

## UPDATE ON ACCREDITATION STATUS OF SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY

**Posted: March 9, 2024**

On March 8, 2024, Saint Augustine's University notified the SACSCOC President of its intent to pursue arbitration of the Appeals Committee decision. SACSCOC has acknowledged receipt of this notice, and the arbitration process will commence in accordance with the "Arbitration of Adverse Actions" policy (see [www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)). The institution remains accredited on Probation during the arbitration process.

On February 27, 2024, a SACSCOC Appeals Committee of the College Delegate Assembly unanimously affirmed the December 3, 2023, decision of the SACSCOC Board of Trustees to terminate the accreditation of Saint Augustine's University, Raleigh, North Carolina. The Appeals Committee found the SACSCOC Board of Trustees' decision to be reasonable, not arbitrary, and based on the standards cited. "Specifically, the Appeals Committee found the Board's decision reflected a reasonable application of the *Principles of Accreditation: Foundations for Quality Enhancement* ("*Principles*"), which clearly included the use of appropriate professional judgment of evaluators representing SACSCOC in the assessment of compliance with the following core requirements and standards of the *Principles*: Core Requirement 4.1 (*Governing board characteristics*), Core Requirement 13.1 (*Financial resources*), 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*)." Further, the Appeals Committee found that the institution failed to meet the provisions of Good Cause.

Pursuant to 34 CFR Section 602.20(e) and 20 U.S.C. 1099b( e), the institution agreed to submit any dispute involving the final denial, withdrawal, or termination of accreditation to initial arbitration prior to any other legal action. SACSCOC policy, "Arbitration of Adverse Actions," the institution's Chief Executive Officer may submit in writing to the President of SACSCOC by

electronic transmission within ten (10) calendar days of the institution's receipt of the final written decision of the Appeals Committee.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is the entity responsible for accrediting degree-granting institutions in the United States and international sites approved by the SACSCOC Board of Trustees that award associate, baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degrees. The SACSCOC Board of Trustees is the representative body of the 781-member College Delegate Assembly and is charged with conducting the accreditation process. To gain or maintain accreditation, an institution must comply with SACSCOC policies and with all standards contained in the *Principles of Accreditation*.

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