

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

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY
Edinburg, Texas
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 The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. 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 The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley? The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was continued on Probation following review of (1) a Monitoring Report addressing integrity and academic credits, and (2) a Special Committee 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 Probation status applies to the entire institution.

What does it mean to be continued on Probation? Probation is the most serious sanction imposed by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees short of loss of accreditation. It 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. 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 SACSCOC's Board of Trustees over a period of time. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. In December 2018, The University of Texas Rio Grande will have been on Probation for two years. For additional information about sanctions, refer to 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 The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley continued in accreditation and continued on Probation? The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley was continued in accreditation and continued on Probation because SACSCOC's Board of Trustees determined that it failed to demonstrate compliance with Federal Requirement 4.7 (Title IV program responsibilities) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The cited standard expects an institution to demonstrate compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act, as amended. (To read the full statements for the standard 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 The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley 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) remove the institution from Probation and continue accreditation without an additional report or (2) 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 SACSCOC's 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>).