



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

- 9.3 The institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the undergraduate level that:
- (a) is based on a coherent rationale.
 - (b) is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree program. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent.
 - (c) ensures breadth of knowledge. These credit hours include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. These courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.

(General education requirements [CR; Off-Site/On-Site Review])

Compliance

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee's review of the general education component found that the rationale is based on LEAP essential learning outcomes that were developed by the AAC&U. These elements are published in the catalog and students work with advisors and Degree Works. Examples of academic degree plans confirm the core requirements and are clear as to how students may meet requirements. The General Education Program requirement comprises a substantial component of each undergraduate degree ranging between 50 and 59 semester hours.

Documentation provided support that the undergraduate curriculum provides a range of knowledge that is consistent with its mission and core values. In order to promote intellectual inquiry, general education courses present a breadth of knowledge, not focusing on skills, techniques, and procedures specific to the student's occupation or profession, and are drawn from specific academic areas. Oversight of courses with the general education curriculum resides with the General Education Committee that includes faculty from the university. Review of the General Education Committee minutes supports committee deliberations and faculty representation.