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Institutional Mission

The institution has a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published mission specific to the institution and appropriate for higher education. The mission addresses teaching and learning and, where applicable, research and public service.

Judgment

Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable

Narrative

In accordance with [SC Code of Laws Section 59-103-15](#) and [Section 59-103-45 \(6\)](#), the University of South Carolina Columbia provides a comprehensive, clear, published mission which states:

The primary mission of the University of South Carolina Columbia is the education of the state's citizens through teaching, research, creative activity, and community engagement. Among America's oldest and most comprehensive public universities, the University of South Carolina Columbia is the major research institution of the university system and its largest campus. At the heart of its mission lies the university's responsibility to state and society to promote the dissemination of knowledge, cultural enrichment, and an enhanced quality of life.

The University of South Carolina Columbia serves a diverse population of students with widely varying backgrounds, career goals, and levels of aspiration. The university offers over 320 degrees at the bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional program levels, affording students the most comprehensive array of educational programs in the state. Opportunities for personal and career development are provided to the citizens of South Carolina through outreach and continuing education activities. The university provides additional opportunities for associate degrees through Fort Jackson and through the oversight of regional Palmetto College campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union).

Through classroom and laboratory instruction delivered in a variety of face-to-face and distance learning formats and modalities, degree programs are offered in the following areas: arts and sciences; business; education; engineering and computing; hospitality, retail, and sport management; information and communications; law; medicine; music; nursing; pharmacy; public health; and social work. The depth and breadth of its graduate programs distinguishes the University of South Carolina Columbia from all other institutions of higher learning in South Carolina.

Recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as a top research and community engaged institution, nationally ranked in start-up businesses, and conferring over 30% of all bachelor's and graduate degrees awarded at public institutions in South Carolina, the university has a profound relevance, reach, and impact on the people of the state. As the flagship institution of the university system, the University of South Carolina Columbia leads the way in providing all students with the highest-quality education, including the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for success and responsible citizenship in a complex and changing world through engagement in nationally and internationally ranked research, scholarship, community outreach, and artistic creation.

Mission Statement Published

The University of South Carolina Columbia mission statement addresses teaching, research, service, the role of distance education in instruction, degree levels offered, and the impact of campus on higher education in South Carolina. The mission statement is published in the [About the University web page](#), Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics [Website](#), as well as in the [Columbia Bulletin](#) in the University section.

Mission Statement Approval and Review

The University of South Carolina Columbia's current mission statement was reviewed and approved by the University of Board of Trustees on [October 11, 2019](#). The mission statement was approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on [December 5, 2019](#) (letter dated December 16, 2019). In compliance with Board Policy [BTRU 1.02 Mission Statements](#), the Board of Trustees is scheduled to review the University of South Carolina Columbia mission statement again in 2023.

Regional Palmetto College Campuses

In accordance with [SC Code of Laws Section 59-103-15](#) and [Section 59-103-45 \(6\)](#), each of the regional Palmetto College campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, Union) also provide comprehensive, clear, and published mission statements. The primary mission of the regional campuses is to provide higher education and intellectual leadership to their service areas. Service to the community generally involves continuing education, workshops, and cultural events. The impact of each campus on higher education in South Carolina is specified by the region of the State served by each campus.

Lancaster

The University of South Carolina Lancaster Mission Statement reads:

The Lancaster regional Palmetto College campus is a branch campus of the University of South Carolina Columbia. Lancaster has as its mission to provide higher education and intellectual leadership to its service area. At the heart of this mission is a teaching faculty of high quality dedicated to excellence in instruction, scholarship, public and professional service, and creative endeavor which enrich the classroom experience. The Lancaster regional Palmetto College campus offers a varied curriculum grounded in the liberal arts and focused on preparing students to continue their education in the University of South Carolina System and throughout life.

The Lancaster regional Palmetto College campus recruits students prepared to succeed in completing a baccalaureate / level education. While the institution does not offer remedial instruction, it is nonetheless able to admit most students who apply due to the close working relationship between students and faculty. The Lancaster regional Palmetto College campus was established to encourage higher education in the counties of Chester, Chesterfield, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, and York. The original design of the institution incorporated a flexibility that has allowed changes in institutional capability with increasing educational demands of constituents.

