



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH CAROLINA


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Item FR - 4.1

FR - 4.1

Student Achievement

The institution evaluates success with respect to student achievement consistent with its mission. Criteria may include: enrollment data; retention, graduation, cc and job placement rates; state licensing examinations; student portfolios; or other means of demonstrating achievement of goals. **(Federal Requirement 4.1)**

Judgment

☒ Compliant ☐ Non-Compliant ☐ Not Applicable

Narrative

The University is very intentional in its efforts to measure student performance against the mission that binds the University community together and prompts for students to strive for excellence in every endeavor. To fulfill its mission and goals, the University monitors achievement of general education goals, retention and degrees awarded, state licensing examinations, among other measures. The University evaluates 63 different performance metrics annually in the State Accountability Report. State Agency Accountability Reports are provided below for the past three years and the performance metric template is provided as supporting documentation.

Leaders at USC Columbia recognize the challenges facing students when their college path takes longer than expected. Therefore, USC Columbia has developed an initiative to help students complete their education in a timely manner. Expanding the schedule of general education courses and distributed learning courses help course scheduling for students, and helps them complete their required courses on time.

Recognizing when students are struggling academically is a critical first step in providing intervention services to ensure students are meeting educational goals. An early intervention program assists students experiencing academic difficulties by connecting students with resources that support successful outcomes. The program faculty and staff to refer students who are missing class, struggling with coursework, or experiencing general academic challenges. Four types of referrals are offered: referrals to identify students not attending class; academic assistance referrals to identify students who may be experiencing academic or transitional difficulties; academic reports to identify students experiencing academic distress midway through the semester; and withdrawal referrals to identify students who have expressed withdrawing from the university. This initiative began in Fall 2013 and referrals have only grown from 636, 1179, and now to 1371 students for the 2015-16 academic year.

The University completes comprehensive self-assessments as part of state-required accountability and reporting mandates. Both Columbia and the regional (Palmetto College) campuses provide an annual state Accountability Report to the South Carolina Budget and Control Board. This report outlines the institution's "mission", objectives, mission, and performance measures that show the degree to which objectives are being "met" in accordance with the South Carolina provision 1-1-820. The Accountability Report provides the University's performance for review by the Governor and the General Assembly. The report provides for both a discussion of prior year expenditures and associated with prospective goals, strategies and objectives to move the University forward in future years. The discussion and analysis section of the report provides the University the opportunity to comment on internal and external factors affecting the University's performance in the past year, the University's current efforts and the associated plans under development to introduce additional changes.

[State Agency Accountability Report 2016](#)

[State Agency Accountability Report 2015](#)

[State Agency Accountability Report 2014](#)

Additionally, the Columbia and regional (Palmetto College) campuses also submit an Institutional Effectiveness report to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education mandated by Proviso 89.121. Each year this report summarizes the results of professional examinations.

[Institutional Effectiveness Report 2016](#)

[Institutional Effectiveness Report 2015](#)

[Institutional Effectiveness Report 2014](#)

Retention Rates, Graduation Rates, and Degrees Awarded

88% of freshmen are retained to their second year here at USC Columbia. Over 73% of students graduate within six years and in 2014-2015, over 5,400 Baccalaureate degrees were awarded. Persistence/Retention rates and graduation rates are compiled by the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment (OIRAA) and published on the OIRAA website. The most recent retention and graduation reports are provided as supporting documentation:

[Retention Rate by School 2015 Report](#)

[Graduation Rate by School 2015 Report](#)

