

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

**Questions Regarding the Status of**  
**CRISWELL COLLEGE**  
**Dallas, Texas**  
**Issued December 16, 2010, by SACS Commission on Colleges**

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

Action by the Board of Trustees of SACS Commission on Colleges took place on December 6, 2010, and the institution's next review is December 2011.

**What is the accreditation status of Criswell College?** Criswell College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges; however, the institution was denied reaffirmation of accreditation and placed on Warning for twelve months following its comprehensive decennial review. 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 Warning status applies to the entire institution. Prior to the institution's next review by the Commission's Board in December 2011, a Special Committee will conduct an on-site evaluation of its compliance with the *Principles of Accreditation*—the accreditation standards of the Commission.

**What does it mean to be denied reaffirmation and placed on Warning?** Warning imposed by the Commission's Board of Trustees at the time of an institution's comprehensive decennial review follows a determination of significant non-compliance with the Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards, or the Federal Requirements of the *Principles of Accreditation* of the Commission; failure to make timely and significant progress toward correcting the deficiencies that led to the finding of non-compliance; or failure to comply with Commission policies and procedures. The maximum total time during one monitoring period that an institution may be on Warning is two years. In December 2011, Criswell College will have been on Warning for twelve months. For additional information about sanctions, see the Commission's policy entitled "Sanctions, Denial of Reaffirmation, and Removal from Membership" that can be accessed at <http://www.sacscoc.org/policies.asp>.

**Why was Criswell College denied reaffirmation of accreditation and placed on Warning?** Criswell College was denied reaffirmation of accreditation and placed on Warning because the Commission's Board of Trustees determined that, at the time of the institution's decennial review, it had failed to demonstrate compliance with Core Requirement 2.5 (Institutional Effectiveness), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.1 (Institutional Effectiveness: Educational Programs), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.2 (Institutional Effectiveness: Administrative Support Services), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.3 (Institutional Effectiveness: Educational Support Services), Comprehensive Standard 3.3.2 (Quality Enhancement Plan), and Comprehensive Standard 3.5.1 (College-Level Competencies) of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The cited standards expect an accredited institution to provide evidence that it (1) has an ongoing, integrated, and institution-wide planning and evaluation process supporting the accomplishment of its mission, (2) identifies and evaluates expected outcomes and uses findings to improve educational programs and administrative and educational support services, (3) has the capability and processes for completing a Quality Enhancement Plan, and (4) identifies college-level general education competencies. (To read the full statements for the standards cited above, access the *Principles of Accreditation* at <http://www.sacscoc.org/principles.asp>.)

**What will happen in December 2011?** SACSCOC Board of Trustees will consider the accreditation status of Criswell College following review of a First Monitoring Report submitted by the institution addressing the standards cited above for non-compliance, and the report of a Special Committee that will visit the institution in fall 2011. The Board will have the following options: (1) reaffirm accreditation and remove the institution from Warning with or without an additional report; (2) deny reaffirmation of accreditation, continue accreditation, continue Warning and request an additional report, with or without the authorization of a Special Committee; (3) deny reaffirmation of accreditation, continue accreditation, place the institution on Probation, authorize a Special Committee, and request an additional report; or (4) remove the institution from membership with the Commission on Colleges. Commission staff will not speculate on what decision might be made by the Commission's Board in December 2011.

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