



SACSCOC Accreditation Status Accreditation Status

Union Commonwealth University (UCU) is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, bachelor, master, and education specialist degrees.

At its meeting in December of 2025, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees continued UCU in accreditation, denied reaffirmation of accreditation, placed the University on a sanction of “Warning” for a period of 12 months, and requested a follow-up special committee visit for Fall 2026. UCU remains accredited.

Meaning of “Warning” Sanction

A sanction of “Warning” means that Union failed to meet standards, such as core requirements (e.g., student achievement, faculty qualifications) or administrative, financial, or governance standards. This is a public sanction that indicates that the University has a period of 12 months during which it can work toward demonstrating compliance with all accreditation standards. During this period, UCU continues to operate as an accredited institution and retains eligibility for federal financial aid and other accreditation-related benefits. A status of “Warning” does not indicate that the University is in immediate jeopardy of losing accreditation, but rather, that the University has work left to do and has time and opportunity to work with SACSCOC to address areas of non-compliance.

Standards Cited by SACSCOC

The status of “Warning” relates to the following SACSCOC standards:

Core Requirement 6.1 (Full-time faculty), Core Requirement 7.1 (Institutional planning), Core Requirement 13.1 (Financial resources), Core Requirement 13.2 (Financial documents), Standard 4.2.a (Mission review), Standard 4.2.c (CEO evaluation/selection), Standard 6.2.b (Program faculty), Standard 8.2.a (Student outcomes: educational programs), Standard 8.2.c (Student outcomes: academic and student services), Standard 10.9 (Cooperative academic arrangements), Standard 13.3 (Financial responsibility),



Standard 13.4 (Control of finances), Standard 13.5 (Control of sponsored research/external funds), Standard 13.6 (Federal and

University Actions

The determination of noncompliance on these accreditation standards, and SACSCOC's subsequent decision to place the University on sanction, was anticipated by the University's current leadership. Since the appointment of President DJ Washington, the University has taken significant action to address all cited areas. Steps taken (or in the process of being taken) include:

- The creation and implementation of a truly balanced budget for the University for the first time in almost a decade.
- The hiring of a Chief Strategy & Financial Officer to oversee the University's financial recovery and operation of the University's auxiliary enterprises.
- The amendment of the University's Bylaws to strengthen governing processes.
- Creation of a new Strategic Plan, including a new Academic Strategic Plan to address concerns about adequate faculty and facilities.
- Clearer ownership by members of the Executive Leadership Team of each area of non-compliance.

Union is working actively with SACSCOC and has complete confidence in the ability of the University community to demonstrate full compliance within the 12-month sanction period.

Impact on University Community

Academic programs continue without interruption, degrees awarded by the University remain accredited, and students remain eligible for federal financial aid. The University continues normal operations during this period. Changes that members of the University community might notice include strengthened budgeting and financial controls practices, increased accountability within the academic enterprise, and initiatives designed to ensure that the University meets its commitments to students within academic programs.

Under the leadership of President Washington, Union remains committed to transparency, accountability, and financial sustainability. UCU's Senior Staff is committed to the mission



of the University, and to seeing it fulfilled in a way that makes Dear Old Union sustainable for generations to come.

For questions about Union Commonwealth University's accreditation status, you may contact Dr. Joshua Wilkey (Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs; SACSCOC Liaison) at jwilkey@unionky.edu, or Maisie Nelson (Vice President for University Relations) at mnelson@unionky.edu.

For additional information about accreditation, please visit the SACSCOC website at www.sacscoc.org.