Degrees Awarded		Degree Level								
		UG Cert w/Bach	Associate	Baccalaureate	Post Bacc Cert	First Prof	Masters	Post Mast Cert	Specialist	Doctoral
		number	number	number	number	number	number	number	number	number
Campus	Major									
USC Columbia	Accounting	.	.	147	.	.	65	.	.	.
	Advanced Athletic Training	.	.	.	.	.	18	.	.	.
	Advanced Practice Nursing	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	.	.
	Advertising	.	.	63	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Aerospace Engineering	.	.	.	.	.	6	.	.	.
	African-American Studies	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Anthropology	.	.	25	.	.	3	.	.	5
	Applied Statistics	.	.	.	10	.	3	.	.	.
	Art	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.
	Art Education	.	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Art History	.	.	8	.	.	1	.	.	.
	Art Studio	.	.	51	.	.	5	.	.	.
	Athletic Training	.	.	35	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Biochem and Molecular Biology	.	.	33	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Biological Sciences	.	.	267	.	.	3	.	.	7
	Biomedical Engineering	.	.	53	.	.	9	.	.	3
	Biomedical Science	.	.	.	.	.	10	.	.	3
	Biomedical Studies	.	.	.	11	.	.	.	.	.
	Biostatistics	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	3
	Broadcast Journalism	.	.	49	.	.	.	.	.	.
	Business Administration	.	.	.	.	.	179	.	.	7

Business Analytics	.	.	.	45	.	.	.	.	.
Business Economics	.	.	37	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cardiovascular Technology	.	.	7	.	.	.	.	.	.
Chemical Engineering	.	.	50	.	.	4	.	.	18
Chemistry	.	.	43	.	.	9	.	.	32
Chinese Studies	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.
Civil Engineering	.	.	44	.	.	11	.	.	6
Classics	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.
Clinical - Community Psych	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6
Clinical Nursing	.	.	.	.	.	14	.	.	.
Communication Sci & Disorders	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Comp Sci and Engr	.	.	.	.	.	20	.	.	9
Comparative Literature	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	6
Computer Engineering	.	.	16	.	.	.	.	.	.
Computer Information Systems	.	.	11	.	.	.	.	.	.
Computer Science	.	.	62	.	.	.	.	.	.
Conducting	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Cost Management	.	.	.	25	.	.	.	.	.
Counselor Education	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	23	9
Creative Writing	.	.	.	.	.	9	.	.	.
Criminology and Criminal Just	.	.	201	.	.	7	.	.	2
Curriculum and Instruction	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Dance	.	.	15	.	.	.	.	.	.
Drug and Addiction Studies	.	.	.	35	.	.	.	.	.
Early Childhood Education	.	.	90	.	.	1	.	.	2

Earth and Envr Resources Mgmt	.	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	.
Economics	.	.	60	.	.	6	.	.	1
Educational Administration	.	.	.	.	.	104	.	2	10
Educational Psych and Res	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Educational Technology	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.
Electrical Engineering	.	.	35	.	.	11	.	.	3
Elementary Education	.	.	80	.	.	10	.	.	.
Engineering Management	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.
English	.	.	100	.	.	15	.	.	3
Enterprise Resource Plan Sys	.	.	.	36	.	.	.	.	.
Environmental Health Sciences	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2
Environmental Science	.	.	28	.	.	.	.	.	.
Environmental Studies	.	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.
Epidemiology	.	.	.	.	.	13	.	.	5
Exercise Science	.	.	259	.	.	8	.	.	6
Experimental Psychology	.	.	262	.	.	3	.	.	2
Film and Media Studies	.	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.
Finance	.	.	270	.	.	.	.	.	.
Foreign Languages	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.
Foundations of Education	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
French	.	.	7	.	.	1	.	.	.
General	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
General Public Health	.	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	.
Genetic Counseling	.	.	.	.	.	8	.	.	.
Geography	.	.	19	.	.	9	.	.	1

Geological Sciences			17			7			3
Geophysics			3						
German			5			1			
Gerontology				4					
Health Communication				4					
Health Information Technology						24			
Health Nursing						16			
Higher Educ and Studnt Affrs						49			
Higher Education Business Admn						5			
Higher Education Leadership				11					
Hist Arch and Cult Res Mgmt				1					
History			89			2			4
Hlth Promo, Educ and Beh						22			14
Hlth Services Policy and Mgmt						19			7
Hlth Svcs Policy and Mgmt						29			
Hospitality Management			150						5
Human Resources						41			
Information Science			12						
Insurance and Risk Management			10						
Integrated Info Technology			49						
Interdisciplinary Studies			43						
International Business			130			70			
International Studies			53			4			
Intl Hosptlty & Tourism Mgmt						5			
Journalism			35			10			

