

Distance Education Accrediting Commission

Public Notice: Show Cause Directive

February 28, 2022

The DEAC Accrediting Commission will provide written notice to the U.S. Secretary of Education, the appropriate state licensing or authorizing agencies and accrediting agencies at the same time it notifies the institution of the decision to place an institution on show cause. In addition, DEAC will provide written notice of the decision to the public on its website within 24 hours of the decision and provide a brief statement summarizing the reasons for the decision. (Section XV., Processes and Procedures, *DEAC Accreditation Handbook*). This notice pertains to:

**Sarasota University
5104 Lockwood Ridge
Sarasota, FL**

At its January 28, 2022 meeting, the Commission voted to direct Sarasota University (SU) to show cause why accreditation should not be withdrawn. The Commission is concerned that SU has not demonstrated it complies with Standard XI.A., Financial Practices, Standard XI.B., Financial Management, Standard XI.C, Financial Stability and Sustainability, Standard XI.D., Financial Reporting, and Standard XII.D., State Authorization. The Commission is requiring a total reevaluation of SU's compliance with DEAC accreditation standards to include the submission of a new SER, exhibits and on-site visit by a team of DEAC evaluators. The Commission will consider this record, the Chair's Report from the on-site visit and SU's response at its January 2023 meeting.

This decision follows a deferral of the institution's application for renewal of accreditation in January of 2021 and the acquisition of SU by the Center for Guided Montessori Studies (CGMS) which was approved as a change of control by the Commission on August 16, 2021. The Commission deferred action on the renewal application in order to monitor and gather additional information pertaining to the institution's financial position and to permit additional time for SU to implement the changes associated with its change of control to CGMS.

SU provided DEAC with a Teach Out Plan and Teach Out Agreement in accordance with Section XXI.C, Processes and Procedures, *DEAC Accreditation Handbook*.

A copy of the February 28, 2022 continued Show Cause Directive [is linked here](#).