

**Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)**

<http://www.sacscoc.org>

Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of

**THOMAS UNIVERSITY
Thomasville, Georgia
Issued December 14, 2017, 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 Thomas University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Thomas University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees took place on December 3, 2017, and the institution's next review is December 2018.

What is the accreditation status of Thomas University? Thomas University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was denied reaffirmation of accreditation, continued in accreditation, and continued on Warning for 12 months following review of a Monitoring Report. Prior to the institution's next review by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees in December 2018, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of the institution's compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission. SACSCOC'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 it mean to be denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and continued on Warning? Warning imposed by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees follows a determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, or the Federal Requirements 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 finding of non-compliance; or failure to comply with SACSCOC's policies and procedures. The maximum total time during one monitoring period that an institution may be on Warning is two years. In December 2018, Thomas University will have been on Warning for two years. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" that can be accessed at <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>.

Why was Thomas University denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and continued on Warning? Thomas University was denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and continued on Warning because SACSCOC's Board of Trustees determined that the institution, following submission of a Monitoring Report, failed to demonstrate compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.4.7 (Consortial relationships/contractual agreements) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The cited standard expects an accredited institution to provide evidence that it ensures the quality of educational programs offered through contractual agreements. (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 December 2018? SACSCOC's Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Thomas University following review of a Second Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standard cited above for non-compliance and the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in fall 2018. The Board will have the following options: (1) reaffirm accreditation and remove the institution from Warning without an additional report, or with a Fifth Year Follow-Up Report; (2) deny reaffirmation, continue accreditation, place the institution on Probation, request a Third

Monitoring Report, and authorize a Special Committee to visit the institution; or (3) remove the institution from membership for failure to comply with the *Principles of Accreditation*. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Board of Trustees in December 2018.

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