

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION	ACAF Academic Affairs
POLICY NUMBER	ACAF 1.04
POLICY TITLE	Student Course Experience Surveys
SCOPE OF POLICY	USC System
DATE OF REVISION	August 21, 2025
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE	Office of the Provost

PURPOSE

Academic excellence is a core value of the University of South Carolina (USC) system campuses. Student Course Experience Survey (SCES) results provide faculty and programs insight into the student learning experience and allow course faculty to monitor and continuously improve course quality, engagement techniques, and teaching practices.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Academic Administrative Units - Academic administrative units at the University include colleges, schools, departments, interdisciplinary programs, centers and institutes. Academic administrative units other than centers and institutes may offer academic programs that lead to formal degrees.

Student Course Experience Survey (SCES) – A questionnaire administered to enrolled students to obtain feedback on their learning and overall experience within that course.

Core Survey Questions - A foundational set of standardized questions that are consistently included at the beginning of all student course experience surveys. The core survey questions are deliberately placed at the beginning of surveys to establish baseline information before students encounter program, college-specific or other questions.

POLICY STATEMENT

The University of South Carolina uses student feedback from Student Course Experience Surveys to improve teaching, aid in faculty evaluation processes and improve educational programs.

Each USC system campus shall collect student course experience surveys for every course taught by faculty on that campus, regardless of course type, duration and/or academic rank or tenure status of the instructor.

The chief academic officer of each university campus, in collaboration with the appropriate faculty governance body, should periodically appoint a SCES review committee. This committee will periodically review the core survey questions and may suggest changes, additions, or deletions in the core questions.

[Visit USC Columbia Student Course Experience Surveys website](#) for detailed information on the implementation of SCESS.

Faculty may choose two questions from the optional question bank and decide whether they would like to include these two additional questions in their annual or promotional materials.

PROCEDURE

A. Student Course Evaluation Administration

Each comprehensive university should develop individual campus-based procedures to implement this policy.

B. Reporting Requirements

1. Results of each student course experience survey will be shared with the course faculty.
2. Units must maintain records of all student course experience survey results for each course to provide reports for individual faculty, courses, and evaluation purposes.

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

[USC Faculty Manuals](#)

[ACAF 2.03 Creation and Revision of Academic Courses](#)

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
February 1, 1995	New policy approval
November 11, 2014	Non-substantive revision to update departmental name changes and system campuses name changes.
June 13, 2023	Eliminate questions and external reporting requirements that are no longer required; update to new format.
August 21, 2025	Substantive revisions to incorporate the procedures required for implementing student course experience surveys.