Language and Literacy	.	.	.	.	.	10	.	.	5
Latin American Studies	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Law	.	.	.	.	193	.	.	.	.
Liberal Studies	.	.	50	.	.	.	.	.	.
Libr and Info Science	.	.	.	3	.	98	.	.	3
Linguistics	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	6
Management	.	.	168	.	.	.	.	.	.
Management Science	.	.	144	.	.	.	.	.	.
Marine Science	.	.	63	.	.	5	.	.	2
Marketing	.	.	201	.	.	.	.	.	.
Mass Communications	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Mathematics	.	.	47	.	.	8	.	.	4
Mechanical Engineering	.	.	139	.	.	8	.	.	6
Media Arts	.	.	79	.	.	1	.	.	.
Medicine	.	.	.	.	135	.	.	.	.
Middle Level Education	.	.	35	.	.	.	.	.	.
Museum Management	.	.	.	7	.	.	.	.	.
Music	.	.	59	.	.	7	.	.	.
Music Education	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.
Music Performance	13	.	.	1	.	13	.	.	14
Nuclear Engineering	.	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	1
Nurse Anesthesia	.	.	.	.	.	26	.	.	.
Nursing	.	.	209	.	.	.	.	.	.
Nursing Administration	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.
Nursing Practice	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4

Nursing Science	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Organizational Leadership	.	.	36	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pharmaceutical Sciences	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5
Pharmacy	.	.	.	.	102	.	.	.	.
Philosophy	.	.	11	.	.	.	.	.	3
Phys Activity and Publ Hlth	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.
Physical Education	.	.	16	.	.	3	.	.	1
Physical Therapy	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
Physics	.	.	7	.	.	2	.	.	3
Piano Pedagogy	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Political Science	.	.	129	.	.	8	.	.	6
Psychiatric Rehabilitation	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.
Psychology	.	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	.
Public Administration	.	.	.	.	.	12	.	.	.
Public Health	.	.	240	4	.	.	.	.	.
Public History	.	.	.	.	.	10	.	.	.
Public Relations	.	.	176	.	.	.	.	.	.
Qualitative Research	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.
Real Estate	.	.	14	.	.	.	.	.	.
Rehabilitation Counseling	.	.	.	.	.	12	.	.	.
Religious Studies	.	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	.
Retailing	.	.	135	.	.	2	.	.	.
Risk Management and Insurance	.	.	49	.	.	.	.	.	.
Russian	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.
School Psychology	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	5

Sciences	.	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	.
Secondary Education	.	.	.	.	.	31	.	.	.
SocBehav Hlth Mil Mem Vets Fam	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.
Social Studies	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.
Social Work	.	.	39	.	.	285	.	.	4
Sociology	.	.	45	.	.	1	.	.	2
Spanish	.	.	19	.	.	3	.	.	1
Special Education	.	.	.	.	.	22	.	.	3
Speech Pathology	.	.	.	.	.	32	.	.	.
Speech-Language Pathology	.	.	.	.	.	30	.	.	.
Sport and Entertainment Mgmt	.	.	136	.	.	25	.	.	.
Statistics	.	.	3	.	.	2	.	.	7
Tchng Engl to Spkrs Oth Lang	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.
Teaching	.	.	.	.	.	23	.	.	.
Teaching and Learning	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Theatre	.	.	11	.	.	2	.	.	.
Tourism Management	.	.	28	.	.	.	.	.	.
Visual Communications	.	.	46	.	.	.	.	.	.
Women's and Gender Studies	.	.	1	4	.	.	.	.	.
TOTAL	13	3	5409	215	430	1627	14	25	313
USC Lancaster									
Major		25	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Business									
Criminal Justice	.	18	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
General	.	67	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Nursing	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

