

**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

9.1 Program Content

- 9.1 **Educational programs (a) embody a coherent course of study, (b) are compatible with the stated mission and goals of the institution, and (c) are based on fields of study appropriate to higher education.**

(Program content) [CR; Off-Site/On-Site Review]

Compliance

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

In offering over 300 degrees across all undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, the institution has sought to address its mission of providing comprehensive education. A standardized program of study with four (4) components (Carolina Core, College Requirements, Program Requirements, and Major Requirements) was revised in 2019-2020, illustrating the institution's attention to the need for a coherent course of study. Major maps provided in six different majors illustrate the work that goes into forming coherent courses of study to help guide students, and this intentional coherence is well documented in the institution's response.

A cycle of program review and approval, along with external review by appropriate accrediting agencies, helps ensure that degrees are compatible with the stated mission and goals and are based on fields of study appropriate to higher education. The Office of Academic Programs works with liaisons within the units to monitor new program proposals and shepherd them as they move up through various institutional levels of approval.

Approval at the state level by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education provides appropriate oversight to ensure that program duplication does not become an issue within the public higher education system in the state.