

**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

9.5 Institutional Credits for a Graduate/Professional Degree

- 9.5 At least one-third of the credit hours required for a graduate or a post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree.
(Institutional credits for a graduate/professional degree)

Compliance

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

The institution's documents and explanation demonstrate that at least one-third of credit hours required for a graduate or post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through instruction offered by the institution awarding the degree. Policies are in place limiting the number of transfer credits for graduate degrees "but may not constitute more than 50 percent of the hours listed for a program of study." Specific limits on transferred credit are defined for graduate certificates and for master's and doctoral degrees. In all cases, these limits prevent transfer credits from reaching half or more of the total required for program completion. Thus, compliance with the one-third Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) requirement is ensured.

Specific policies and requirements are spelled out for professional degrees as well. The School of Law requires the successful completion of 90 semester hours, of which 60 semester hours must be completed at this institution. The College of Pharmacy requires that at least 94% of 149 credits required for graduation must have been completed at the institution. The Columbia School of Medicine requires that the entire first three years of medical school and at least 60% of the final year must be taken at the home institution, ensuring compliance with this SACSCOC requirement.