	TOTAL	.	113	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
USC Salkehatchie	Major	.	146	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	General	.		.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	TOTAL	.	146	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
USC Sumter	Major	.	117	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	General	.		.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	TOTAL	.	117	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
USC Union	Major	.	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	General	.		.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	TOTAL	.	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
TOTAL		13	434	5409	215	430	1627	14	25	313

State Licensing Examinations

USC Columbia continues to enhance the quality of graduate programs and further develop the professional schools. The professional schools demonstrate their consistently high pass rates for national professional certification exams. In 2015-2016, pass rates ranged from 77.8% to 99.2% for the 12 exams reported by or Detailed pass rates for each exam are included in the attached Performance Measurements.

Name of Exam	Date(s) Administered	# of Examinees	# of Examinees who Passed	% Examinee Passing
TEACHING AND RESEARCH SECTORS				
PRAXIS Series II: Core Battery Professional Knowledge				
PRAXIS Series II: Principles of Learning & Teaching (K-6)	04/01/15-03/31/16	125	124	99.20%
PRAXIS Series II: Principles of Learning & Teaching (5-9)	04/01/15-03/31/16	49	47	95.92%
PRAXIS Series II: Principles of Learning & Teaching (7-12)	04/01/15-03/31/16	101	98	97.03%
PRAXIS Series II: Specialty Area Tests	04/01/15-03/31/16	773	685	88.62%

Name of Exam	Date(s) Administered	# of Examinees	# of 1 st Time Examinees	# of 1 st Time Examinees who Passed	% 1 st Time Examinees Passing
RESEARCH SECTOR					
ACC National Certification Examination in Nurse Midwifery					
American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion Exam - Part I (PBSE)					
American Board of Cardiovascular Perfusion Exam - Part II (CAPE)					
Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists Exam.					
Multi-State Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE)	04/01/15-03/31/16	161	154	147	94.45%
Massage & Bodywork Licensing Examination (MBLEX)					
Massage Therapy Certifying Examination					
National Board Dental Exam, Part I					
National Board Dental Exam, Part II					
National Council Licensure Exam. - Registered Nurse (BSN)	04/01/15-03/31/16	220	213	200	93.90%
National Physical Therapist Licensing Exam. (PT)	04/01/15-03/31/16	19	18	17	94.44%
National Certification Corporation for the Obstetric, Gynecological and Neonatal Nursing Specialties: Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Exam.					
North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam. (NAPLEX)	04/01/15-03/31/16	195	183	173	94.54%
Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR)					
Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam. (PANCE)					
South Carolina Bd. of Law Examination	04/01/15-03/31/16	208	171	133	77.78%
Cytotechnology (ASCP)					
State Board Dental Exam-SRTA Exam.					
US Medical Licensing Exam. - Step I (Columbia)	04/01/15-03/31/16	98	90	81	90.00%
US Medical Licensing Exam. - Step I (Greenville)	04/01/15-03/31/16	52	52	49	94.23%
US Medical Licensing Exam. - Step II (Columbia)	04/01/15-03/31/16	88	84	80	95.24%

Regional Palmetto College Campuses

The four regional campuses of USC (USC Lancaster, USC Union, USC Sumter, and USC Salkehatchie) fall under the authority of the Columbia campus and reside in an administrative unit known as Palmetto College, headed by a Chancellor and Associate Provost/Dean. Resultantly, these campuses are referred to as regional Palmetto campuses. The administrative unit also houses USC's Extended University, which offers undergraduate credit programs and courses at Ft. Jackson and provides guidance for the delivery of the University's undergraduate online degree completion programs.

