



## **PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE REAFFIRMATION COMMITTEE**

### **Statement Regarding the Report**

*The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) is responsible for making the final determination on reaffirmation of accreditation based on the findings contained in this committee report, the institution's response to issues contained in the report, other assessments relevant to the review, and application of the Commission's policies and procedures. Final interpretation of the Principles of Accreditation and final action on the accreditation status of the institution rest with SACSCOC Board of Trustees.*

**Name of the Institution:**            **University of South Carolina - Aiken**

**Date of the Review:**                **November 5-6, 2020**

**SACSCOC Staff Member:**        **Dr. Denise Y. Young**

**Chair of the Committee:**           **Dr. William R. Fannin - CHAIR**  
**Professor of Management**  
**The University of Texas Permian Basin**  
**Odessa, TX**

## **Section 12: Academic and Student Support Services**

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- 12.6 The institution provides information and guidance to help student borrowers understand how to manage their debt and repay their loans.  
*(Student debt)*

### **Non-Compliance**

In addition to federal requirements for loan counseling, the institution provides six financial aid counselors who provide guidance to help student borrowers understand their obligation to repay their loans and manage their debt. Financial aid information is also embedded within student and parent orientations and within their first-year seminar course. In addition, the university makes mention of their lower than normal default rate and the debt load of graduating students.

However, the Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee could not find documentation of information specifically related to guidance to help student borrowers understand how to manage their debt and repay their loans.