

**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**

## **13.6 Federal and State Responsibilities**

- 13.6 The institution (a) is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the most recent Higher Education Act as amended and (b) audits financial aid programs as required by federal and state regulations. In reviewing the institution's compliance with these program responsibilities under Title IV, SACSCOC relies on documentation forwarded to it by the U. S. Department of Education.

*(Federal and state responsibilities) [Off-Site/On-Site Review]*

### **Compliance**

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee found support for the institution's case for compliance.

The institution conducts annual audits of its financial aid programs as required by federal and state regulations. The institution has contracted with an external auditor to conduct the annual audit of federal award programs as required by the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). Student financial aid for all campuses is handled by the Columbia campus, and therefore, all financial aid audits are for the University of South Carolina system.

The Eligibility and Certification Approval Report (ECAR) and the Program Participation Agreement (PPA), signed on behalf of the Secretary of Education, acknowledge that the institution has qualified to participate in programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), and the federal student financial assistance programs (Title IV, HEA programs). All required consumer information concerning federal aid is provided to students via the Financial Aid Office.

The institution provided the Single Audit Report for FY2019 as documentation for this Standard.

The institution and its four (4) two-year campuses had several significant deficiencies in internal controls over compliance related to Student Financial Aid. According to the institution, all deficiencies have been addressed by management in a corrective action plan with follow-ups to ensure all are corrected and addressed prior to the end of fiscal year 2020. The June 24, 2020, letter from the US Department of Education states that findings have been satisfactorily addressed by the institution.