Student achievement at the regional Palmetto College campuses is evaluated in a variety of ways. Specifically, the following measures of achievement are compiled on a uniform, comparative basis: Retention, "success," migration, completions/graduation, self-report learning outcomes, USC Connect participation (the University's employment/continued education). USC Lancaster has a joint Nursing degree with York Technical College and is responsible for reporting the success of its graduates on the nursing licensing exam.

Retention

This variable is monitored via data submitted annually to the SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE). The latest three-year average (covering fall 2012 – 2013 and fall 2014–2015) reveals figures for full time enrollees of 50.6%, 50.9%, and 50.1% respectively. While consistent, these rates merit our attention and we have success initiatives at the campuses in order to address and provide services that will help more students attain academic success.

"Success"

Another measure of achievement is the "Success Rate" of Regional Campus students at time "markers." A legislatively-mandated Performance Funding Indicator (PFI) to report this information. Specifically, this indicator measures the achievement of first-time, full time students after three years (150% of a two year program). § 1) still enrolled, 2) transferred, and 3) earned an associate's degree. The success rates for the regional Palmetto College campuses for the latest three cohorts (2012, 2013, 2014) are, respectively, 58.8%, 50.3%, and 45.5%. While trending downward, we have concerns about the validity of the data as the last two year's result resultant of data conversion issues brought about by the fall 2013 implementation of a new enterprise solution at USC. To explore our concerns, we submitted the National Clearinghouse in order to: 1. hopefully capture the students (internal USC transfers) we suspect were not being included and 2. capture students transferring from institutions out-of-state, an additional finding not captured but accepted as additional information by the CHE. Our preliminary internal review shows concerns for the integrity of the cohort file as we found a substantial number of internal transfers, who raise the success rate to levels (60% plus) we traditionally expect. The National Clearinghouse data further supports this finding as the additional number of internal and external transfers reported increases our overall rate. We continue our analysis efforts to confirm and examine these data on a more granular level in order to verify these preliminary results.

Migration Within USC System

A measure of achievement unique to the USC System is the percentage of students who remain in the system in pursuit of desired educational outcomes. In short, to other system campuses enjoy significant common course numbering and coordinated curriculums. Precise tracking of such movement is currently compromised by conversion issues outlined above ("Success" section), therefore the last time official data was available was 2012. In that year, 60% of those enrolling at the regional Palmetto College campuses who choose to seek education elsewhere migrated to one of the senior institutions of USC. The two prior year percentages were 70% (2011) and 75% (2010). We will continue our effort to resolve the data issues in order to ascertain current results.

Completions

Completions are measured in three primary ways: 1) the success rate reported above, 2) graduation with an associate's degree, and 3) graduation with a four year degree. The success rate for the latest three years (2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016) is 490, 509, and 428. This level of degree attainment is trending up compared to the ten-year average.

Four-year degree completion is a measure unique to the regional Palmetto College campuses and is the result of the desire to create a measure (for Performance Funding Indicator) described in the "success" section above) that represents the desired degree path to which many of our Regional Campuses students aspire. The latest three year (2008, 2009, 2010) reveal rates of 30%, 27.4%, and 29%, respectively. These rates, while significantly less than those of the state's research institutions, compare favorably to the state's public senior institutions, and are significantly greater than the percentages of the degrees earned by four-year degree-track AA/AS recipients from the colleges. In order to capture possible out of state recipients, we submitted the 2009 cohort to the National Clearinghouse and were able to locate more graduates. Our refined analysis is in order, our preliminary recalculation moves the 2009 cohort rate from 29% to approximately 31%.

Job Placement/Continued Enrollment of Graduates

The S.C Commission on Higher Education (CHE), on behalf of the state, requires two-year degree-awarding institutions to evaluate their respective degree programs and the success of graduates a year removed from earning the degree. Two measures of success are utilized: 1) remaining enrolled fulltime in college, and 2) being employed.

