

### 2.7.1

The institution offers one or more degree programs based on at least 60 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the associate level; at least 120 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the baccalaureate level; or at least 30 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the post-baccalaureate, graduate, or professional level. If an institution uses a unit other than semester credit hours, it provides an explanation for the equivalency. The institution also provides a justification for all degrees that include fewer than the required number of semester credit hours or its equivalent unit.

#### **(Program Length)**

As the flagship USC System institution, USC Columbia has responsible for four regional (two-year) campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter and Union) where only two-year associate degrees (Associate of Arts and Associate of Science) are offered. These campuses report through the campus chief executive Deans to the Vice Provost and Executive Dean for Extended University at USC Columbia. At USC Columbia per se there are 320 degrees at bachelor's, master's, academic and professional (law, medicine and pharmacy) doctoral level. Associate degrees are earned from 60 semester hours of credit. Baccalaureate and master's academic degrees all meet the minimal 120 or 30 semester credit hours as requirements, respectively. Academic doctoral degrees require a minimum of three years of study and 60 graduate credit hours, or following a minimum of 30 credit hours earned post master's. The professional doctoral degrees meet the requirements of their respective accrediting bodies. Certificates are offered at the undergraduate (15-18 credit hours) and graduate (18 credit hours) levels. Dual, joint or other collaborative degrees meet the requirements of the cooperating institutions.

### 4.4

Program length is appropriate for each of the institution's educational programs.

#### **(Program length)**

Academic Policy ACAF 2.0 details the requirements for the degrees offered at USC mandates a minimum of 60 semester hours beyond high school (two-year campuses only), 120 semester hours for baccalaureate programs; at least 30 hours for the master's and specialist degree; and at least three years of graduate study and 60 credit hours for doctoral degrees. First professional degrees in Law, Medicine, and Pharmacy typically require three or four years beyond the bachelor's degree or beyond pre-professional coursework.

The On-Site Review Committee conducted interviews and reviewed pertinent documentation in support of the institution's case for compliance and sustained the OffSite Reaffirmation Committee's findings.