

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

Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
THE CRISWELL COLLEGE
Dallas, Texas
Issued June 28, 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 Criswell 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 Criswell College. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

The Commission on Colleges' action on Criswell College took place on June 21, 2007, and the institution's next review is June 2008.

What is the accreditation status of Criswell College? Criswell College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges; however, the institution has been continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation for twelve months after the Commission's review of the institution's Second Monitoring Report and financial statements. 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 June 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 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 the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission on Colleges, instead of removing the institution's accreditation, the Commission can extend accreditation for good cause and place the institution on Probation 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 Commission to assume it will remedy all deficiencies within the twelve month period, and (3) the institution has provided assurance to the Commission that it is not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the Commission, 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. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. 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 Criswell College continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation? Criswell College was continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation because the Commission determined that it failed to demonstrate compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1 (Financial Stability) and Comprehensive Standard 3.10.4 (Control of Finances) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it has (1) a recent financial history that demonstrates financial stability and (2) appropriate control over all its financial resources. (To read the full statement for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>.) In addition, and in accordance with Commission policy, the institution was placed on Probation because it had reached the end of its maximum two-year monitoring period without demonstrating compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*.

What will happen in June 2008? The Commission will again consider the accreditation status of Criswell College following review of audits, a Third 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 spring 2008. The Commission will have the following options: (1) remove Probation without an additional monitoring report; (2) continue accreditation for good cause and continue Probation, request an additional report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (3) remove the institution's accreditation. For additional information, access <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp> (p. 3). Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Commission in June 2008.

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