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## Core Requirement 2.7.2

**The institution offers degree programs that embody a coherent course of study that is compatible with its stated mission and is based upon fields of study appropriate to higher education. (Program Content)**

**Judgment:** Compliant

**Response:**

### Columbia

As presented in the [Columbia Mission Statement](#), the campus offers over 320 degrees at the bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional program level. The program offerings at each level can be found in the [Undergraduate](#), [Graduate](#), [Law](#), [Medicine](#), and [Pharmacy](#) Bulletins.

Each new program must undergo a rigorous [program approval process](#) that takes a minimum of 5 months to complete. An [Academic Program Development](#) website was created to assist in navigating the approval process. The Faculty Senate or Graduate Council, the Provost, the President, and the Board of Trustees all must approve the new program. As part of the proposal process, a [justification form](#) must be completed, stating the rationale for the new program. For a more in-depth description of the program approval process, please refer to the academic policy for [creating and revising academic programs](#).

In addition, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) also has a strict [program approval process](#). Appendix A (pp. 18- 29) presents the format of the required New Program Proposal format, which includes a section on curriculum. Academic Affairs of the CHE reviews the program proposal and makes recommendations to the full Commission for approval. The CHE ensures that new programs are appropriate to the mission of the institution and are not unwarranted duplications of other programs offered in the State.

External program review complements the program approval process by further ensuring that programs of study are coherent and current. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) mandated and coordinated external program review. [The State Accountability Report](#) states:

The Commission on Higher Education (CHE), through its Division of Academic Affairs, has reviewed existing academic programs to ensure the quality and integrity of degree-granting programs in the public higher education sector. In its broadest context, program review serves as an instrument for gauging the health of the state's academic programs as well as a strategic planning device for determining the present and future needs of specific discipline areas (i.e., new program development) throughout South Carolina. Program review was incorporated into performance funding for the first time during the 1999-00 performance year as part of Indicator 1B – Curricula Offered to Achieve Mission, which is detailed following the discussion regarding program review.

The CHE has placed programs at the senior institutions it reviews on eight-year cycles. The cycles were developed in consultation with the chief academic officers of the colleges and universities and are categorized using broad descriptors (i.e. English, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, etc.). Measuring the success of academic programs has been a complex and multifaceted task. Consequently, the CHE has reviewed a broad range of source materials concerning each academic program under review. The CHE has drawn from qualitative as well as quantitative data so as to formulate a comprehensive picture of the health of individual programs. It then makes statewide determinations as to the quality of the discipline in South Carolina based largely on the cumulative evaluation of individual programs and on other relevant data.

While the CHE no longer requires or coordinates these reviews due to budgetary constraints, a [memo to all academic deans](#) from Provost Amiridis reemphasized the importance of external program review, and recommended that all programs that have an accrediting agency should become or remain accredited, and all programs without an accrediting agency should be externally reviewed on a regular cycle. All colleges provided an external program review schedule that was incorporated into the [Columbia External Program Review spreadsheet](#). The following colleges also provided a more in-depth description of their external program review schedule:

[Arts & Sciences](#)  
[Engineering](#)  
[Hospitality, Retailing & Sports Management](#)  
[Nursing](#)  
[Social Work](#)

In summary, the state and institutional program approval procedures ensure a coherent course of study and the relevance of programs to the mission of the institution, and the program accreditation and external program review processes ensure that existing programs' courses of study remain relevant and current.

## Regional Campuses

As noted in the University System's Mission Statement, ***"The primary mission of the University of South Carolina is the education of the state's diverse citizens through teaching, research, creative activity, and service."***

The Regional Campuses of the University play a vital role in the fulfillment of this mission. Accredited with USC Columbia by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional campuses in Lancaster, Allendale (Salkehatchie), Sumter, and Union principally provide the first two years of undergraduate education, focusing on general education, as well as selected associate degree programs mainly for their locales. The Regional Campuses also serve as providers of coursework leading to baccalaureate degrees offered by the Senior Campuses (USC Aiken, USC Beaufort, and USC Upstate) and USC Columbia. These degrees are described in the respective bulletins of [Lancaster](#), [Salkehatchie](#), [Sumter](#), and [Union](#). In addition to providing these programs, the regional campuses bring the resources of the entire University to citizens throughout the state.

