



FACT SHEET

SACSCOC Probation Status

INTRODUCTION

For over 158 years, Virginia Union University has provided quality education, professional and inspiring leadership on a historic campus catered to students from around the world. Our mission since our founding has never changed.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is one of several regional and national organizations that certify colleges and universities.

VUU has been placed on probation by SACSCOC for 12 months it will take for the University to deliver a “clean” audit, free of findings about ways to improve financial controls. (These are very common in the audits of large organizations.) To do this, the University is continuing to expand the Business Office, strengthening internal fiscal infrastructure to accommodate the University’s growth. This includes streamlining processes and reducing the time it takes to accomplish transactions. The University’s leadership team continually reviews all internal processes to make sure they demonstrate the speed, rigor, and commitment to compliance that stakeholders expect.

To assist our stakeholders in addressing misinformation and to provide a foundation of factual information directly from the University, we have developed this fact sheet to address the important issues and plans for the future of VUU.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What is SACSCOC Probation? SACSCOC Probation is a public status signifying that an accredited institution is not in full compliance with one or more of SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation. Virginia Union University’s accreditation remains in effect during the Probation period, during which time we will address SACSCOC's recommendations. Once we document that we have accomplished this, VUU will return to normal accreditation

status with no lapse in accreditation.

Why Is VUU on Probation? Virginia Union University was continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation because the SACSCOC Board of Trustees determined that the institution did not demonstrate compliance with the Principles of Accreditation, namely, Core Requirement 4.1 (Governing board characteristics), Core Requirement 13.2 (Financial documents), Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility), Standard 13.4 (Control of finances), and Standard 13.6 (Federal and state responsibilities).

What does it mean to be continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation? Virginia Union University had been on monitoring for two (2) years and the maximum consecutive time for a monitoring period is two (2) years. Virginia Union University was at the end of its two-year monitoring period, however, instead of removing the institution's accreditation, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees can extend accreditation for Good Cause if (1) the institution has demonstrated significant recent accomplishments in addressing non-compliance, and (2) the institution has provided evidence which makes it reasonable for the Board to assume it will remedy all deficiencies within a 12-month period, and (3) the institution has provided assurance to the Board that it is not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the Board, why the institution cannot be continued for Good Cause. Probation is the most serious public sanction imposed by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees short of loss of accreditation. In December 2024, Virginia Union University will have been on Probation for Good Cause for one year. For additional information about sanctions, see the SACSCOC policy entitled [“Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation and Removal from Membership”](#).

Has VUU lost its accreditation? Absolutely Not! Virginia Union University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was continued in accreditation for Good Cause and placed on Probation.

Does the Probation status decision affect students' financial aid? No, the probation status does not affect VUU's student financial aid. The University remains accredited by SACSCOC. VUU is 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.

How will a potential graduate school view this Probation by SACSCOC in determining whether a VUU graduate is accepted? VUU students will still be graduates of an accredited institution. The SACSCOC Probation did not arise from concerns about the quality of VUU's academic programs. The University's graduates will continue to be highly competitive for admission to graduate programs.

How long will the probation period last? The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. Action by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees took place on December 3, 2023, and the institution's next review will occur December 2024.

What actions has VUU taken and what else must it do to ensure uninterrupted accreditation? VUU has been proactive in identifying and addressing concerns in a manner that demonstrates continuous improvement. The University has made significant progress in correcting findings already identified, and made procedural changes to address issues related to board governance, financial resources, stability and controls. The University is confident that it will have addressed the areas of concern and that VUU's accreditation will continue uninterrupted.

What will happen in December 2024? The SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Virginia Union University following a review of a Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above. The Board will have the following options: (1) remove the institution from Probation without an additional report; (2) remove the institution from Probation and request a Follow-Up Report at the time of the submission of the Fifth-Year Interim Report; (3) continue accreditation for Good Cause, continue the institution on Probation, request a Monitoring Report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (4) remove the institution from membership for failure to comply with the Principles of Accreditation. SACSCOC staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Board of Trustees in December 2024.

What can alumni and supporters do to support the University during this period? The most important thing that you can do for VUU is to provide the accurate information to those in doubt; assist in implementing the plans for improvement that are in place; and continue to invest in the next generation of young scholars who will matriculate on our historic campus as they prepare to enter the global workforce.

For more information about VUU and to invest in its bright future, contact the Division of Institutional Advancement, 804-342-3938.