


[SACS Home](#)
[Committees](#)
[Compliance Table](#)
[Quality Enhancement Plan](#)
[Supporting Document Index](#)

- [Alphabetical](#)
- [By Standard](#)

[Focused Report](#)

Federal Requirement 4.7

The institution is in compliance with its program responsibilities under Title IV of the 1998 Higher Education Amendments. (In reviewing the institution's compliance with these program responsibilities, the Commission relies on documentation forwarded to it by the US Department of Education. (Title IV program responsibilities)

Judgment: Compliant

Response:

The University of South Carolina is in compliance with the program responsibilities under **Title IV of the 1998 Higher Education Amendments**. Eligibility for the University of South Carolina was **affirmed in April 2006** and expires March 31, 2012. The **Eligibility and Certification Approval Report (ECAR)** and the **Program Participation Agreement (PPA)**, signed on behalf of the Secretary of Education, acknowledge that the College has qualified to participate in programs under the **Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA)**, and the federal student financial assistance programs (Title IV, HEA programs). All required consumer information concerning federal aid is provided to students via the Financial Aid Office.

The University of South Carolina **routinely submits change requests** including changes to programs and new officials. In September 2008 the University received confirmation of the change to the President and in August 2009 the University received confirmation of the change to the Chief Financial Officer position as well as approval to participate in the Direct Loan Programs.

The University of South Carolina meets the eligibility standards to participate in Title IV programs and offers academic programs eligible for such funding. Approximately 87% of USC Columbia undergraduate students receive some form of financial aid. During the 2008-2009 academic year federal and state disbursements totaled \$175,359,924 and \$49,186,041 respectively. Pell Grants totaled \$12,942,581, and the Federal Education Loan Program totaled \$156,815,396. Cohort default rates for fiscal years 2005, 2006, and 2007 were 1.1%, 1.1% and 1.8%.

2008-2009 Academic Year Data	USC Columbia OPE ID 003448
Total Financial Aid Applicants	41,419 (30,645 need-based; 10,774 non-need based)
Federal Pell Grant Recipients	3,846
Federal Pell Grant Dollars	\$12,942,581
Federal Family Educational Loan (FFEL) Recipients	13,460
FFEL Dollars	\$156,815,396

USC Columbia Cohort Default Rates

OPE ID	School	Programs		FY2007	FY2006	FY2005
003448	USC Columbia	Both (FFEL/FDL)	Default Rate	1.8	1.1	1.1
			No. in Default	85	74	64
			No. in Repay	4531	6682	5442

The Financial Aid Office and the undergraduate and graduate catalogs provide information for students about Title IV and other financial assistance programs. For example, the **Financial Aid website** provides detailed information about application procedures and deadlines for students and provides the necessary forms such as the Authorization for Title IV Financial Aid Programs form. Before awarding financial aid, the University of South Carolina verifies student eligibility using the standards set forth by Title IV, including cost of attendance calculations, satisfactory academic progress, and the return of Title IV refund calculations. The eligibility requirements and the standards for academic progress are published on the Financial Aid Office's website. The Financial Aid Office closely monitors the cumulative grade point average and completion rates of students on financial aid, and if a student fails to meet the standards, the Office places the students on financial aid probation. Students who continue to fail to meet the standards of satisfactory academic progress are placed on financial aid suspension. Students may appeal the suspension as a part of the student grievance process.

The USC Columbia Financial Aid Office complies with the audit required by the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. The **audit of the 2009 fiscal year** had no material findings or issues of noncompliance. The Financial Aid Office continues to comply with the requirements and program responsibilities under Title IV, and office personnel remain committed to working with each individual student in an attempt to ensure appropriate access to the funds to which a student may be entitled.

External audits have reported no findings. The University of South Carolina has not received any limitations, suspensions, or terminations from the U.S. Department of Education with regard to student financial aid or other financial aid programs during the previous three years. There are no

reimbursements or exceptional statuses in regard to federal or state financial aid. The University of South Carolina student loan default rate is well within acceptable parameters.

