



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

- 9.7 The institution publishes requirements for its undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate professional programs, as applicable. The requirements conform to commonly accepted standards and practices for degree programs.
(Program requirements)

Compliance

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee's review of the catalog, which is published on the institution's website, provided evidence that requirements for all academic programs are published and available to the institution's constituents. The catalog and institutional website give information pertaining application for admission to the institution and its programs, specific program requirements, retention, progression, and completion requirements, and academic policies pertaining to grading and grade appeals.

The institution uses Degree Works for academic program advisement. Specific program requirements are monitored by faculty advisors as well as students in Degree Works, which documents clearly the courses and progress of each student. Some academic units such as nursing, education, and communication provide specific program handbooks with detailed information for program retention, progression, and graduation.

The institution provided evidence it uses a multi-tiered process for developing, reviewing, and improving academic programs, admission, retention, and graduation. Appropriately credentialed or qualified faculty in the discipline initiate program proposals as a first step. Programs are then reviewed by college-level, university-level, and board-level committees to ensure compliance with commonly accepted standards and practices within the discipline and alignment with the institutional mission. The institution's compliance narrative table 9.7-2 Program Requirements, Curriculum Maps, and Learning Outcomes demonstrates conformance with commonly standards for degree program content and student learning outcomes.

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee observed a variance in the number of general education credit hour requirements in various programs as compared with the stated 50-53 credit hours stated in the section on General Education. Some programs require more than 53 credit hours in general education, e.g., the chemistry program requires up to 59 general education credit hours. The Committee suggests the catalog should accurately reflect in the General Education section the maximum general education credit hours that may be required in the undergraduate degree program.