



University of
South Carolina

South Carolina's Flagship University

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

SACS

Institutional Assessment and Compliance

Principles of Accreditation

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Comprehensive Standard 3.6.3

The majority of credits toward a graduate of post-baccalaureate professional degree are earned through the institution awarding the degree. In the case of graduate and post-baccalaureate professional degree programs offered through joint, cooperative, or consortial arrangements, the student earns a majority of credits from the participating institutions.

Judgment: Compliant

Response:

The Graduate School has established policies to ensure the integrity of its post-baccalaureate degree programs. Academic policies concerning degree requirements, the maximum number of transfer credits, and policies concerning joint degrees or concurrent enrollment are detailed in the [Graduate Studies Bulletin](#) (see sections on [Academic Regulations](#) and [Degree Requirements](#)). These long-standing policies and degree requirements have been approved by the Graduate Council and are implemented by the dean of the Graduate School. Any exceptions to policy or requirement undergo rigorous examination by the dean of the Graduate School before approval. Exceptions are granted only with sufficient and appropriate justification and any necessary documentation.

The Graduate School awards [transfer credit](#) on the recommendation of the graduate student's academic program. The program reviews the course syllabus and official transcript for course rigor, relevance, and course content with a level of instruction equivalent to that offered by the University's own graduate programs. Once reviewed, the program makes a recommendation to the dean of the Graduate School to approve transfer of credits within approved limits to the student's program of study. The approval of the dean of the Graduate School is communicated to the Office of the University Registrar and transfer credit is posted with designation as transfer credit to the academic record of the student at the term of graduation.

No more than 12 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 30-36 hours; no more than 15 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 37-45 hours; and no more than 18 semester hours of graduate credit may be transferred into a master's program that requires 46 or more semester hours. Only credits with grades of B or better may be transferred from another institution into a Master's degree program. Course work transferred for credit toward a Master's degree must be from an accredited institution and must be no more than six years old at the time of graduation. Transfer credit is not posted to the student's official academic transcript until the term of graduation.

A maximum of 9 semester hours of graduate credit that are part of a completed graduate degree or certificate program at USC or elsewhere may be applied to a second USC master's degree program.

The [doctoral degree](#) requires a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours, including 12-30 hours of dissertation preparation (899), beyond the baccalaureate degree or a minimum of 30 graduate hours, including 12-30 hours of dissertation preparation (899), beyond the Master's degree. Doctoral degree students must complete at least half of the hours on the [Program of Study](#) in courses numbered 700 or higher.

A limited amount of course work may be transferred from another institution for credit toward a doctoral degree. The exact number of transfer hours varies by program, but may not constitute more than 50 percent of the hours listed on a program of study, not including dissertation preparation (899) or the equivalent. The transfer course work must be relevant to the program and have course content and a level of instruction equivalent to that offered by the University's own graduate programs. Approval for acceptance of transfer credit to a student's program of study must be approved and justified by the student's academic program and submitted to the dean of The Graduate School for final approval on the [Request for Transfer of Academic Credit \(G-RTC\)](#) form. Only credits with grades of B or better may be transferred from another institution into a doctoral degree program. Course work transferred for credit toward a doctoral degree must be from an accredited institution and must be no more than eight years old at the time of graduation. Transfer credit will not be posted to a student's official academic transcript until the term of graduation.

Academic programs done in collaboration with other universities must meet academic credit policies as appropriate for the degree program. All programs developed in collaboration with other institutions, including dual degree, articulated transfer of credit, conditional admission and other arrangements, must be articulated in an agreement or Memorandum of Understanding. When such agreements are international, they must be reviewed and approved through the process described in [ACAF2.06](#). Additional joint graduate programs arrangements are documented in the list of [Academic Programs section of the Graduate Bulletin](#) (see, for example, the joint graduate program in [Educational Technology](#) with USC Aiken).

Supporting Documentation:

Description	Source
Policies	
Graduate Studies Bulletin	

Academic Regulations	http://bulletin.sc.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=1880
Degree Requirements	http://bulletin.sc.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=1878
Transfer of Course Credit	#Transfer_of_Course_Credit_">http://bulletin.sc.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=1880 #Transfer_of_Course_Credit_
Doctoral Degrees	
Degree Requirements	http://bulletin.sc.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=1878
Program of Study	http://gradschool.sc.edu/DocLibrary/documents/ doctoralprogramofstudy.pdf
Request for Transfer of Credit	http://gradschool.sc.edu/DocLibrary/documents/G-RTC.pdf
Joint Programs	
ACAF 2.06	http://www.sc.edu/policies/acaf206.pdf
Academic Programs	http://bulletin.sc.edu/content.php?catoid=9&navoid=1873
Joint Educational Technology Program with USC Aiken	http://bulletin.sc.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=9 &poid=2887&returnto=1873

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