

COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ACCREDITATION

RECOGNITION DECISION SUMMARY

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS COMMISSION ON COLLEGES (SACSCOC)

In accordance with the [2021 CHEA Standards and Procedures for Recognition](#), Procedures-B.11, this summary provides the reason(s) for the recognition decision by the CHEA Board of Directors.

Profile of Accrediting Organization

Type of Accreditor: Institutional

Number of Institutions: 792

Current CHEA-Recognized Scope of Accreditation

SACSCOC is an accrediting and pre-accrediting body for degree-granting institutions in the United States and internationally that offer post-secondary education programs, including via distance and correspondence education within these institutions. (2024)

CHEA Recognition Information

History: Initial recognition, January 2003
Recognition deferred; term of recognition extended one year (December 31, 2015)
Recognition for up to ten years, September 2015

Most Recent Recognition Action

Date: CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, January 27, 2025

Decision: The CHEA Board of Directors awarded continuing recognition for a term of seven years with an Interim Report due at the midpoint of the recognition term (July 1, 2028).

Summary of Prior Recognition Decisions

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, September 28-29, 2015: The CHEA Board of Directors accepted the CHEA Committee on Recognition's recommendation to grant the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) recognition for up to 10 years based on review of the second of two required reports.

The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 4-8).

SACSCOC demonstrated that it meets these standards and that its accreditation process is consistent with the quality improvement and accountability expectations that CHEA has established.

The CHEA recognition policy requires that an accrediting organization undergo a recognition review at least every 10 years and submit two interim reports.

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, January 6, 2015: The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the response to the deferral provided by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The Board of Directors accepted the first of two reports as SACSCOC implements a clear standard that meets the requirements of 12B.1 that requires institutions or programs to routinely provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement as determined by the institution or program (Paragraph 12B.1, *2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*). SACSCOC is required to provide second report.

CHEA Board of Directors Meeting, April 28-29, 2014: The CHEA Committee on Recognition and the Board of Directors reviewed the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The review was based on the six CHEA recognition standards that require an accrediting organization to show that its accreditation process advances academic quality, demonstrates accountability, encourages self-scrutiny and planning, employs fair and appropriate procedures and demonstrates ongoing review of practice, and that it possesses sufficient resources to carry out its accreditation processes (*2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*, Paragraphs 12A-12F, pp. 4-8).

The Board of Directors deferred action on recognition in order that SACSCOC implement a clear standard that meets the requirements of 12(B)(1) that requires institutions or programs to routinely provide reliable information to the public on their performance, including student achievement as determined by the institution or program (Paragraph 12(B)(1), *2010 CHEA Recognition Policy and Procedures*). SACSCOC is required to provide two reports.