



Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

March 7, 2017

Dr. Belle S. Wheelan
President
Commission on Colleges
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
1866 Southern Lane
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Wheelan,

This letter is to notify you that the University of South Carolina Aiken updated and modified its mission and value statement to better reflect current practices on our campus. The modified mission statement does not change the types of programs we offer but clarifies our current values and practices.

Enclosed is a copy of our old mission and values statement as well as our newly adopted mission and value statement.

Please feel free to contact me if you require further information or have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Priest, Ph.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

xc: Dr. Sandra J. Jordan, Chancellor
Dr. Lloyd A. Dawe, Director, Institutional Effectiveness

USCA Mission and Values Statements (New):

The University of South Carolina Aiken is a comprehensive institution that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in the arts, humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and professional disciplines. All programs of study are grounded in a strong liberal arts and sciences curriculum.

USC Aiken is distinguished by its commitment to transformative teaching made possible through high impact learning practices, undergraduate research, small classes, and individual attention. The University encourages excellence in research and creative pursuits and prepares students for success by challenging them to think critically and creatively, to communicate effectively, to learn independently, and to acquire breadth and depth of interdisciplinary knowledge.

USC Aiken attracts students from South Carolina, the United States, and the world to form a diverse community of individuals engaged in educational experiences and service necessary for the pursuit of meaningful work in an enlightened, inclusive, and economically vibrant society. A progressive hub for innovation, collaboration, and creativity, USC Aiken contributes to the community by enriching the region's quality of life through a variety of activities including the visual and performing arts, intercollegiate athletics, continuing and distance education, educational outreach, and leadership.

USC SYSTEM

As a comprehensive institution within the University of South Carolina System, the University of South Carolina Aiken combines the advantages of a smaller institution focused on individual learning with the resources of a major university system.

USC Aiken Academic Community VALUES (New)

USC AIKEN Our Academic Community embraces the following values:

1. Character

We value integrity, honesty, and accountability. We encourage initiative and take pride in hard work and accomplishment.

2. Citizenship

We value the rights and responsibilities associated with membership in a community. We embrace efforts to work for the common good and opportunities to enrich the lives of all community members.

3. Curiosity

We value and embrace life-long learning and inquisitive pursuits. To that end, we endeavor to impart knowledge, skills, and wisdom in a high-quality learning environment.

4. Collegiality

We value a nurturing community where people support one another, embrace diversity, and encourage mutual respect.

University of South Carolina Aiken Old Mission Statement (Pre-February 2017)

Founded in 1961, the University of South Carolina Aiken (USC Aiken) is a comprehensive liberal arts institution committed to active learning through excellence in teaching, faculty and student scholarship, research, creative activities, and service. In this stimulating academic community, USC Aiken challenges students to acquire and develop the skills, knowledge, and values necessary for success in a dynamic global environment.

The University offers degrees in the arts and sciences and in the professional disciplines of business, education, and nursing. All courses of study are grounded in a liberal arts and sciences core curriculum. USC Aiken also encourages interdisciplinary studies and collaborative endeavors.

Emphasizing small classes and individual attention, USC Aiken provides students with opportunities to maximize individual achievement in both academic and co-curricular settings. The institution challenges students to think critically and creatively, to communicate effectively, to learn independently, and to acquire depth of knowledge in chosen fields. The University values honesty, integrity, initiative, hard work, accomplishments, responsible citizenship, respect for diversity, and cross-cultural understanding.

USC Aiken attracts students of varying ages and diverse cultural backgrounds who have demonstrated the potential to succeed in a challenging academic environment. In addition to serving the Savannah River area, USC Aiken actively seeks student enrollment from all parts of South Carolina as well as from other states and countries.

As a senior public institution of the University of South Carolina, USC Aiken combines the advantages of a smaller institution with the resources of a major university system. Located in beautiful, historic Aiken, South Carolina, USC Aiken is an institution of moderate size (2,500-5,000 students) that offers baccalaureate degrees in a number of disciplines, completion baccalaureate degrees at University of South Carolina regional campuses, and master's degrees in selected programs.

USC Aiken endeavors to apply knowledge, skills, and wisdom in ways that promote the common good. Accordingly, the University seeks to build strong community ties. The institution enriches the quality of life not only on campus but also throughout the surrounding region through a variety of activities including the fine and performing arts, athletics, continuing education, distance learning, and community service. In fulfilling its role as an institution of higher learning, the University of South Carolina Aiken is a community of individuals engaged in broadly based educational experiences necessary for an enlightened society.

Old Statement of University Values (Pre-February 2017)

WE AT USC AIKEN EMBRACE THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

1. A High Quality Learning Environment.

- We seek to impart a broad range of skills, knowledge, and wisdom
- We aim to maximize each student's potential
- We expect and value high quality teaching and individualized attention from faculty and staff
- We expect and value high quality scholarship and creative endeavors by faculty
- We encourage
 - Critical thinking
 - Independent learning
 - An understanding of the connections between the liberal arts and discipline-specific courses
 - Curiosity and a love of continual learning

Collegiality

- We aspire to be a nurturing community where people support one another in their efforts to learn and excel
- We encourage cooperation, collaboration and collegiality

Character

- We expect integrity, honesty and taking responsibility for our actions
- We embrace diversity and encourage respectfulness
- We encourage initiative, effort, and pride in hard work and accomplishments

Citizenship

- We strive to foster in students an understanding of the rights and responsibilities associated with membership in a community
- We seek to develop responsible citizenship and working for the common good
- We advocate involvement and partnerships with our external constituents to promote meaningful engagement and applied learning