

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

**Disclosure Statement Regarding the Status of the**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA AT ST. PETERSBURG**  
**St. Petersburg, Florida**  
**Issued July 7, 2008, by the Commission on Colleges**

The following publicly available information is provided by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools concerning the accreditation of the University of South Florida at St. Petersburg. Information presented below is in accord with the Commission's disclosure policy; staff of the Commission cannot comment further on questions specifically related to the University of South Florida at St. Petersburg. The institution has reviewed this statement prior to public posting.

The Commission on Colleges' action on the University of South Florida at St. Petersburg took place on June 26, 2008, and the institution's next review is June 2009.

**What is the accreditation status of the University of South Florida at St. Petersburg?** The University of South Florida at St. Petersburg is accredited by the Commission on Colleges; however, the institution has been continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation for twelve months after the Commission reviewed the institution's Third Monitoring Report submitted after it was initially accredited as a separate unit in 2006. 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. Prior to the institution's next review by the Commission in June 2009, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of the institution's compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission.

**What does it mean to be continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation?** When an institution has exhausted its two-year monitoring period for complying with the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission on Colleges, instead of removing the institution's accreditation, the Commission can extend accreditation for good cause and place the institution on Probation 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 Commission to assume it will remedy all deficiencies within the twelve-month period, and (3) the institution has provided assurance to the Commission that it is not aware of any other reasons, other than those identified by the Commission, why the institution cannot be continued for good cause. An institution must be placed on Probation when it is continued in membership for good cause beyond the maximum two-year monitoring period. The maximum consecutive time that an institution may be on Probation is two years. The University of South Florida at St. Petersburg will conclude a 12-month period on Probation in June 2009. For additional information about sanctions, see page two of the Commission's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" (<http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>).

**Why was the University of South Florida at St. Petersburg continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation?** The University of South Florida at St. Petersburg was continued in accreditation for good cause and placed on Probation because the Commission determined that it met the provisions for good cause but it failed to demonstrate compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1 (College-Level Competencies) and Federal Requirement 4.1 (Student Achievement) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. These standards expect an accredited institution to identify college-level competencies and evaluate student attainment of those competences as well as evaluate success with respect to student achievement. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>.) In addition, and in accordance with Commission policy, the institution was placed on Probation because it had reached the end of its maximum two-year monitoring period without demonstrating compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*.

**What will happen in June 2009?** The Commission will again consider the accreditation status of the University of South Florida at St. Petersburg following review of a Fourth Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the areas cited for non-compliance, and the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in spring 2009. The Commission will have the following options: (1) remove Probation without an additional monitoring report; (2) continue accreditation for good cause for six or twelve months and continue Probation, request an additional report, and authorize a Special Committee; or (3) remove the institution's accreditation. For additional information, access <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Commission in June 2009.

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