These campuses offer a thorough and comprehensive array of course, program, and degree offerings designed to provide access and opportunity to the populations they serve. These offerings are described in the respective Bulletins of each campus. Slight variations within the AA and AS degree programs exist among the four campuses, but all are designed to cover the same core elements consisting of Reading and Writing, Numerical Reasoning, Natural Sciences, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Humanities and Fine Arts, and Electives. The offering of these degrees allows the campuses to provide students the opportunity to pursue a degree either as a "terminal" outcome or as a pathway to additional coursework that applies to a baccalaureate degree. All AA and AS programs are reviewed by the faculty of the respective campuses as well as by the Regional Campuses Faculty Senate and the Office of the Vice President for System Affairs in order to assure continued relevance and to reflect any changes in courses emanating from the Columbia campus.

#### Supporting Documentation:

Source	Location
<b>Mission Statements</b>	
Columbia	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/columbia_ms.htm">http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/columbia_ms.htm</a>
Lancaster	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/lancaster_ms.htm">http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/lancaster_ms.htm</a>
Salkehatchie	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/salkehatchie_ms.htm">http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/salkehatchie_ms.htm</a>
Sumter	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/sumter_ms.htm">http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/sumter_ms.htm</a>
Union	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/union_ms.htm">http://ipr.sc.edu/mission/union_ms.htm</a>
Program Approval Process	<a href="http://www.sc.edu/provost/forms/AcadProgTimelineNEW2010-11.pdf">http://www.sc.edu/provost/forms/AcadProgTimelineNEW2010-11.pdf</a>
ACAF 2.0 Creation and Revision of Academic Programs	<a href="http://www.sc.edu/policies/acaf200.pdf">http://www.sc.edu/policies/acaf200.pdf</a>
CHE Program Approval Process	<a href="http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/Revised_Guidelines_for_New_Prog_Approv.pdf">http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/Revised_Guidelines_for_New_Prog_Approv.pdf</a>
Academic Program Development Website	<a href="http://www.sc.edu/provost/acadprog/">http://www.sc.edu/provost/acadprog/</a>
Justification Form	<a href="http://www.sc.edu/provost/forms/JustificationFormJUS.pdf">http://www.sc.edu/provost/forms/JustificationFormJUS.pdf</a>
State Accountability Report	<a href="http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/ACL04/A_Closer_Look-January_2004-FINAL.pdf">http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/ACL04/A_Closer_Look-January_2004-FINAL.pdf</a>
Provost Memo	
External Program Review Schedule	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/ProgAccredRev.pdf">http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/ProgAccredRev.pdf</a>
<b>Memos From Deans</b>	
Arts & Sciences	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/ArtsSciExtRev.pdf">http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/ArtsSciExtRev.pdf</a>
Engineering	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/CECEExtRev.pdf">http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/CECEExtRev.pdf</a>
Hospitality, Retailing, & Sports Mgt.	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/HRSMAccredPlans.pdf">http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/HRSMAccredPlans.pdf</a>
Nursing	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/NursExtRev.pdf">http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/NursExtRev.pdf</a>
Social Work	<a href="http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/SocialWorkPlan.pdf">http://ipr.sc.edu/pdf/evaluations/SocialWorkPlan.pdf</a>
<b>Bulletins</b>	
Columbia Undergraduate	<a href="http://bulletin.sc.edu/">http://bulletin.sc.edu/</a>
Columbia Graduate	<a href="http://bulletin.sc.edu/">http://bulletin.sc.edu/</a>
Columbia Law	<a href="http://bulletin.law.sc.edu/">http://bulletin.law.sc.edu/</a>
Columbia Medicine	<a href="http://bulletin.med.sc.edu/">http://bulletin.med.sc.edu/</a>
Columbia Pharmacy	<a href="http://www.sccp.sc.edu/bulletin.aspx">http://www.sccp.sc.edu/bulletin.aspx</a>
Lancaster	<a href="http://bulletin.usclancaster.sc.edu/">http://bulletin.usclancaster.sc.edu/</a>
Salkehatchie	<a href="http://bulletin.uscsalkehatchie.sc.edu/">http://bulletin.uscsalkehatchie.sc.edu/</a>
Sumter	<a href="http://bulletin.uscsumter.edu/">http://bulletin.uscsumter.edu/</a>
Union	<a href="http://bulletin.uscunion.sc.edu/">http://bulletin.uscunion.sc.edu/</a>