



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

- 9.6 Post-baccalaureate professional degree programs and graduate degree programs are progressively more advanced in academic content than undergraduate programs, and are structured (a) to include knowledge of the literature of the discipline and (b) to ensure engagement in research and/or appropriate professional practice and training.
(Post-baccalaureate rigor and curriculum)

Compliance

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviewed the catalog and found the institution's graduate programs are structured to ensure progressively more advanced academic content than what is expected in undergraduate programs. The Committee reviewed comparisons of undergraduate and graduate course syllabi for a sample of required courses for the Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Applied Psychology programs and observed learning objectives in the graduate courses related to the knowledge of the literature of the discipline and expectations for engagement in research or appropriate professional practice and training. The two Master of Education programs do not have comparable course content at the undergraduate level; however, the Committee reviewed course syllabi for the programs and found student learning objectives covering knowledge of the discipline and engagement in research.

The institution's process for development and implementation of graduate curricula is comprehensive with responsibility for program content delegated to appropriately credentialed faculty. Programs are reviewed to ensure program student learning objectives include advanced academic content to cover knowledge of the literature in the discipline and engagement in research. The graduate program curriculum maps clearly demonstrate cyclical assessment of program and student learning outcomes for continuous improvement happens.