

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
Commission on Colleges

## Part IV: Fifth-Year Follow Up Report

<b>Name of Institution:</b>	The University of South Carolina Columbia
<b>Address of the Institution:</b>	Columbia, South Carolina 29208
<b>Date of Submission:</b>	April 1, 2017
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Comprehensive Standard 3.4.7

**Consortial Relationships/Contractual Agreements**

## Comprehensive Standard 3.4.7

### Consortial relationships/contractual agreements

The institution ensures the quality of educational programs and courses offered through consortial relationships or contractual agreements, ensures ongoing compliance with the Principles, and periodically evaluates the consortial relationship and/or agreement against the mission of the institution.

#### UNIVERSITY RESPONSE

At the December 2011 meeting of the Board of Trustees of SACSCOC, the Commission on Colleges reaffirmed accreditation for the University of South Carolina ([SACSCOC 2012 Letter](#)). In a letter dated January 10, 2012, the Commission on Colleges requested that the University of South Carolina submit a First Monitoring Report due, September 7, 2012 addressing the visiting committee's recommendations applicable to the following referenced standards of the Principles:

CS 3.4.7 (Consortial Relationships/Contractual Agreements), Recommendation 2

Data provided indicates that new policies have been established to ensure that academic programs offered under contracts and agreement are reviewed and evaluated on a regular basis. However, no concrete evidence was provided to demonstrate implementation of the policies. The institution should provide evidence of implementation of the revised policies to review the academic programs offered through the Office of Education Outreach.

The University of South Carolina submitted a First Monitoring Report in August of 2012. The First Monitoring Report provided the requested evidence of implementation of University Policy [ACAF 2.06](#). In September 2011, the University revised [ACAF 2.06](#), this policy defines the types of possible agreements and establishes the protocol for approval of a new international program or review of an existing international program.

In May and June of 2012, the Associate Vice President for International Programs and Vice Provost for international affairs reviewed the International Agreement Review Forms completed by each unit and approved the recommendation to either continue or terminate each agreement. All of the University's existing international agreements were reviewed in spring 2012 to provide a base line for the new periodic review process which was updated in September 2011 following the [ACAF 2.06](#) policy revisions. The University provided copies of all International Agreement Review Forms by College and School as evidence of implementation of the revised policy. The international agreement review forms require Colleges and Schools to provide answers to the following questions:

- What activity has occurred under the agreement since its approval?
- **How is activity covered by the agreement consistent with USC Columbia's mission?**
- How is activity covered by the agreement academically sound?
- How will activity covered by the agreement be appropriately administered?
- How will risk and safety issues related to activity covered by the agreement be addressed?

- Is the agreement viable with respect to facilities, finances, and resources required to conduct the proposed activity covered by the agreement?

At the December 2012 meeting of the Board of Trustees of SACSCOC, the Commission on Colleges reviewed the First Monitoring Report for the University of South Carolina. In order to ensure continuing compliance with the Principles of Accreditation, the Committee requested in a [letter dated January 15, 2013](#) that the University of South Carolina address in its Fifth-Year Interim Report continued compliance with the following referenced standard of the Principles.

**Commission On Colleges Current Request:**

CS 3.4.7 (Consortial Relationships/Contractual Agreements) The institution should address the concern of the Committee about the brevity of the response of the College of Engineering and Computing in its reviews of its consortial relationship and contractual agreements. ([SACSCOC 2013 Letter](#))

The responses to questions provided by the University's College of Engineering and Computing on the international agreement review forms that were included in the First Monitoring Report were very brief and lacked the same quality when compared with responses that were provided from the University's other Colleges and Schools.

After receiving the [January 15, 2013 letter](#) from SACSCOC, the University began working on a comprehensive plan targeted at improving the quality of the consortial/contractual review process for all domestic and international agreements. All university consortial academic contracts and agreement are subject to the authority of the Board of Trustees. The Office of the Provost oversees their development and review for Columbia and the Regional campuses. Within the Office of the Provost, Global Carolina is charged with the oversight of contracts and agreements with international institutions, as per University policy [ACAF 2.06](#).

