



KEY MESSAGES:

- The University of Louisville (UofL) remains accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).
- The U.S. Department of Education recognizes UofL's accreditation, and we are in good standing with them.
- UofL's probation does not affect student degrees.
- Probation has not affected UofL's ability to receive federal funding for student financial aid or research.
- The quality of the education we provide to our students is excellent.
- Our academic and research missions remain strong and are not the subject of this review.
- Probation does not affect UofL's membership in the NCAA. Nor does it affect the university's ability to compete in NCAA-sponsored events.
- The NCAA sanction against UofL's Basketball Program does not affect the university's accreditation because it is not related to academics or research.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS):

What action has the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) taken against UofL?

In December 2016, SACSCOC placed UofL on probation for a period of one year (2017), with a possible extension of an additional year (2018). The university remains accredited by SACSCOC while on probation. SACSCOC authorized a special visit committee that will come to UofL in September 2017. The committee's visit agenda is set by SACSCOC

and the committee report is a confidential SACSCOC draft until released by SACSCOC to the public.

What does probation mean?

A university is placed on probation when areas of non-compliance with SACSCOC standards have been detected. The institution is given a set length of time to correct the issues. UofL is expected to prepare a report on each area of concern for the commission's review. The University fully expects to have these issues corrected and be back in full compliance in the time-period defined by SACSCOC.

Why did SACSCOC place UofL on probation in December 2016?

The probation was based on issues with SACSCOC [Core Requirement 2.2](#) on Board of Trustees membership and underpinning standards related to the selection and evaluation of the university president ([Comprehensive Standard 3.2.1](#)), external influence ([Comprehensive Standard 3.2.4](#)) and Board of Trustees dismissal ([Comprehensive Standard 3.2.5](#)).

Have there been any changes to UofL's probation status?

Yes, after UofL reported the results of the Kentucky State Auditor's examination of the UofL Foundation, two letters were received from SACSCOC dated [January 27, 2017](#) and [May 25, 2017](#). The UofL response to the January letter was submitted on [March 3, 2017](#). SACSCOC replied on [May 25, 2017](#), and informed UofL that three standards were being added to the probation review. The three standards are: institution-related entities ([Comprehensive Standard 3.2.13](#)), financial stability ([Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1](#)), and control of finances ([Comprehensive Standard 3.10.3](#)).

What does this probation do to the reputation of the University of Louisville?

UofL and its reputation have grown tremendously over the past two decades. As long as the issues SACSCOC has raised are addressed completely during the probationary period, the university does not anticipate any long-term damage to its reputation.

How does probation affect students?

The probation does not affect students' ability to receive financial aid, complete their academic work, or earn degrees. The impact on students is primarily a public relations concern that the university is working very hard to address. In order to reassure the entire community of the strength and resilience of our operations.

How does UofL's probation by SACSCOC affect program-level accreditations?

UofL has academic programs externally accredited or recognized by over 30 different organizations. As required by the accrediting body, each academic unit has notified the external accreditors of the university's status with SACSCOC. SACSCOC has also notified the U.S. Department of Education about the university's probation. Because the university remains accredited by SACSCOC while on probation there has been no loss of federal funds or negative action taken against our academic programs by these organizations.

What is UofL doing to address the probation issues?

The university is working closely with student, faculty, and staff leaders, with local and state government officials, and with SACSCOC to address each area of concern.

The recent action of the Kentucky General Assembly and Governor Matt Bevin to enact Senate Bills [\(SB\) 12](#) and [107](#) has assisted the university in addressing the governance concerns of SACSCOC. [SB 12](#) reduced the number of governor's appointees to the UofL board of trustees from 17 to 10. SACSCOC requires a board of 5 or more, so [SB 12](#) is congruent with [Core Requirement 2.2](#). SACSCOC has been notified of the new appointments to the university's Board of Trustees. [SB 107](#) defined the process for board appointments and dismissals for all Kentucky public institutions of higher education. It has been used to guide revisions to the UofL board bylaws, the university's governance document (*The Redbook*), and other relevant institutional documents.

The university has developed a corrective action plan in response to the Kentucky State Auditor's Review. The UofL Board of Trustees ordered a forensic audit of the UofL Foundation. The university has supplied SACSCOC with the results of both processes. [SACSCOC replied on May 25, 2017](#), and added three standards to the probation review: institution-related entities ([Comprehensive Standard 3.2.13](#)), financial stability ([Comprehensive Standard 3.10.1](#)), and control of finances ([Comprehensive Standard 3.10.3](#)).

Will UofL have an opportunity to talk with SACSCOC directly about their accreditation concerns?

Yes, the university will submit a written report to SACSCOC in August. The SACSCOC Special Visit Committee will come to UofL in September 2017 to meet with the university leadership and community leaders to discuss the written report and gather information. The special visit committee will develop a report for the commission's review and consideration at its annual meeting in December 2017.

In closing....

The University of Louisville is vital to its students, faculty, and staff, as well as to our community and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. UofL wants to resolve all of the accreditation issues as soon as possible and are working closely with university leaders, government officials, and representatives of SACSCOC.