



U of SC Aiken

Academic Affairs

March 23, 2020

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

Dear Dr. Wheelan,

The University of South Carolina Aiken has made the decision through consultation with and approval by all appropriate internal bodies (i.e., appropriate academic department, appropriate College; the Academic Council of Deans and Department Chairs; the Course and Curricula Committee; and the Faculty Assembly) to close the following three programs:

- BA in Music Education
- BS in Industrial Mathematics
- BS in Math and Computer Science

The termination of these programs has been approved by our Board of Trustees and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. In their place, students will be able to pursue the following programs:

- BA in Music Education → BA in Music
- BS in Industrial Mathematics → BS in Applied Mathematics
- BS in Math and Computer Science → BS in Applied Computer Science

Details regarding each of the program terminations are included as separate documents. As indicated in the separate documents, the elimination of these programs will have no impact on students, faculty, or staff.

Please let me know if additional information is required.

Sincerely,

Daren J. Timmons, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Attachment 1: Elimination of the Bachelor of Arts in Music Education

Background. The requirements of all programs of study are published annually in an Academic Bulletin. For many years, students interested in music had two majors from which to choose: Fine Arts with a concentration option in music or Music Education with concentration options in choral or instrumental studies. The University has reconfigured its major offerings to now have a single music major under its Bachelor of Arts degree with several concentration options that include instrumental studies, choral music education, instrumental music education, piano studies, or vocal studies.

Impact on students. The elimination of the Bachelor of Arts in Music Education program will not impact students. The requirements of the concentration of music education under the new Bachelor of Arts in Music are substantively the same as those under the old configuration. New students interested in music education will now be directed to the Bachelor of Arts in Music program. All students who are currently pursuing the Bachelor of Arts in Music Education will be notified by email and given the option to complete the degree program or to change majors to the new Bachelor of Arts in Music program. Under USC Aiken's existing *Rights of Bulletin Policy*, an undergraduate student may choose to obtain a degree in accordance with the curricular requirements for the particular degree set forth in the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin current at the time of the student's initial enrollment, or any subsequent USC Aiken Academic Bulletin, provided the student has not been absent from active enrollment at USC Aiken for a period exceeding three years (thirty-six months). However, a student is restricted in his/her choice of requirements to one specific USC Aiken Academic Bulletin. Undergraduate students have a period of eight years, inclusive and continuous, in which to claim the rights of a specific USC Aiken Academic Bulletin. Within the eight-year limit, an undergraduate student who is absent from the University for no longer than three years and who returns to complete his or her program of study, will have the right to continue under the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin in effect at the time of original enrollment. Alternatively, the student may elect the degree requirements set forth in the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin in effect at the time of re-enrollment. When a student has been absent from enrollment at USC Aiken for a period in excess of three years, the student is restricted in his/her choice of program requirements to those set forth in the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin in force at the time of re-enrollment or any subsequent USC Aiken Academic Bulletin. Transfer credit awarded to a student who has been absent from the University for more than 36 months must be re-evaluated according to the standards in effect at the time the student is readmitted. In accord with this policy, USC Aiken expects to continue to teach out the Bachelor of Arts in Music Education program to the 2027-28 academic year. There will be no additional charges or expenses to students as a result of the teach-out plan. There are no teach-out agreements with other institutions.

Impact on Faculty and Staff. No faculty or staff positions will be eliminated by these changes. Faculty and staff will continue to offer the same classes and services in support of the Bachelor of Arts in Music program. Faculty and staff will be informed of the changes via our annual Academic Bulletin publication as well as through announcements at a departmental meeting of Visual and Performing Arts faculty, the Faculty Assembly, and the classified employee assembly upon approval by SACCOC.

Effective date of Termination. It is our intention to formally stop admissions of students to the Bachelor of Arts in Music Education program in August of 2020.

Attachment 2: Elimination of the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Mathematics

Background. The requirements of all programs of study are published annually in an Academic Bulletin. For many years, USC Aiken offered a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Mathematics. The faculty in the Department of Mathematical Sciences have redesigned the curriculum associated with this major to create the Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics. This degree program has been approved by the USC Board of Trustees and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and does not represent a substantive change. Existing required and major elective courses from the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Mathematics along with additional course offerings constitute the curriculum of the new program of study. No new faculty or resources are required.