The Provost Office, Office of Academic Programs, Global Carolina, and the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics collaborated in the development of a new University Policy to better define the standards required for review of consortial/contractual agreements. After months of working with Colleges and School to better define standards, [ACAF 2.05](#) (Consortial Academic Contracts and Agreements) was approved in February of 2017. This policy defines the standards according to which consortial academic contracts and agreements are developed, governed and reviewed. [ACAF 2.05](#) was created to provide policy and procedural criteria for the establishment and renewal of consortial academic contracts and agreements, whether domestic or international.

If a proposed or renewal agreement is related to a new or existing academic program or degree, the academic unit head(s) follow procedures outlined in University Policy [ACAF 2.00](#) "Creation and Revision of Academic Programs" to ensure compliance with SACSCOC and the SC Commission on Higher Education regulations.

As a result of the collaborative efforts, the College of Engineering and Computing reviews of its consortial relationship and agreement are now more substantive and up to the standard of quality that the University was initially hoping to achieve when the First Monitoring Report was submitted. Evidence of this improvement is provided below by comparing international review forms that were submitted by the College of Engineering and Computing in the First Monitoring Report in 2012 with recent reviews that were conducted by the College in 2017:

<b>College of Engineering and Computing</b>	
<b>2012 Review Form Submission</b>	<b>2017 Review Form Submission</b>
<a href="#">Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas</a>	<a href="#">Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas</a>
<a href="#">University of the Virgin Islands</a>	<a href="#">University of the Virgin Islands</a>

The Office of the Provost continues to evaluate all consortial academic agreements and contracts against the purpose of the institution every five years or when subject to renewal. Consortial academic contracts and agreements usually have five year terms unless otherwise stated in the agreement. The office responsible for contract or agreement management is designated in the contract or agreement, and works with the Office of Academic Programs for agreements with U.S. institutions or agencies, or under Global Carolina for international agreements. The evaluation considers the following factors: consistency with university mission, agreement activity, appropriateness of administration, adequacy of risk and safety management, academic soundness, and ongoing viability. All existing Domestic and International Agreement Reviews/Request are provided sorted by College and School to document evidence of the University's continued compliance with the Principles of Accreditation. Copies of original contracts for all of the agreements are provided in the supporting documents folder of the flash drive.

#### *Domestic Agreement Reviews by College and School*

<b>College of Engineering and Computing</b>
<a href="#">Charleston Southern University</a>
<a href="#">Elon University</a>
<a href="#">Furman University</a>
<a href="#">Presbyterian College</a>

<b>School of Law</b>
<a href="#">Vermont Law School</a>

#### *International Agreement Reviews by College and School*

<b>Moore School of Business</b>
<a href="#">Aalto University School of Business</a>
<a href="#">Chonnam National University</a>
<a href="#">Grande Ecole ESCP Europe</a>
<a href="#">Koc University Graduate School of Business</a>
<a href="#">National Research University Higher School of Economics</a>
<a href="#">Shanghai Jiao Tong University</a>
<a href="#">South Mediterranean University</a>
<a href="#">University of Mannheim</a>
<a href="#">Universita Commerciale Luigi Bocconi</a>

<b>College of Hospitality, Retail, and Sport Management</b>
<a href="#">Beijing International Studies University</a>
<a href="#">National Taiwan Normal University Dual Degree Program Ph.D. HRTM</a>

<a href="#">National Taiwan Normal University Dual Degree Program PhD. SPTE</a>
<a href="#">National Taiwan Normal University Dual Degree Program Masters SPTE</a>
<a href="#">National Taiwan Normal University Dual Degree Program Masters Hospitality</a>

<b>College of Engineering and Computing</b>
<a href="#">National Taiwan University</a>
<a href="#">University of the Virgin Islands</a>
<a href="#">Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas</a>
<a href="#">Yonsei University</a>

The University has presented concrete evidence that demonstrates the implementation of the revised policies. The University of South Carolina is in compliance with Comprehensive Standard 3.4.7.

- Supporting Documentation:**
- [List of International Dual Agreements](#)
  - [ACAF Policy 2.00](#)
  - [ACAF Policy 2.05](#)
  - [ACAF Policy 2.06](#)
  - [Domestic Consortial Agreement Review/Renewal Form](#)
  - [International Agreement Review From](#)
  - [SACSCOC 2012 Letter](#)
  - [SACSCOC 2013 Letter](#)