The latest three years (2013/14, 2014-15 and 2015/16 graduates) reveal the following:

	Continued college fulltime	Secured employment
2013-2014 graduates	50%	31%
2014-2015 graduates	68%	17%
2015-2016 graduates	47%	33%

Of note per these numbers is that regional Palmetto College campuses students appear to view the attainment of an associate degree as a stepping stone to continue undergraduate education. Placement 301 Report 2015-2016 Report (by campus)

Graduating Student Survey

Beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year, a graduating student survey was administered to those regional Palmetto College associate degree students who made the degree. The survey focused on learning outcomes and experiences and the results were extremely positive with an average positive outcome of 4.29 (out of 5). Other findings included a high percentage reporting a research experience (85.1%) and low accumulation of debt while pursuing the degree.

USC Connect

The regional Palmetto College campuses actively participate in USC Connect, the University's current QEP. To date, 34 students have registered in Connect's Grad Leadership Distinction (GLD) program with 24 students having earned the distinction through fall 2016. Additionally, 24 students have registered for to earn the distinction in the near future (2017-2019).

Licensing Exam Success – USC Lancaster

The Associate Degree Nursing Program is a cooperative program between York Technical College and the University of South Carolina Lancaster and is fully and is fully accredited by the South Carolina Board of Nursing and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN), through which the program is accredited.

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the Computer Adaptive Testing of the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses. Graduates who pass the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses are eligible to apply for licensure to practice as a registered nurse in any of the 50 states or U.S. territories.

Below are exam results for the past six years.

Name of Exam	Date(s) Administered	# of Examinees	# of 1 st Time Examinees	# of 1 st Time Examinees who Passed	Ex
National Council Licensure Exam. (NCLEX) - Registered Nurse (ADN)	January - June 2011	<u>40 TOTAL</u> 32 YTC 08 USCL	<u>40 TOTAL</u> 32 YTC 08 USCL	<u>38 TOTAL</u> 30 YTC 08 USCL	
Council Licensure Exam-Registered Nurse (ADN)	4/1/11 - 3/31/12	8 USCL 38 TOTAL	8 USCL 38 TOTAL	8 USCL 38 TOTAL	
Council Licensure Exam-Registered Nurse (ADN)	4/1/12 - 3/31/13	14 USCL 24 YTC	13 USCL 24 YTC	13 USCL 23 YTC	
Council Licensure Exam-Registered Nurse (ADN)	4/1/13 - 3/31/14	33 total 26 YTC 07 USCL	33 total 26 YTC 07 USCL	32 total 25 YTC 07 USCL	
Council Licensure Exam-Registered Nurse (ADN)	04/01/14 - 03/31/15	27 Total 02 USCL 25 YTC	27 Total 02 USCL 25 YTC	27 Total 02 USCL 25 YTC	
Council Licensure Exam-Registered Nurse (ADN)	04/01/15 - 03/31/16	38 Total 08 USCL 30 YTC	38 Total 08 USCL 30 YTC	37 Total 08 USCL 29 YTC	

Licensing Exam Success – USC Salkehatchie

As part of the U.S. Rural Nursing Initiative, the Bachelor of Nursing Degree Program is a cooperative program between USC Salkehatchie and the University of South Carolina at Columbia. The program is fully approved by the Board of Nursing for SC and accredited by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (www.nlnac.org).

Graduates of the program are eligible to take the Computer Adaptive Testing of the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses. Graduates who pass the National Council Licensing Examination for Registered Nurses are eligible to apply for licensure to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Carolina.

In June 2016, 11 students in the program took the Council Licensure Exam – Registered Nurse (BSN). All 11 students successfully completed the exam, for a pass rate of 100%.

Sources

-  Accountability_Report_USC_Columbia_FY_2013-14
-  Accountability_Report_USC_Columbia_FY_2014-15
-  Accountability_Report_USC_Columbia_FY_2015-16
-  Grad-By-School-2015
-  Performance Measurement Template Fiscal Year 2015-16
-  Retent-Fresh-Jr-By-School-2015
-  USC-Columbia IE Report 2014
-  USC-Columbia IE Report 2015
-  USC-Columbia IE Report 2016