Through classroom and laboratory instruction delivered in a variety of face-to-face and distance learning formats and modalities, the institution awards the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees and provides for the completion of selected bachelor's degrees on campus through cooperative agreements and delivery structures with other University of South Carolina System institutions. The Lancaster regional Palmetto College campus also provides general education and upper division coursework applicable to baccalaureate degree programs offered through colleges and universities nationwide. In addition to academic coursework, the mission of the campus includes noncredit courses, seminars, and workshops made available to the community for cultural enrichment and professional development.

The traditions of cultural diversity and freedom of thought are valued at the Lancaster regional Palmetto College campus. In a learning environment that develops respect for racial, geographical, intellectual, and economic diversity and an awareness of individual, societal, and global responsibilities, Lancaster promotes courses, activities, and attitudes which influence the life of the mind in men and women and instills in them a thirst to continue learning throughout life.

The Lancaster regional Palmetto College campus emphasizes the development of the whole person and especially seeks to foster in students the disciplines essential to an educated citizenry. Core competencies, including the ability to communicate through effective writing and articulate speech; computational and quantitative mastery; creative and critical thinking; and the duties of citizenship are strategically integrated within the curriculum. Classroom experiences, student activities, and physical education programs also provide opportunities for cultural enrichment, leadership development, intellectual growth and interpersonal relationships, all contributing to a sense of self reliance and a joy of learning.

Mission Statement Published

The Lancaster mission statement is published in the [About the University web page](#), Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics [Website](#), as well as in the [Lancaster Bulletin](#) in the University section.

Mission Statement Approval and Review

Lancaster's current mission statement was reviewed and approved by the University of Board of Trustees on [October 11, 2019](#). The mission statement was approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on [December 5, 2019](#) (letter dated December 16, 2019). In compliance with Board Policy [BTRU 1.02 Mission Statements](#), the Board of Trustees is scheduled to review the University of South Carolina Lancaster mission statement again in 2023.

Salkehatchie

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie Mission Statement reads:

The Salkehatchie regional Palmetto College campus is a branch campus of the University of South Carolina Columbia. Salkehatchie has as its mission to provide higher education and intellectual leadership for its service area. At the heart of this mission is a teaching faculty of high quality dedicated to excellence in instruction, scholarship, public and professional service and creative endeavor which enrich the classroom experience. The Salkehatchie regional Palmetto College campus offers a varied curriculum grounded in the liberal arts and focused on preparing students to continue their education in the University of South Carolina System and throughout life.

The Salkehatchie regional Palmetto College campus recruits students prepared to succeed in completing a baccalaureate / level education. While the institution does not offer remedial instruction, it is nonetheless able to admit most students who apply due to the close working relationship between students and faculty. The Salkehatchie regional Palmetto College campus was established to encourage higher education in the counties of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton and Hampton. The original design of the institution incorporated a flexibility that has allowed changes in institutional capability with increasing educational demands of constituents.

Through classroom and laboratory instruction delivered in a variety of face-to-face and distance learning formats and modalities, the institution awards the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees and provides for the completion of selected bachelor's degrees on campus through cooperative agreements and delivery structures with other University of South Carolina System institutions. The Salkehatchie regional Palmetto College campus also provides general education and upper division coursework applicable to baccalaureate degree programs offered through colleges and universities nationwide. In addition to academic coursework, the mission of the campus includes noncredit courses, seminars, and workshops made available to the community for cultural enrichment and professional development.

The traditions of cultural diversity and freedom of thought are valued at the Salkehatchie regional Palmetto College campus. In a learning environment that develops respect for racial, geographical, intellectual, and economic diversity and an awareness of individual, societal, and global responsibilities, Salkehatchie promotes courses, activities, and attitudes which influence the life of the mind in men and women and instill in them a thirst to continue learning

throughout life.

