

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

Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
VIRGINIA INTERMONT COLLEGE
Bristol, Virginia
Issued December 20, 2007, 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 Virginia Intermont 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 Virginia Intermont College. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

The Commission on Colleges' action on Virginia Intermont College took place on December 10, 2007, and the institution's next review is December 2008.

What is the accreditation status of Virginia Intermont College? Virginia Intermont College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges; however, the institution has been continued on Probation for twelve months following review of a Special Committee Report, audits and financial statements, and the institution's First Monitoring Report. 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 December 2008, 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 Probation mean? 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 or the Comprehensive Standards 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. Virginia Intermont College will conclude an 18-month period on Probation in December 2008. For additional information about sanctions, see page two of the Commission's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" (<http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>).

Why was Virginia Intermont College continued on Probation? Virginia Intermont College was continued on Probation because the Commission determined that it failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 2.5 (Institutional Effectiveness), Core Requirement 2.11.1 (Financial Resources), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1 (Institutional Effectiveness); Comprehensive Standard 3.5.4 (Terminal Degrees of Faculty); Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1 (Financial Stability); and Comprehensive Standard 3.11.3 (Physical Facilities) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it (1) engages in ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide research-based planning and evaluation; (2) has a sound financial base and financial stability to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs; (3) identifies expected outcomes for programs and services; (4) has sufficient faculty with terminal degrees to teach baccalaureate programs; (5) has a history that demonstrates financial stability; and (6) operates and maintains appropriate physical facilities. (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 December 2008? The Commission will again consider the accreditation status of Virginia Intermont College following review of audits, a Second Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the areas cited for non-compliance, and the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in fall 2008. The Commission will have the following options: (1) remove Probation with or without an additional monitoring report; (2) continue the institution on Probation for six months, request an additional monitoring report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (3) remove the institution's accreditation. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Commission in December 2008.

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