

14.5

Policy Compliance

The institution complies with SACSCOC's policy statements that pertain to new or additional institutional obligations that may arise that are not part of the standards in the current *Principles of Accreditation*.

Applicable Policy Statement. If an institution is part of a system or corporate structure, a description of the system operation (or corporate structure) is submitted as part of the Compliance Certification for the decennial review. The description should be designed to help members of the peer review committees understand the mission, governance, and operating procedures of the system and the individual institution's role within that system.

Judgment

Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable

Narrative

The University System Defined

[Article I Section 4](#) of the Bylaws defines the University System:

The University System is composed of the following component campus units:

- A. *University of South Carolina Aiken.*
- B. *University of South Carolina Beaufort.*
- C. *University of South Carolina Columbia.*
- D. *University of South Carolina Lancaster.*
- E. *University of South Carolina Salkehatchie.*
- F. *University of South Carolina Sumter.*
- G. *University of South Carolina Union.*
- H. *University of South Carolina Upstate.*

The University of South Carolina Aiken, the University of South Carolina Beaufort, and the University of South Carolina Upstate shall individually be referred to as a "Comprehensive University" and shall collectively be referred to as "Comprehensive Universities." The University of South Carolina Lancaster, the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie, the University of South Carolina Sumter, and the University of South Carolina Union shall individually be referred to as a "Regional Palmetto College" and shall collectively be referred to as "Regional Palmetto Colleges."

SACSCOC Accreditation

The regional Palmetto College campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, Union) are branch campuses of the University of South Carolina Columbia. The University of South Carolina Columbia is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees. The institution was initially accredited in 1917 and was last reviewed and reaffirmed in 2011. The [2011 reaffirmation review](#) covered the main campus and all extended sites.

The University of South Carolina Aiken, the University of South Carolina Beaufort, and the University of South Carolina Upstate are comprehensive universities and are each separately accredited with SACSCOC.

University System and Its Governance

[Article XII Section 1](#) of the Bylaws provides an outline of the system structure and states: The University of South Carolina System, at times also referred to as the "University System," consists of the component campus units described in [Section 4 of Article I](#) of these Bylaws. It shall be charged with the responsibility of providing to the State of South Carolina readily accessible comprehensive undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and other instruction, research, continuing education and service programs, all of the highest quality, through the operation of major components or campuses with varying missions and at various locations throughout the State. Each Comprehensive University campus with the exception of the Columbia campus shall be administered by a Chancellor who shall report directly to the President. The position of the President of the University System shall also encompass the office and duties of Chancellor of the Columbia campus. Each regional Palmetto College campus shall be administered by a Campus Dean who shall report to the Chancellor of Palmetto College who in turn reports to the President.

The University of South Carolina Columbia is the flagship campus in the University of South Carolina (USC) system, which includes Columbia campus, three comprehensive campuses (USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, and USC Upstate; each separately accredited by SACSCOC) and four regional campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter and Union); each branch campuses ([SECTION 59-103-15.j.3](#)) of University of South Carolina Columbia and accredited with University of South Carolina Columbia). The South Carolina State Code of Law, [SECTION 59-101-10](#) Designation of State Colleges and Universities lists the University of South Carolina Columbia as a state public university within the state of South Carolina: "There are universities and colleges as follows: one located in the City of Columbia, styled the University of South Carolina; another in or near the Town of Orangeburg, styled South Carolina State University; Clemson University; Winthrop University; another styled The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina; the College of Charleston; another in or near the Town of Greenwood, styled Lander University; another in or near the City of Florence, styled Francis Marion University; the Medical University of South Carolina, and another in or near the City of Conway styled Coastal Carolina University. They are separate and distinct institutions, each under its separate board of trustees or visitors."








The Carolina System presidency is governed by the Board of Trustees and avoids conflict of interest between system presidency and Columbia campus presidency by adhering to the policies put in place and enforced by the Board. The duties of the President and the duties of the chancellors, as well as the reporting structure for these offices, are clearly delineated in the Board of Trustees Bylaws. As stated in [Article XII Section 2](#), "The President shall report directly to the Board the current affairs of all components of the University System and shall discuss with the Board basic issues, new or alternative directions, and recommendations on new policies. He shall direct, coordinate and implement the planning, development, and appraisal of all activities of the University System and shall be directly responsible to the Board for its operation."

Organizational Structure

The [Columbia Organization Chart](#) shows the Board of Trustees at the top of the organization. The President reports to the Board of Trustees. Each of the Chancellors, including the Chancellor of the four regional Palmetto College Campuses report directly to the President. As identified in the Columbia Organization Chart and the [Palmetto College Organization Chart](#), the Deans of each regional Palmetto College campus report to the Chancellor of Palmetto College. The Associate Provost for Palmetto College reports to the Chancellor of Palmetto College and also reports to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost for Columbia as a member of the Council of Academic Deans.

The four regional campuses of the University of South Carolina Columbia (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union) fall under the authority of the Columbia campus and reside in a central administrative unit known as Palmetto College, headed by a Chancellor and Associate Provost. These campuses are referred to as regional Palmetto College campuses. The campuses exist as part of the University of South Carolina system as denoted in Board of Trustees Bylaws. The administrative unit also houses the academic unit Palmetto College Columbia, which offers courses on the Columbia campus and in the metropolitan Columbia area as well as AA/AS programs and courses at Fort Jackson. This unit also provides instruction, guidance and support for the delivery of the university's undergraduate online degree completion programs.

Sources

-  [2012_reaffirmation_letter](#)
-  [Board of Trustees Bylaws \(Page 10\)](#)
-  [Board of Trustees Bylaws \(Page 33\)](#)
-  [Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 101 - Colleges And Institutions Of Higher Learning Generally](#)
-  [Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 103 - State Commission On Higher Education](#)
-  [Palmetto College Organizational Chart 2020](#)
-  [USC Columbia Organizational Chart](#)