



## **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 9: Educational Program Structure and Content

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- 9.1 **Educational programs (a) embody a coherent course of study, (b) are compatible with the stated mission and goals of the institution, and (c) are based on fields of study appropriate to higher education.**

*(Program content)* [CR; Off-Site/On-Site Review]

### Compliance

The institution's educational programs embody a coherent course of study, are compatible with the mission and strategic plan, and are based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education. The institution has provided strong evidence that degree programs undergo a thorough curriculum review to ensure mission consistency. A coherent course of study at both the undergraduate and graduate levels is monitored through the institution's curriculum process, reviewed by subject matter experts, and demonstrated through curriculum mapping and meeting professional accreditation standards.

The curriculum review process is very comprehensive and involves review by the Courses and Curricula Committee or the Graduate Advisory Committee, South Carolina Advisory Committee on Academic Programs, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing, and South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. The Bachelor of Arts (Music) program proposal was provided as an example to demonstrate the review process. Multiple examples of curriculum mapping for graduate and undergraduate programs were provided to confirm that student learning outcomes were introduced, reinforced, practiced, and mastered across the curriculum.

University of South Carolina system policy ACAF 2.03 *Creation and Revision of Academic Courses* provides requirements for sequencing courses. Multiple examples of enrollment plans were provided to demonstrate a coherent and sequential course structure to provide progressively more advanced content and that course prerequisite and co-requisites are coherently linked together.

The institution demonstrated that their degree programs were based on a field of study appropriate to higher education. As part of the approval process, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education reviews programs to ensure that they are appropriate for higher education and that the program has a designated Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code congruent with the United States Department of Education Classification of Instructional Programs taxonomy.