

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

Questions Regarding the Status of
EASTERN SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Melfa, Virginia
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 Eastern Shore Community 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 Eastern Shore Community 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 Eastern Shore Community College? Eastern Shore Community College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was denied reaffirmation of accreditation and placed on Warning for twelve months. 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 Warning status applies to the entire institution.

What does Warning mean? Warning is a public sanction imposed by the Commission on Colleges following determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, or the Federal Requirements of the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission, failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies that led to the finding of non-compliance, or failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures. The maximum total time during one monitoring period that an institution may be on Warning is two years. For additional information about sanctions, see the Commission's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" that can be accessed at <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>.

Why was Eastern Shore Community College denied reaffirmation of accreditation and placed on Warning? Eastern Shore Community College was denied reaffirmation of accreditation and placed on Warning because, at the time of the institution's decennial review, the Commission determined that it failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 2.5 (Institutional Effectiveness), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1 (Institutional Effectiveness), and Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1 (College-level Competencies) of the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission. These standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it (1) engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and evaluation process; (2) identifies expected outcomes and evaluates their achievement; and (3) identifies college-level general education competencies and the extent to which graduates have attained them. (To read the full statements for 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 Eastern Shore Community College following review of a First Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance. The Commission will have the following options: (1) reaffirm accreditation and remove the institution from Warning with or without an additional report; (2) deny reaffirmation of accreditation, continue accreditation, continue Warning and request an additional report; (3) deny reaffirmation of accreditation, continue accreditation, place the institution on Probation, authorize a Special Committee, and request an additional report; or (4) remove the institution from membership with the Commission on Colleges. For additional information, access <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>. 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>).