

3.1.a Degree-granting authority

An institution seeking to gain or maintain accredited status has degree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies.

Compliance Judgment: In Compliance

Rationale

The [South Carolina Code of Laws, §59-101-10](#) ^[1] identifies the University of South Carolina as one of several separate and distinct institutions of higher education within the state of South Carolina, each under a separate board of trustees or board of visitors. The Board of Trustees of the University of South Carolina was created on December 19, 1801 by virtue of [§59-117-10 et seq.](#),^[2] Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended.

The University of South Carolina Aiken is a comprehensive institution in the University of South Carolina (USC) system. As indicated in the [USC Board of Trustees Bylaws](#),^[3] the USC System consists of a research institution in Columbia, three comprehensive institutions (USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, and USC Upstate) and four regional campuses (USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter, and USC Union). The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges separately accredits USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, USC Columbia, and USC Upstate. The four regional campuses are extensions of and fall under the accreditation of USC Columbia.

Further, the [South Carolina Code of Laws, §59-103-35](#) ^[4] stipulates that all South Carolina college and university programs require oversight approval from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SCCHE). The inventory of USC Aiken's degree programs approved for conferral is listed and is organized by Classification of Instructional program (CIP) codes on the [SCCHE Program Inventory report](#).^[5]

The university offers several baccalaureate completion programs and master's degrees on line. The university is approved to offer its degree programs via distance education as part of the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (NC-SARA). A [map](#)

[of SARA states](#) ^[6] verifies South Carolina as a participant. A list of [SARA institutions](#) ^[7] also confirms that USC Aiken is a member.

Supporting Documentation

1. [South Carolina Code of Laws, §59-101-10 et seq.](#)
2. [South Carolina Code of Laws, §59-117-10 et seq.](#)
3. [USC Board of Trustees Bylaws](#)
4. [South Carolina Code of Laws, §59-103-35 et seq.](#)
5. [SCCHE Program Inventory report](#)
6. [NC-SARA map](#)
7. [NC-SARA institutions](#)