

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of  
MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Memphis, Tennessee**

**Issued December 9, 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 Memphis Theological Seminary. Information presented below is in accord with SACSCOC's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Memphis Theological Seminary. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by SACSCOC's Board of Trustees took place on December 9, 2018, and the institution's next review is December 2019.

**What is the accreditation status of Memphis Theological Seminary?** Memphis Theological Seminary is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was denied reaffirmation of accreditation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning for 12 months following SACSCOC Board of Trustees action on its comprehensive decennial review. SACSCOC accreditation includes all components of the institution—all programs, branch campuses, off-campus sites, and distance learning programs as reported to SACSCOC; thus, the Warning status applies to the entire institution.

**What does it mean to be denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning?** A Warning imposed by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees at the time of an institution's comprehensive decennial review follows a determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements or Standards of the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of SACSCOC; failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies that led to the finding of non-compliance; or failure to comply with SACSCOC's policies and procedures. The maximum total time during one monitoring period that an institution may be on Warning is two years. In December 2019, Memphis Theological Seminary will have been on Warning for one year. For additional information about sanctions, see SACSCOC's policy entitled "[Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership.](#)"

**Why was Memphis Theological Seminary denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning?** Memphis Theological Seminary was denied reaffirmation, continued in accreditation, and placed on Warning because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 7.1 (Institutional planning), Standard 7.2.d (Quality Enhancement Plan), Standard 7.2.e (Quality Enhancement Plan), Standard 8.2.a (Student outcomes; educational programs), Standard 12.2 (Student support services staff), Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources), Core Requirement 13.2 (Financial documents), and Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility), of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an institution (1) to engage in ongoing, comprehensive, and integrated research-based planning and evaluation processes that (a) focus on institutional quality and effectiveness and (b) incorporate a systematic review of institutional goals and outcomes consistent with its mission; (2) to have a Quality Enhancement Plan that commits resources to initiate, implement, and complete the QEP; and includes a plan to assess achievement; (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; (5) to exercise appropriate control over all its financial resource; and (6) that an 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 December 2019?** The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Memphis Theological Seminary following review of a Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance. The Board will have the following options: (1) reaffirm accreditation and remove the institution from Warning without an additional report; (2) reaffirm accreditation, remove the institution from Warning and request a Fifth-Year Follow-Up Report; (3) deny reaffirmation, continue accreditation, continue Warning, request a Monitoring Report, with or without authorizing a Special Committee; (4) deny reaffirmation, continue accreditation, place the institution on Probation, request a Monitoring Report, and authorize a Special Committee; and (5) 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 December 2019.

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