



MEMORANDUM

To: Florida Memorial University Community
From: President Jaffus Hardrick
Re: University Statement on SACSCOC
Date: June 24, 2021

On Thursday, June 17, 2021, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Board of Trustees voted to continue the accreditation of Florida Memorial University (FMU) and place the University on Probation for Good Cause. This does not affect our ability to award Federal Financial Aid and degrees. It is important to note that FMU remains academically strong.

According to SACSCOC, Probation for Good Cause is possible only when:

1. *the institution has demonstrated significant recent accomplishments in addressing non-compliance, and*
2. *the institution has documented that it has the “potential” to remedy all deficiencies within the extended period as defined by the Committee on Compliance and Reports; that is, that the institution provides evidence which makes it reasonable for the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to assume it will remedy all deficiencies within the extended time defined by the Committee on Compliance and Reports, and*
3. *the institution provides assurance to SACSCOC that it is not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, why the institution could not be continued on Probation for Good Cause.*

An institution is placed on probation when the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determines that it is non-compliant with one or more standards. The areas where FMU was cited for noncompliance are as follows:

- *4.1.b (The institution has a governing board of at least five members that exercises fiduciary oversight of the institution.)*
- *13.3 (The institution manages its financial resources in a responsible manner.)*
- *13.4 (The institution exercises appropriate control over all its financial resources.)*
- *13.6 (The 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. In reviewing the institution's compliance with these program responsibilities under Title IV, SACSCOC relies on documentation forwarded to it by the U. S. Department of Education.)*



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The issues that led to this action occurred over numerous years of dealing with financial challenges, declining enrollment, and aging infrastructure. Unfortunately, COVID-19 impacted enrollment for academic year 2020, thus affecting overall revenue.

As a result of our growth strategies, FMU is well on its way to resolving these issues. New enrollment initiatives, new academic programs, a focus on student life, enhanced infrastructure, the addition of new athletic programs, band, and certificate programs are already yielding positive results to stabilize and grow enrollment. The most recent statement from the Department of Education confirmed that the University is compliant with the Department of Education's Title IV Federal Regulation and that the institution has made significant progress in addressing past violations.

Florida Memorial University will be reviewed again in June 2022, and we are confident that we will meet the necessary requirements for continued accreditation with SACSCOC.

To further signify SACSCOC's affirmation that the University is academically sound and moving in the right direction, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees approved our new degree program: Online Master of Science (M.S.) in Exceptional Student Education. This new program will be launched in fall 2021.

To read the formal notification click [here](#). Please direct all inquiries to Dr. Adrienne T. Cooper, Provost and Executive Vice President via email at provost@fmuniv.edu or by calling (305)623-4213.