The University of South Carolina **Annual Security Report** is completed in compliance with the Clery Act. The Division of Law Enforcement and Safety compiles **campus crime statistics** and provides information on services and policies that support a safe and secure environment. The Division of Human Resources distributes the **Drug-Free Workplace Policy and Alcohol and Other Drug Information**. The University distributes this information in writing and via the web to all students and employees.

The Regional Campuses of the University of South Carolina administer student aid from federal, state, institutional, and private funding sources. The majority of financial aid awards are federal Title IV funds. The **Regional Campuses Central Financial Aid Office (RCCFAO)** is a department under the Office of System Affairs and Extended University and provides administrative support to the Financial Aid Offices located on the four regional campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter and Union). The RCCFAO serves as the reporting campus for the four regional campuses for all Federal Title IV processing, reporting, fund procurement and issues of compliance. The RCCFAO is managed by the director, associate director, assistant director, electronic data coordinator and three student assistants. Each Regional Campus Financial Aid Office (RCFAO) is an attending campus for federal reporting and maintains the daily operations of the campus financial aid office while ensuring compliance with processing, awarding and distribution. The **Lancaster Financial Aid Office** is managed by a director and two counselors. The **Salkehatchie Financial Aid Office** is managed by a director, assistant director and counselor. The **Sumter Financial Aid Office** is managed by a director, a counselor and data manager. The **Union Financial Aid Office** is managed by a director and a federal work-study coordinator. The RCCFAO and RCFAOs administer Title IV funding in accordance with regulations of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended.

The Department of Education Correspondence with the **RCCFAO** and the financial aid offices for **Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union** verify the fact that the four Regional Campuses of the University of South Carolina are in compliance with the program responsibilities under Title IV of the 1998 Higher Education Amendments. Eligibility for the Regional Campuses of the University of South Carolina was affirmed in summer 2006 and expires March 31, 2012.

The Eligibility and Certification Approval Report (ECAR) and the Program Participation Agreement (PPA), signed on behalf of the Secretary of Education, acknowledge that the USC Regional Campuses are qualified to participate in programs under the **Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA)**, and the federal student financial assistance programs (Title IV, HEA programs). The USC Regional Campuses are in good standing. All required consumer information concerning federal aid is provided to students via the Regional Campuses Central Financial Aid website.

The Regional Campuses Financial Aid Offices comply with the audit procedures required by the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133. The **audit of the 2009 fiscal year** had no material findings or issues of noncompliance. The Financial Aid Offices continue to comply with the requirements and program responsibilities under Title IV, and office personnel remain committed to working with each individual student in an attempt to ensure appropriate access to the funds to which a student may be entitled.

The Regional Campuses of the University of South Carolina have not received any limitations, suspensions, or terminations from the U.S. Department of Education with regard to student financial aid or other financial aid programs during the previous three years. There are no reimbursements or exceptional statuses in regard to federal or state financial aid. The Regional Campuses of the University of South Carolina student loan default rate is within acceptable parameters.

The University of South Carolina **System Affairs and Extended University Annual Security Report** is prepared in compliance with the **Clery Act (renamed in 1998)** originally enacted by Congress and signed into law under the Higher Education Act of 1965. Any school that is Title IV eligible is required to publish and distribute this report to all current students and employees no later than October 1 of each year. Compiling this report is the collaborative responsibility of representatives within Campus Police for each campus and the division of System Affairs and Extended University. In addition to listing three years of campus crime statistics, the report provides information on services and policies that support a safe and secure environment, highlights programs that encourage members of the campus community to seek intervention and assistance for victimization, provides information on the alcohol and drug policies, outlines procedures for handling reports of sexual assault, and identifies campus representatives for reporting crimes and incidents that have impact on the college community. Supplemental to the mandated report, institutions are required to submit crime statistics to the **Office of Postsecondary Education Campus Security Statistics** website authorized by Congress in 1998 to help potential college students and their parents research criminal offenses on college campuses.