The Salkehatchie regional Palmetto College campus emphasizes the development of the whole person and especially seeks to foster in students the disciplines essential to an educated citizenry. Core competencies, including the ability to communicate through effective writing and articulate speech; computational and quantitative mastery; creative and critical thinking; and the duties of citizenship are strategically integrated within the curriculum. Classroom experiences, student activities, and physical education programs also provide opportunities for cultural enrichment, leadership development, intellectual growth and interpersonal relationships, all contributing to a sense of self-reliance and a joy of learning.

Mission Statement Published

The Salkehatchie mission statement is published in the [About the University web page](#), Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics [Website](#), as well as in the [Salkehatchie Bulletin](#) in the University section.

Mission Statement Approval and Review

Salkehatchie's current mission statement was reviewed and approved by the University of Board of Trustees on [October 11, 2019](#). The mission statement was approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on [December 5, 2019](#) (letter dated December 16, 2019). In compliance with Board Policy [BTRU 1.02 Mission Statements](#), the Board of Trustees is scheduled to review the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie mission statement again in 2023.

Sumter

The University of South Carolina Sumter Mission Statement reads:

The Sumter regional Palmetto College campus is a branch campus of the University of South Carolina Columbia. Sumter has as its mission to provide higher education and intellectual leadership for its service area. At the heart of this mission is a teaching faculty of high quality dedicated to excellence in instruction, scholarship, public and professional service, and creative endeavor which enrich the classroom experience. The Sumter regional Palmetto College campus offers a varied curriculum grounded in the liberal arts and focused on preparing students to continue their education in the University of South Carolina System and throughout life.

The Sumter regional Palmetto College campus recruits students prepared to succeed in completing a baccalaureate level education. While the institution does not offer remedial instruction, it is nonetheless able to admit most students who apply due to the close working relationship between students and faculty. The Sumter regional Palmetto College campus was established to encourage higher education in the counties of Clarendon, Lee, Kershaw, Sumter, and Williamsburg. The original design of the institution incorporated a flexibility that has allowed changes in institutional capability with increasing educational demands of constituents.

Through classroom and laboratory instruction delivered in a variety of face-to-face and distance learning formats and modalities, the institution awards the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees and provides for the completion of selected bachelor's degrees on campus through cooperative agreements and delivery structures with other University of South Carolina System institutions. The Sumter regional Palmetto College campus also provides general education and upper division coursework applicable to baccalaureate degree programs offered through colleges and universities nationwide. In addition to academic coursework, the mission of the campus includes noncredit courses, seminars, and workshops made available to the community for cultural enrichment and professional development.

The traditions of cultural diversity and freedom of thought are valued at the Sumter regional Palmetto College campus. In a learning environment that develops respect for racial, geographical, intellectual, and economic diversity and an awareness of individual, societal, and global responsibilities, Sumter promotes courses, activities, and attitudes which influence the life of the mind in men and women and instill in them a thirst to continue learning throughout life.

The Sumter regional Palmetto College campus emphasizes the development of the whole person and especially seeks to foster in students the disciplines essential to an educated citizenry. Core competencies, including the ability to communicate through effective writing and articulate speech; computational and quantitative mastery; creative and critical thinking; and the duties of citizenship are strategically integrated within the curriculum. Classroom experiences, student activities, and physical education programs also provide opportunities for cultural enrichment, leadership development, intellectual growth and interpersonal relationships, all contributing to a sense of self-reliance and a joy of learning.

Mission Statement Published

The Sumter mission statement is published in the [About the University web page](#), Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics [Website](#), as well as in the [Sumter Bulletin](#) in the University section.

Mission Statement Approval and Review

Sumter's current mission statement was reviewed and approved by the University of Board of Trustees on [October 11, 2019](#). The mission statement was approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on [December 5, 2019](#) (letter dated December 16, 2019). In compliance with Board Policy [BTRU 1.02 Mission Statements](#), the Board of Trustees is scheduled to review the University of South Carolina Sumter mission statement again in 2023.

