

# Guidelines for the Describing the Accreditation Status of the Institution

The University is expected to be in compliance with the Principles of Accreditation at all times. When representing the Institution's relationship with the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), it is the expectation that all references to the Institution's accreditation status would adhere to Principle 14.1-Publication of Accreditation Status and Principle 14.4-Representation to Other Agencies.

## **Principle 14.1 states that:**

**The institution (a) accurately represents its accreditation status and publishes the name, address, telephone number, and website address of SACSCOC in accordance with SACSCOC's requirements and federal policy; and (b) ensures all its branch campuses include the name of that institution and make it clear that their accreditation depends on the continued accreditation of the parent campus.**

## **Principle 14.4 states that:**

**The institution (a) represents itself accurately to all U.S. Department of Education recognized accrediting agencies with which it holds accreditation and (b) informs those agencies of any change of accreditation status, including the imposition of public sanctions.**

## **Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges**

**Initial Reference:** When initially referring to the accreditation status of the University use the following language:

The University of Kentucky is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, education specialist, and doctoral degrees. The University of Kentucky also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of the University of Kentucky may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website ([www.sacscoc.org](http://www.sacscoc.org)).

**Subsequent References:** When referencing the University's accreditor the following guidelines should be used.

- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC)
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
- SACSCOC

- Do not use “SACS”



## Other Considerations

- Accreditation granted by an institutional accrediting body has reference to the quality of the institution as a whole. Because institutional accreditation does not imply specific accreditation of any particular program in the institution, statements like “this program is accredited,” or “this degree is accredited,” are incorrect and misleading.
- “Free-standing” institutions offering programs in a single field (e.g., a school of art, engineering, or theology) and granted accreditation by an institutional accrediting body alone, clearly state that this accreditation does not imply specialized accreditation of the programs offered.
- No statement may be made about the possible future accreditation status with SACSCOC (e.g. “(Name of institution) has applied for candidacy with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges”).
- The phrase “fully accredited” is not used, since partial accreditation is not possible.

**Disclaimer Statement:** When entering into either a dual or joint academic award agreement with an institution that is not accredited by SACSCOC, the following disclaimer language is expected to be included when describing the relationship:

The University of Kentucky is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, masters, education specialist, and doctoral degree. [Name of partner institution] is not accredited by SACS Commission on Colleges and the accreditation of the University of Kentucky does not extend to or include [name of partner institution] or its students. Further, although the University of Kentucky agrees to accept certain course work from [name of partner institution] to be applied toward an award from [name of member institution], that course work may not be accepted by other colleges or universities in transfer, even if it appears on a transcript from the University of Kentucky. The decision to accept course work in transfer from any institution is made by the institution considering the acceptance of credits or course work.