The University of South Carolina meets the eligibility standards to participate in Title IV programs and offers academic programs eligible for such funding.

2008-2009 Academic Year Data	Lancaster OPE ID 003453	Salkehatchie OPE ID 003454	Sumter OPE ID 003426	Union OPE ID 004927
Total Financial Aid Applicants	1979	1462	2173	746
Federal Pell Grant Recipients	554	557	419	217
Federal Pell Grant Dollars	\$1,728,272	\$1,764,660	\$1,313,060	\$670,010
Federal Family Educational Loan (FFEL) Recipients	791	722	664	263
FFEL Dollars	\$4,935,802	\$5,429,520	\$4,827,924	\$1,785,393

Regional Campuses Cohort Default Rates

OPE ID	School	PRGMS		FY2007	FY2006	FY2005

SACS Compliance Table

003453	University of South Carolina - Lancaster	Both (FFEL/FDL)	Default Rate	1.8	5.7	1.8
			No. in Default	4	12	3
			No. in Repay	213	209	166
003454	University of South Carolina - Salkehatchie	Both (FFEL/FDL)	Default Rate	6.6	3.6	3.4
			No. in Default	15	8	8
			No. in Repay	226	218	235
003426	University of South Carolina - Sumter	Both (FFEL/FDL)	Default Rate	2.1	2.0	1.3
			No. in Default	5	6	3
			No. in Repay	238	299	223
004927	University of South Carolina - Union	Both (FFEL/FDL)	Default Rate	11.1	3.8	7.1
			No. in Default	9	3	5
			No. in Repay	81	78	70

Supporting Documentation:

Description	Source
Federal Student Aid School Eligibility Channel School Participation Team – Atlanta Team – Letter Dated 4/25/2006 OPE ID 00344800	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/ApprovalLetter2006.pdf
Eligibility and Certification Approval Report – 4/25/2006	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/ECAR2006.pdf
Program Participation Agreement – Expires 3/31/2012	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/PPATransmittalLetter2006.pdf
Approval Notice – Changes Officials/Directors – 9/3/2008 Teach Grant – 1/13/2009 Officials/Directors – 8/5/2009 Federal Direct Loan – 8/5/2009	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/ApprovalNoticeChanges.pdf
Financial Aid & Scholarships Office Website	http://www.sc.edu/financialaid/
Division of Law Enforcement and Safety-Security Statistics	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/USCColumbiaLE&SINFO.pdf
Drug-Free Workplace Policy and Alcohol & Other Drug Information	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/USCDrug-FreeWorkplacePolicy2010-2011.pdf
Campus Security Policy And Annual Campus Crime Statistics	http://www.les.sc.edu/annualsecurityreport/index.asp
Regional Campuses Central Financial Aid Office Department of Education Correspondence	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/RCCENTRALFAOCORRESPONDENCE.pdf
USC Lancaster Department of Education Correspondence	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/USCLancasterFACorrespondence.pdf
USC Salkehatchie Department of Education Correspondence	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/USCSALKEHATCHIEFACorrespondence.pdf
USC Sumter Department of Education Correspondence	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/USCSUMTERFACorrespondence.pdf
USC Union Department of Education Correspondence	http://busfinance.admin.sc.edu/budget/sacs/47/USCUnionFACorrespondence.pdf
Regional Campuses	http://saeu.sc.edu/finaid/index.html

Central Financial Aid Office	
USC- Lancaster Financial Aid Office Website	http://usclancaster.sc.edu/finaid/index.html
USC- Salkehatchie Financial Aid Office Website	http://uscsalkehatchie.sc.edu/finaid/index.html
USC- Sumter Financial Aid Office Website	http://www.uscsumter.edu/index.php/financial-aid.html
USC- Union Financial Aid Office Website	http://uscunion.sc.edu/finaid/finaid.html
System Affairs and Extended University Annual Security Report	http://saeu.sc.edu/students/docs/StRK09-10.pdf

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