

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
BETHUNE-COOKMAN UNIVERSITY**
Daytona Beach, Florida
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 Bethune-Cookman University. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Bethune-Cookman 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 Bethune-Cookman University? Bethune-Cookman University is accredited by SACSCOC; however, the institution was placed on Probation following review of the institution's response to unsolicited information alleging non-compliance with the standards related to the governing board, control of finances, external finances and the Chief Executive Officer. Prior to the institution's next review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in June 2019, 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 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 placed on Probation? 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 and 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 SACSCOC Board of Trustees over a period of time. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. In June 2019, Bethune-Cookman University will have been on Probation for one year. For additional information about sanctions, refer to SACSCOC's policy entitled "[Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership](#)".

Why was Bethune-Cookman University continued in accreditation and placed on Probation? Bethune-Cookman University was continued in accreditation and placed on Probation because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 1.1 (Integrity), Core Requirement 4.1 (Governing board characteristics), Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources), Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility) and Standard 13.4 (Control of finances) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an accredited institution (1) to operate with integrity in all matters; (2) to have a governing board of at least five members that (a) is the legal body with specific authority over the institution; (b) exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution; (c) ensures that both the presiding officer of the board and a majority of other voting members of the board are free of any contractual, employment, personal, or familial financial interest in the institution; (d) is not controlled by a minority of board members or by organizations or institutions separate from it; and (e) is not presided over by the chief executive officer of the institution; (3) to have sound financial resources and a demonstrated, stable financial base to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services; (4) to manage its financial resources in a responsible manner; and (5) to exercise appropriate control over all its financial resources. (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? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Bethune-Cookman University following review of a First 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) remove the institution from Probation without an additional report; (2) continue accreditation and continue the institution on Probation, request an additional report and authorize a Special Committee visit; and (3) remove the institution from membership with SACSCOC 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](#).