

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Issued June 18, 2015, by SACS Commission on Colleges**

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

Action by the Board of Trustees of SACS Commission on Colleges took place on June 11, 2015, and the institution's next review is June 2016.

What is the accreditation status of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill? The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was placed on Probation following review of the institution's response to unsolicited information alleging non-compliance with the principle of integrity and standards related to academic integrity. Prior to the institution's next review by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in June 2016, 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, Comprehensive Standards, or Federal Requirements 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 2016, UNC-Chapel Hill will conclude 12 months on Probation. For additional information about sanctions, refer to SACSCOC's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" that can be accessed at <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>.

Why was The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill continued in accreditation and placed on Probation? UNC-Chapel Hill was continued in accreditation and placed on Probation because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Principle 1.1 (Integrity), Comprehensive Standard 2.7.2 (Program content), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.11 (Control of intercollegiate athletics), Comprehensive Standard 3.4.9 (Academic support services), Comprehensive Standard 3.7.4 (Academic freedom), Comprehensive Standard 3.7.5 (Faculty role in governance), and Federal Requirement 4.7 (Title IV program responsibilities) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The cited standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it (1) operates with integrity in all matters, (2) has programs that embody a coherent course of study, (3) exercises appropriate administrative control over intercollegiate athletics, (4) provides appropriate academic support services for all students, (5) ensures that faculty understands the distinction between academic freedom and academic integrity, (6) ensures faculty understanding of responsibility for academic matters, and (7) complies with its program responsibilities under Title IV. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>.)

What will happen in June 2016? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of UNC-Chapel Hill 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 2016. 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, authorize a Special Committee, and request an additional report; and (3) remove the institution from membership with SACS Commission on Colleges for failure to comply with the *Principles of Accreditation*. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees in June 2016.

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