

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
FISK UNIVERSITY
Nashville, Tennessee
Issued June 14, 2018, 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 Fisk University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Fisk University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees took place on June 14, 2018, and the institution's next review is June 2019.

What is the accreditation status of Fisk University? Fisk 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 for 12 months resulting from SACSCOC Board action on a Second Monitoring Report following action on the submission of a Referral Report in June 2016. Prior to the institution's next review by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees in June 2019, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its 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 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? When an institution has exhausted its two-year monitoring period for complying with SACSCOC's *Principles of Accreditation*, instead of removing the institution's accreditation, SACSCOC's 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. An institution must be placed on Probation when it is continued in membership for Good Cause beyond the maximum two-year monitoring period. Probation is the most serious public sanction imposed by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees short of loss of accreditation. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. In June 2019, Fisk University will have been on Probation for Good Cause for one year. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC's policy entitled "[Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership](#)".

Why was Fisk University continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation? Fisk University was continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation because SACSCOC's Board of Trustees determined that while the institution met the conditions for Good Cause, it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility), Standard 13.4 (Control of finances), Standard 13.5 (Control of sponsored research/external funds), and Standard 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an institution (1) to manage its financial resources in a responsible manner; exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources; (2) to maintain financial control over externally funded or sponsored research and programs; and (3) to demonstrate that the institution (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 the full statements for the standards cited above, access the [Principles of Accreditation: Foundation for Quality Enhancement](#)).

What will happen in June 2019? SACSCOC's Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Fisk University following review of a Third 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 2019. The Board will have the following options: (1) continue accreditation and remove the institution from Probation without an additional report; (2) continue accreditation for Good Cause, continue on Probation, request an additional Monitoring Report and authorize a Special Committee visit; 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 June 2019.

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