



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

- 9.2 **The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. The institution provides an explanation of equivalencies when using units other than semester credit hours. The institution provides an appropriate justification for all degree programs and combined degree programs that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit.**
(Program Length) [CR; Off-Site/On-Site Review]

Compliance

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviewed the institution's catalog, which includes requirements for all programs offered and related policies for program completion. The Committee found all undergraduate degree programs require at least 120 credit hours, with one program requiring 144 credit hours. Variances in hours required above the 120-minimum required for the baccalaureate degree are attributed to State or national certification or accreditation requirements. Traditional semester credit hours are awarded for completed coursework. The institution may confer a second baccalaureate degree provided the student earns a minimum of 24 credit hours beyond those required for the first degree and a minimum of 144 credit hours total. All master's degrees require at least 30 graduate credit hours for completion.

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee found complete information regarding semester hours required for each degree program at both the baccalaureate and graduate level in the institution's catalog.