

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ON THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES
SANCTION OF PROBATION REGARDING
FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY**

1. Why was FAMU placed on probation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)?

ANSWER: SACSCOC placed FAMU on probation for a 12-month period at the December 2012 Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas. This sanction was given following a review by SACSCOC of materials submitted by the university regarding the November 19, 2011 hazing incident in Orlando, FL and its aftermath and reporting of incomplete audits (audit summaries).

SACSCOC cited FAMU for non-compliance with four accreditation standards: **a)** The Principle of Integrity (1.1); **b)** Qualified Administrative/Academic Officers (C.S. 3.2.8); **c)** Control of Finances (C.S. 3.10.3); and **d)** Institutional Environment (C.S. 3.11.2).

FAMU is expecting an official letter from SACSCOC soon to provide further details regarding the sanction. FAMU has, however, been working diligently to address the concerns expressed earlier by SACSCOC and has also put measures in place to bolster its anti-hazing efforts, including new policies, academic requirements and educational components.

2. What are the next steps?

ANSWER: FAMU is awaiting receipt of the official letter of notification from SACSCOC, which will include specific details and instructions that the university will follow to address the compliance issues.

3. How long will FAMU be on probation?

ANSWER: The probationary period is for 12 months. It is anticipated that SACSCOC will review FAMU's accreditation status at the December 2013 Annual Meeting in Atlanta, GA.

4. Is the university about to lose its accreditation?

ANSWER: No. While the action taken by SACSCOC to place FAMU on probation is very serious, the university continues to be accredited. The FAMU Board of Trustees and Administration are fully committed and prepared to implement all of the necessary corrective actions to satisfactorily address the areas of concern.

5. Did we get a warning before being placed on probation?

ANSWER: No. The university received two letters of inquiry from SACSCOC (in June and August of 2012). The letter from SACS received in August indicated that the materials already submitted by the University would be discussed by the SACS Commission at the December meeting. This signaled that a sanction may be possible, but the standards being cited at the time would not lead one to anticipate that the sanction would be probation. The university submitted materials to SACSCOC in response to both letters, which were reviewed at the SACSCOC 2012 Annual Meeting.

6. How is FAMU being placed on probation related to what happened to Robert Champion?

ANSWER: The hazing incident and the incomplete audits performed were the triggering events that led to the SACSCOC inquiry.

7. Who is responsible on campus for making sure we stay accredited?

ANSWER: The university President has the primary responsibility for ensuring that the university maintains its accreditation.

8. What happens if we do not fix the areas of concerns? Will FAMU lose its accreditation?

ANSWER: FAMU fully expects to demonstrate compliance within the twelve-month period of probation. If SACSCOC still has concerns, they will ask for a monitoring report for up to another 12 months. The FAMU Board of Trustees and Administration are fully committed and prepared to implement all of the necessary corrective actions to satisfactorily address the areas of concern.

9. How does the decision affect my financial aid?

ANSWER: The decision does not affect student financial aid. The university remains accredited by SACSCOC and is thus still recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) in the Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs to offer and award federal financial aid to eligible students.

10. How does it impact the accreditation of the Law School or other departments that are accredited by other associations?

ANSWER: The decision is unlikely to impact the accreditation status of the Law School or other programs that are currently accredited by specialized accrediting associations. The University will keep the accrediting associations informed as it moves forward to lift the sanction of probation. Accrediting associations tend to be supportive while universities do the work necessary to address the issues which led to sanctions.

11. How will this impact my ability to gain internships?

ANSWER: The SACSCOC sanction did not arise from concerns about the quality of FAMU's educational programs. FAMU students will continue to receive a first-class education and will remain highly competitive for internship opportunities.

12. How will a potential graduate school that I am applying to view this sanction by SACSCOC in determining whether I am accepted?

ANSWER: You will still be a graduate of an accredited institution. The SACSCOC sanction did not arise from concerns about the quality of FAMU's educational programs. FAMU graduates will continue to be highly competitive for admission to graduate programs.

13. How does probation affect my graduation this fall/spring? Will employers want to hire me?

ANSWER: Your FAMU degree will continue to be valued and is just as valid as it was before the sanction. You will still graduate from an accredited institution. The SACSCOC sanction did not arise from concerns about the quality of FAMU's educational programs. FAMU graduates will remain highly competitive for employment.

14. Will I still receive full credit for the classes I am currently enrolled in on my transcripts?

ANSWER: Yes, students will receive full credit for classes. The SACSCOC sanction does not impact the academic standing or coursework of FAMU students.

15. Will this sanction impact the courses the university offers this summer?

ANSWER: No. The SACSCOC sanction will have no impact on the course offerings during any semester.

16. Does the SACSCOC decision to place FAMU on probation impact when the Marching "100" will return?

ANSWER: The University Interim President Larry Robinson has not made a decision regarding when the Marching "100" will return. The university is working to develop the right conditions for the return of the marching band.

17. Will FAMU being placed on probation impact the hiring of the new band director?

ANSWER: No it will not. Interim President Larry Robinson will make a decision about how he will move forward after meeting with the search committee. The university must continue operating at its highest standards. Many hires are underway and the band director is one of them. The probationary status will not impact the hiring of the band director or any other hires that are currently underway at FAMU.

18. How can I stay informed about new developments regarding FAMU's status with SACSCOC?

ANSWER: Florida A&M University has established a webpage that can be accessed from the front page of the university's website or through the url: www.famu.edu/sacsupdate. During the Christmas holidays, any new developments regarding SACSCOC will be posted to the university's information line 1-877-326-6397.