

**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

12.5

Student Records

- 12.5 The institution protects the security, confidentiality, and integrity of its student records and maintains security measures to protect and back up data.
(*Student records*)

Non-Compliance

The institution's response is in violation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) policy, "Reports Submitted for SACSCOC Review," by including live links in its response and electronic documentation that is not consistently bookmarked, indexed, and searchable.

The institution protects student records guided by State of South Carolina Policy, best practices from the US Department of Education, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviewed the institution's definitions, policies, manuals, and system-wide data information governance used to protect student records. The institution's Chief Data Officer oversees information security inclusive of institutional data sharing agreements. The institution utilizes multiple student records systems to process and protect the confidentiality of student data. The student records systems they utilize are respected systems in higher education and are sufficient to maintain confidentiality of student records.

In compliance with data integrity expectations, the institution has established a Responsible Use of Data, Technology and User Credentials policy. This policy outlines employee data integrity and confidentiality expectations, along with measures to educate and enforce these institutional standards. Appropriate security measures are in place and were identified for both physical records and electronic records. The institution acknowledged "there is not a current disaster recovery plan that includes off-site resources." The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee was unable to verify the security of student records; the institution needs to provide information about its disaster plan for records retrieval.