

**EXCERPT FROM THE 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 - Columbia**

Date of the Review: **November 3-4, 2020**

SACSCOC Staff Member: **Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover**

Chair of the Committee: **Dr. Timothy S. Brophy**
Director, Institutional Assessment
and Professor, Music Education
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32606

10.8

Evaluating and Awarding Academic Credit

- 10.8 The institution publishes policies for evaluating, awarding, and accepting credit not originating from the institution. The institution ensures (a) the academic quality of any credit or coursework recorded on its transcript, (b) an approval process with oversight by persons academically qualified to make the necessary judgments, and (c) the credit awarded is comparable to a designated credit experience and is consistent with the institution's mission.

(Evaluating and awarding academic credit)

Non-Compliance

The institution's response is in violation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) policy, "Reports Submitted for SACSCOC Review," by including live links in its response and electronic documentation that is not consistently bookmarked, indexed, and searchable.

The institution has in place a comprehensive system of policies and practices for evaluating, awarding, and accepting credit not originating from the institution, which is enacted through the faculty governance process. Articulation agreements define the process of awarding from other participating institutions and from a statewide articulation agreement origination from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Transfer credit is determined either by qualified faculty evaluators or by qualified evaluators trained by, overseen by, and evaluated by qualified faculty. A roster of qualified faculty and their suitable qualifications is provided. Credit for graduate course work from other institutions "must be relevant to the program and have course content and a level of instruction equivalent to that offered by the institution's own graduate programs," including courses for professional degrees. All these policies and practices together ensure the academic quality of any credits appearing on the institution's transcripts. An illustrative example of related policy use and implementation could not be found, nor was there provided a valid explanation for this.