



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 8: Student Achievement

- 8.1 **The institution identifies, evaluates, and publishes goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to the institution's mission, the nature of the students it serves, and the kinds of programs offered. The institution uses multiple measures to document student success.**
(Student achievement) [CR; Off-Site/On-Site Review]

Non-Compliance

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee found that the university has goals and outcomes for student achievement appropriate to the institution that include program enrollment, course completion rates, and graduation rates and persistence. The institution has targets for the six-year graduation rate and stated that a national peer group serves as the basis for establishing targets across a wide range of metrics. The institution provided disaggregation for various populations, such as part-time freshmen, transfers, and Pell grant recipients and military affiliated students. There is a Retention, Progression, and Graduation Implementation Committee that is tasked with examining best practices and institutional data in an effort to make specific recommendations of actions that can be undertaken to improve persistence and graduation. Some recommendations by this committee to improve student success were included.

The institutional narrative provides evidence of data regarding program numbers such as enrollment, and DFW grades. It also includes numbers related to nursing students' passage on NCLEX exams. The Compliance Certification contained some reports, such as those submitted each year to the Executive Budget Office as part of the institution's Accountability Report. Annual accountability reports are published and made available to the public on both the university website and the South Carolina State Legislature website.

However, while the institution discussed graduation rates, it did not address the IPEDS 8-Year Outcomes metric, which is the SACSCOC Key Student Completion Indicator chosen by the institution (baseline = 46.1%) and subsequent performance against this baseline.