

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of
FLORIDA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY
Tallahassee, Florida**
Issued December 20, 2012, 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 Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (Florida A & M University). Information presented below is in accord with the Commission's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to Florida A & M University. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

Action by the Board of Trustees of SACS Commission on Colleges took place on December 10, 2012, and the institution's next review is December 2013.*

What is the accreditation status of Florida A & M University? Florida A & M University is accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges; however, the institution has been placed on Probation for 12 months after review of the institution's special report on finances and environmental safety. In fall 2013, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission. The Commission's 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 Commission over a period of time. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. In December 2013, Florida A & M University will conclude 12 months on Probation. For additional information about sanctions, refer to the Commission's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" that can be accessed at <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>.

Why was Florida A & M University placed on Probation? Florida A & M University was placed on Probation because it failed to demonstrate compliance with Principle 1.1 (Integrity), Comprehensive Standard 3.2.8 (Qualified administrative/academic officers), Comprehensive Standard 3.10.3 (Control of finances), and Comprehensive Standard 3.11.2 (Institutional environment) 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 qualified administrative and academic officers; (3) exercises appropriate control over all its financial resources; and (4) takes reasonable steps to provide a healthy, safe, and secure environment for all the campus community. (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 December 2013? SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Florida A & M University following review of a First Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above and the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in fall 2013. The Board will have the following options: (1) remove the institution from Probation without a report, (2) continue accreditation, continue Probation, request an additional report, and authorize a special committee visit, and (3) remove the institution from membership with the Commission on Colleges for failure to comply with the standards. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Commission's Board in December 2013.

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

***Note.** Florida A & M University has a Monitoring Report due April 2013 that focuses on the institution's compliance with FR 4.7 (Title IV program responsibilities). The report stemmed from a complaint filed with SACSCOC. The Monitoring Report will be reviewed by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees during its meeting in June 2013.