Impact on students. The elimination of the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Mathematics program will not impact students. New students interested in this field are being directed to the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Process Engineering program or the Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics. All students who are currently pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Mathematics will be notified by email and given the opportunity to complete the program. Under USC Aiken's existing *Rights of Bulletin Policy*, an undergraduate student may choose to obtain a degree in accordance with the curricular requirements for the particular degree set forth in the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin current at the time of the student's initial enrollment, or any subsequent USC Aiken Academic Bulletin, provided the student has not been absent from active enrollment at USC Aiken for a period exceeding three years (thirty-six months). However, a student is restricted in his/her choice of requirements to one specific USC Aiken Academic Bulletin. Students have a period of eight years, inclusive and continuous, in which to claim the rights of a specific USC Aiken Academic Bulletin. Within the eight-year limit, an undergraduate student who is absent from the University for no longer than three years and who returns to complete his or her program of study, will have the right to continue under the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin in effect at the time of original enrollment. Alternatively, the student may elect the degree requirements set forth in the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin in effect at the time of re-enrollment. When a student has been absent from enrollment at USC Aiken for a period in excess of three years, the student is restricted in his/her choice of program requirements to those set forth in the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin in force at the time of re-enrollment or any subsequent USC Aiken Academic Bulletin. Transfer credit awarded to a student who has been absent from the University for more than 36 months must be re-evaluated according to the standards in effect at the time the student is readmitted. In accord with this policy, USC Aiken expects to continue to teach out the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Mathematics program to the 2027-28 academic year. There will be no additional charges or expenses to students as a result of the teach-out plan. There are no teach-out agreements with other institutions.

Impact on Faculty and Staff. No faculty or staff positions will be eliminated by these changes. Faculty and staff will continue to offer the same classes and services in support of existing programs. Faculty and staff will be informed of the changes via our annual Academic Bulletin publication as well as through announcements at a departmental meeting of Mathematical Sciences faculty, the Faculty Assembly, and the classified employee assembly upon approval by SACSCOC.

Effective date of Termination. It is our intention to formally stop admissions of students to the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Mathematics program in August of 2020.

Attachment 3: Elimination of the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science

Background. The requirements of all programs of study are published annually in an Academic Bulletin. For many years, USC Aiken has offered a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science. The faculty in the Department of Mathematical Sciences have redesigned the curriculum associated with this major to create the Bachelor of Science in Applied Computer Science with concentrations available in cybersecurity or applied gaming. This degree program has been approved by the USC Board of Trustees and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and does not represent a substantive change. Existing required and major elective courses from the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science along with additional course offerings constitute the curriculum of the new program of study. Additional resources for equipment and two new faculty positions are required and have been allocated.

Impact on students. The elimination of the Bachelor of Sciences in Mathematics and Computer Science program will not impact students. New students interested in math or computer science will be directed to one of the two new programs of study. All students who are currently pursuing the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science will be notified by email and given the opportunity to complete the program or to change majors to one of the two new degree programs. Under USC Aiken's existing *Rights of Bulletin Policy*, an undergraduate student may choose to obtain a degree in accordance with the curricular requirements for the particular degree set forth in the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin current at the time of the student's initial enrollment, or any subsequent USC Aiken Academic Bulletin, provided the student has not been absent from active enrollment at USC Aiken for a period exceeding three years (thirty-six months). However, a student is restricted in his/her choice of requirements to one specific USC Aiken Academic Bulletin. Students have a period of eight years, inclusive and continuous, in which to claim the rights of a specific USC Aiken Academic Bulletin. Within the eight-year limit, an undergraduate student who is absent from the University for no longer than three years and who returns to complete his or her program of study, will have the right to continue under the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin in effect at the time of original enrollment. Alternatively, the student may elect the degree requirements set forth in the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin in effect at the time of re-enrollment. When a student has been absent from enrollment at USC Aiken for a period in excess of three years, the student is restricted in his/her choice of program requirements to those set forth in the USC Aiken Academic Bulletin in force at the time of re-enrollment or any subsequent USC Aiken Academic Bulletin. Transfer credit awarded to a student who has been absent from the University for more than 36 months must be re-evaluated according to the standards in effect at the time the student is readmitted. In accord with this policy, USC Aiken expects to continue to teach out the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science program to the 2027-28 academic year. There will be no additional charges or expenses to students as a result of the teach-out plan. There are no teach-out agreements with other institutions.

Impact on Faculty and Staff. No faculty or staff positions will be eliminated by these changes. Faculty and staff will continue to offer the same classes and services in support of existing programs. Faculty and staff will be informed of the changes via our annual Academic Bulletin publication as well as through announcements at a departmental meeting of Mathematical Sciences faculty, the Faculty Assembly, and the classified employee assembly.

Effective date of Termination. It is our intention to formally stop admissions of students to the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Computer Science program in August of 2020.