

**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

9.3.b General Education Requirements: Substantial Component

9.3 **The institution requires the successful completion of a general education component at the undergraduate level that:**

- (a) **is based on a coherent rationale.**
- (b) **is a substantial component of each undergraduate degree program. For degree completion in associate programs, the component constitutes a minimum of 15 semester hours or the equivalent; for baccalaureate programs, a minimum of 30 semester hours or the equivalent.**
- (c) **ensures breadth of knowledge. These credit hours include at least one course from each of the following areas: humanities/fine arts, social/behavioral sciences, and natural science/mathematics. These courses do not narrowly focus on those skills, techniques, and procedures specific to a particular occupation or profession.**

(General education requirements [CR; Off-Site/On-Site Review])

Compliance

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

The institution provides convincing evidence that it requires the successful completion of a general education component at the undergraduate level.

The general education requirements at institution's main campus and its regional college campuses are the same and are referred to as the Carolina Core (CC). The entire undergraduate program prepares students for their selected fields of specialty, but also, through the CC, prepares students more broadly to be active citizens in the world and to live meaningful individual and community lives. This purpose of the General Education Program (GEP) is consonant with the institution's mission to serve a broad and diverse student body and meet the general civic needs of the state.

Documents indicate that completion of the Carolina Core is required for all undergraduate degrees. "The Carolina Core curriculum provides the common core of knowledge, skill, and academic experience for all Carolina undergraduates," and is "required for all undergraduate degrees." Documents describe a comprehensive, extensive, and graduated system of courses from which to fulfill a minimum of 31 credit hours of core-approved courses for a baccalaureate degree and a minimum of 15 credits for an associate degree.

Documents indicate that the Carolina Core array of courses comprises ten learning areas: Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding; Analytical Reasoning and Problem-Solving; Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication—Written; Effective, Engaged and Persuasive Communication—Oral; Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding--Historical Thinking; Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding--Social Sciences; Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding--Foreign Language; Information Literacy; Scientific Literacy; and Values; Ethics and Social Responsibility. These course learning areas encompass the three general education areas stipulated in this SACSCOC requirement.