effectiveness), Core Requirement 2.8 (Faculty), Core Requirement 2.11.1 (Financial Resources), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.1 (CEO/Evaluation Selection), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4 (External Influence), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.5 (Board Dismissal), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.10 (Administrative Staff Evaluations), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1 (Institutional Effectiveness), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.11 (Academic Program Coordination), Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1 (College-level Competencies), Comprehensive Standard 3.7.1 (Faculty Competence), Comprehensive Standard 3.8.1 (Learning/Information Resources), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1 (Financial Stability), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.4 (Control of Finances), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.5 (Controlled of Sponsored Research), and Federal Requirement 4.7 (Title IV Program Responsibilities) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The cited Core Requirements expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it has (1) a governing board that is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the financial resources are adequate, (2) an effective process for evaluating institutional quality, (3) an adequate number of full-time faculty to support its mission, and (4) a sound financial base and financial stability to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs. (To read the full statements for all the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>.)

What will happen in June 2010? The Commission will consider the accreditation status of Concordia College following review of audits and other financial statements, a First Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance, and the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in spring 2010. The Commission will have the following options: (1) reaffirm accreditation, remove Probation with or without an additional monitoring report; (2) deny reaffirmation, continue accreditation, continue Probation for six or twelve months, request an additional report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (3) remove the institution's accreditation. For additional information, access <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp> (p.3). Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Commission in June 2010.

For additional information regarding the Commission's accreditation process, access the *Principles of Accreditation* (<http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>).