Union

The University of South Carolina Union Mission Statement reads:

The Union regional Palmetto College campus is a branch campus of the University of South Carolina Columbia. Union has as its mission to provide higher education and intellectual leadership for its service area. At the heart of this mission is a teaching faculty of high quality dedicated to excellence in instruction, scholarship, public and professional service, and creative endeavor which enrich the classroom experience. The Union regional Palmetto College campus offers a varied curriculum grounded in the liberal arts and focused on preparing students to continue their education in the University of South Carolina System and throughout life.

The Union regional Palmetto College campus recruits students prepared to succeed in completing a baccalaureate level education. While the institution does not offer remedial instruction, it is nonetheless able to admit most students who apply due to the close working relationship between students and faculty. The Union regional Palmetto College campus was established to encourage

higher education in the counties of Chester, Cherokee, Fairfield, Laurens, Union, and York. The original design of the institution incorporated a flexibility that has allowed changes in institutional capability with increasing educational demands of constituents.

Through classroom and laboratory instruction delivered in a variety of face-to-face and distance learning formats and modalities, the institution awards the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees and provides for the completion of selected bachelor's degrees on campus through cooperative agreements and delivery structures with other University of South Carolina System institutions. The Union regional Palmetto College campus also provides general education and upper division coursework applicable to baccalaureate degree programs offered through colleges and universities nationwide. In addition to academic coursework, the mission of the campus includes noncredit courses, seminars, and workshops made available to the community for cultural enrichment and professional development.

The traditions of cultural diversity and freedom of thought are valued at the Union regional Palmetto College campus. In a learning environment that develops respect for racial, geographical, intellectual, and economic diversity and an awareness of individual, societal, and global responsibilities, Union promotes courses, activities, and attitudes which influence the life of the mind in men and women and instill in them a thirst to continue learning throughout life.

The Union regional Palmetto College campus emphasizes the development of the whole person and especially seeks to foster in students the disciplines essential to an educated citizenry. Core competencies, including the ability to communicate through effective writing and articulate speech; computational and quantitative mastery; creative and critical thinking; and the duties of citizenship are strategically integrated within the curriculum. Classroom experiences, student activities, and physical education programs also provide opportunities for cultural enrichment, leadership development, intellectual growth and interpersonal relationships, all contributing to a sense of self reliance and a joy of learning.

Mission Statement Published

The Union mission statement is published in the [About the University web page](#), Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics [Website](#), as well as in the [Union Bulletin](#) in the University section.

Mission Statement Approval and Review

Union's current mission statement was reviewed and approved by the University of Board of Trustees on [October 11, 2019](#). The mission statement was approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education on [December 5, 2019](#) (letter dated December 16, 2019). In compliance with Board Policy [BTRU 1.02 Mission Statements](#), the Board of Trustees is scheduled to review the University of South Carolina Union mission statement again in 2023.

Sources

-  [BTRU 1.02 Mission Statements](#)
-  [Code of Laws - Title 59 - Chapter 103 - State Commission On Higher Education](#)
-  [EG Committee Meeting October 11 2019](#)
-  [SC CHE to USC Columbia Mission Statement Approval Letter December 16 2019](#)
-  [SC CHE to USC Lancaster Mission Statement Approval Letter December 16 2019](#)
-  [SC CHE to USC Salkehatchie Mission Statement Approval Letter December 16 2019](#)
-  [SC CHE to USC Sumter Mission Statement Approval Letter December 16 2019](#)
-  [SC CHE to USC System Mission Statement Approval Letter December 16 2019](#)
-  [SC CHE to USC Union Mission Statement Approval Letter December 16 2019](#)

-  [USC Campus Mission Statements](#)
-  [USC Columbia About the University Mission Statement](#)
-  [USC Columbia Bulletin Mission](#)
-  [USC Lancaster About the University Mission Statement](#)
-  [USC Lancaster Bulletin](#)
-  [USC Salkehatchie About the University Mission Statement](#)
-  [USC Salkehatchie Bulletin](#)
-  [USC Sumter About the University Mission Statement](#)
-  [USC Sumter Bulletin](#)
-  [USC Union About the University Mission Statement](#)
-  [USC Union Bulletin](#)