

NSU receives accreditation warning from regional accreditation agency

By Danielle Kirsh

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states. Photos from <http://www.sacscoc.org/>.

Norfolk State University was one of two Virginia institutions that received an accreditation warning from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS).

SACS, the accreditation agency that oversees accreditation standards in the region, reviewed the university earlier in September after Dr. Tony Atwater was fired.

NSU had a long list of compliance issues when SACS had their annual meeting on Dec. 10.

Faculty qualifications, financial stability, and problems with the governing board were among the contributing factors to the ac-

creditation warning the university received.

In September, NSU must submit a report to the SACS showing that it has fixed all the problems that the agency said needs to be fixed. The SACS will then vote in December on whether the university can have the warning taken away or if further action will be taken.

According to the SACS website, an accreditation warning is the lesser of two sanctions an institution can receive.

Any institution can be placed on warning if it doesn't comply with any of the core requirements of the comprehensive standards set

forth by SACS. Likewise, any institution can be placed on a warning if they fail to make significant progress toward correcting their problems in a timely manner.

The other institution that received an accreditation warning was the private, all-male school Hampden-Sydney College, who was cited for having an inadequate number of full-time faculties.

The maximum time an institution can be placed on a warning is two years.

NSU will be monitored for improvements in the areas that the SACS found to be in noncompliance with their standards.

BOV votes to close nursing program

By Danielle Kirsh

Norfolk State University's Board of Visitors unanimously voted on Dec. 13 to close the university's two-year nursing program after years of below average test scores.

The two-year program was eventually going to close, regardless of the test scores, because hospitals aren't hiring nurses without a bachelor's degree, Provost Sandra DeLoatch told the board members during the meeting.

In March of last year, the Virginia Board of Nursing barred NSU from accepting any more students in to the two-year nursing program.

NSU's two-year nursing program has had problems in the past with students receiving low passing rates on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX).

A passing score on the

NCLEX is 80 percent, but NSU scored 76 percent in 2010, 48 percent in 2011 and 54 percent in 2012.

NSU offers a four-year bachelor's degree in nursing that has higher passing rates on the NCLEX. The university plans to expand the bachelor's degree program in the future.

DeLoatch told the Virginian-Pilot that there are approximately 100 students enrolled in the two-year nursing program and that the university will close the program when the enrolled students are finished.

The decision to close the program entirely will finalize once the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and NSU's accreditation agency sign off.



NSU plans to close the university's two-year nursing program after years of below average test scores. Photos from cset.nsu.edu/nursing.