

**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

9.2 Program Length

- 9.2 **The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. The institution provides an explanation of equivalencies when using units other than semester credit hours. The institution provides an appropriate justification for all degree programs and combined degree programs that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit.**
(Program Length) [CR; Off-Site/On-Site Review]

Compliance

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

The Off-Site Reaffirmation Committee reviewed the submitted documentation of the institution's program length. Using the traditional semester credit hour, all associate degrees require at least 60 hours and baccalaureate programs require at least 120 hours. The institution's 2019-2020 Graduate Catalog outlines the total number of hours required for master's (30-hour minimum at the graduate level) and doctoral degrees (60-hour minimum at the graduate level). Professional degrees typically require three or four years beyond the bachelor's degree or beyond pre-professional coursework. Dual Degrees typically require all or most of the requirements for two distinct academic degree programs, and two degrees are awarded. Some dual degrees allow for a double counting of credit hours. However, the institution has a limit of the number of courses that can be transferred in or accepted for credit towards the degree program. The total number of semester credit hours needed to complete a baccalaureate, graduate or doctoral degree depends upon the academic major field of study; these were evident in the undergraduate and graduate studies bulletins provided. Programs that lead to formal recognition including the awarding of all degrees are reviewed and approved at appropriate levels of curriculum responsibility within the university, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE), and as needed, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The institution did not state that they have any combined degree programs.