



*Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Colleges  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097*

## **ACCREDITING DECISIONS OF OTHER AGENCIES**

### **Policy Statement**

In accord with Federal code §602.28, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) observes the following policy concerning the accrediting decisions of other agencies:

SACSCOC does not grant candidacy, initial accreditation, or reaffirmation to an institution if the Commission knows, or has reason to know, that the institution is the subject of the following:

1. A pending or final action brought by a State agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's legal authority to provide postsecondary education in the State;
2. A decision by another United States Department of Education (USDOE) recognized agency to deny accreditation or candidacy;
3. A pending or final action brought by another USDOE recognized accrediting agency to suspend, revoke, withdraw, or terminate the institution's accreditation or candidacy; or
4. Probation or an equivalent status imposed by a USDOE recognized accrediting agency.

### **Procedures**

1. If the Commission is notified that an institution is a subject of any of the provisions outlined above, Commission staff will request that the institution provide all reports from the agency referred to in any of the points 1-4 above, and will consider whether the other agency's action resulted from a deficiency which calls into question the institution's compliance with the Principles of Accreditation.
2. If, after reviewing the materials, the Commission acts to grant candidacy or initial accreditation to the institution, the President of SACSCOC will provide to the U.S. Secretary of Education, within 30 days of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees action, a thorough and reasonable explanation why the action of the other agency did not preclude SACSCOC from awarding candidacy or initial accreditation. If, after reviewing the materials, the Commission finds that the deficiencies cited by the other agency calls into question the institution's compliance with standards applicable to its status with the Commission, the President of SACSCOC may refer the case to C & R or authorize a Special Committee to review the institution. Action regarding the institution's continuing candidacy or any future recognition will be made by SACSCOC Board of Trustees.
3. If the Commission learns that a candidate or member institution is the subject of adverse action by another USDOE recognized accrediting agency or has been placed on Probation, or an equivalent status,

by another USDOE recognized accrediting agency, Commission staff will request that the institution provide all related reports from the agency. Following review of the reports, the Commission will determine one of the following: (1) that the reasons for adverse action or Probation or equivalent status do not support a recommendation of adverse action or the imposition of Probation or Warning, (2) that the reasons for adverse action or Probation or equivalent status warrant the authorization of a Special Committee or referral to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees for consideration of adverse action or the imposition of Probation or Warning.

## **Institutional Responsibility**

The Commission requires candidate and member institutions holding accredited or candidacy (pre-accredited) status from more than one U.S. Department of Education recognized institutional accrediting agency (<https://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Agencies.aspx>) to keep each agency apprised of any change in its status with one or another agency. Any institution seeking or holding accreditation from more than one USDOE recognized institutional accrediting agency must describe itself in identical terms to each agency with regard to purpose, governance, programs, degrees, diplomas, certificates, personnel, finances, and constituents, and must keep each USDOE recognized accrediting body, including SACSCOC, apprised of any change in its status with one or another accrediting agency.

### **Document History**

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