

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
BENNETT COLLEGE
Greensboro, North Carolina
Issued December 9, 2018, by SACSCOC**

UPDATED: February 22, 2019

The following publicly available information is provided by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) concerning the accreditation of Bennett College. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Bennett College. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to posting.

What is the accreditation status of Bennett College? On December 9, 2018, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees voted to remove the accreditation of Bennett College; however, the institution remained accredited and on Probation during the 10-day time period after receipt of official notification in which it could submit a formal appeal. The institution appealed the decision by submitting a formal request in accord with SACSCOC policy. Therefore, the institution maintained accreditation on Probation pending the decision of the Appeals Committee.

Bennett College appealed the December 9, 2018, decision of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, alleging that its decision was arbitrary and unreasonable and not based on, or consistent with, the published *Principles of Accreditation* or SACSCOC policies; that SACSCOC failed to follow its own procedures; and that this failure was significant in leading to the decision. On February 18, 2019, the Appeals Committee met and affirmed the December 9, 2018, decision of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to remove accreditation. Both parties were notified of the Appeals Committee's decision and effective February 18, 2019, Bennett College's accreditation was terminated.

Why did the SACSCOC Board of Trustees vote to remove Bennett College from membership as an accredited institution? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees voted to remove the institution from membership for failure to comply with Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources) of the *Principles of Accreditation*—the standards of the SACSCOC membership, and because the institution had exhausted its two-year period on Probation for coming into compliance with the *Principles*. This standard expects that the institution has sound financial resources and a demonstrated, stable base to support the mission of the institution and the scope of its programs and services. (To read full statements for the standards cited above, access the [Principles of Accreditation](#).)

(Note: On February 22, 2019, SACSCOC was formally notified that it was named as defendant in a lawsuit filed by Bennett College. SACSCOC agreed to a Consent Order Granting Preliminary Injunction that reinstated Bennett College as a member of SACSCOC on Probation pending further Order of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

For additional information regarding the SACSCOC accreditation process, access the [Principles of Accreditation](#).