

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION BTRU Board of Trustees	POLICY NUMBER BTRU 1.02
POLICY TITLE Mission Statements	
SCOPE OF POLICY University System	DATE OF REVISION December 13, 2022
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER Secretary of the Board of Trustees	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Board of Trustees

PURPOSE

The Board of Trustees for the University of South Carolina shall define the mission, role, and scope of the University System and each of its major component institutions. Mission statements must satisfy accreditation standards of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and requirements of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE).

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education: The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education serves as the coordinating board for SC’s 33 public institutions of higher learning. It acts both as an oversight entity on behalf of the General Assembly and as an advocate for higher education.

Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics at the University of South Carolina: The Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics (OIRAA) at the University of South Carolina supports achievement of the University's mission statement by carrying out the following basic responsibilities: coordinate and monitor compliance activities for institutional accreditation; provide institutional data and assessment findings for external reporting; and provide institutional data and findings from research and assessment to support institutional planning processes.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges: The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges is the regional accrediting body for the University of South Carolina.

POLICY STATEMENT

Clearly defined and complete mission statements guide the public’s perception of the University of South Carolina System and each of its component campus units. Each mission statement must convey a sense of the institution’s unique characteristics and identify the qualities, characteristics, and values that define the institution’s role and distinctiveness within the diverse higher education community, the state of South Carolina, and the University System. The Board of Trustees must review and update as needed the missions for the system and each component campus unit at least once every four years.

- A. SACSCOC ensures appropriate review of an institution’s mission statements. Standard 2.1 notes that institutions must have clearly defined, comprehensive, and published missions specific to the institution and appropriate for higher education. The mission must address

teaching and learning and, where applicable, research and public service. Standard 4.2.a notes that the governing board must ensure that there is a regular review of the institution’s mission. The board, in its review, reaffirms the mission statement and whether changes are made, thereby maintaining a cognizance of the previously agreed-upon scope of institutional activities and ensuring that institutional policies, procedures, and activities remain compatible with and are included in the mission statement.

B. CHE reviews and approves each institutional mission statement to ensure it is within the overall mission of that particular type of institution as stipulated by Section 59-103-15 and is within the overall mission of the state of South Carolina. The [CHE policy and procedures for approval of new and revised mission statements](#) provides clear guidelines for mission statement revisions, creates a flexible mechanism for approval of non-substantive changes to mission statements, and defines a process flow for institutions wishing to revise mission statements.

PROCEDURES

The University of South Carolina intends to create and maintain an environment that ensures mission statements for the System and all System campuses are accurate, up-to-date, and reflect teaching, learning, research (where applicable), and community engagement/service. The University’s Board of Trustees may initiate or request review of any mission statement at any time. OIRAA will monitor the review schedule and notify the Board of Trustees and the respective institutional chief academic officer if the mission statement needs review within the next 12 months, based on the most recent approval or if requirements from either SACSCOC or CHE have changed. If the Board of Trustees requests, OIRAA will coordinate review and revision of mission statements for the System, Columbia campus, and regional Palmetto College campuses.

When a System institution submits proposed revisions to a mission statement for review and potential approval to the Board of Trustees, the institution must submit documentation that evidences constituent engagement in the institution’s process for review and revision.

A. Publication of Mission Statements

The current mission statements for the University System and all component campus units published on the OIRAA website:

https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/institutional_research_assessment_and_analytics/about_us/mission_statements/usc_campus_mission_statements.php

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
October 11, 2019	New policy approval
December 13, 2022	Revised to correct one scrivener’s error, to apply minor line edits, to achieve consistency in capitalization and use of acronyms, and to stipulate that System institutions must document community engagement in the review/revision of mission statements.