

### 3.5.3

The institution defines and publishes requirements for its undergraduate programs, including its general education components. These requirements conform to commonly accepted standards and practices for degree programs. **(Undergraduate program requirements)**

The Academic *Bulletins* of USC Columbia and the regional campuses demonstrate that USC defines and publishes requirements for its undergraduate programs, including general education. The regional campus at Lancaster attests to conformity with commonly accepted standards and practices for degree programs by stating that its associate degrees are approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Two of its five associate degrees (A.S. in Technical Nursing and A.S. in Business) are accredited by professional accrediting associations. The regional campuses of Sumter, Salkehatchie, and Union attest to conformity with commonly accepted standards and practices by aligning their requirements for associate degrees with each other and with Lancaster. The institution provided no evidence that it complied with commonly accepted practices outside of the USC system.

The On-Site Review Committee found that the Columbia campus notes that program accreditation or program review is the primary means of assuring that program requirements conform to commonly accepted standards and practices. The focused report notes that the AA/AS degrees have been added to the University Program Accreditation/Review Schedule. Further, the on-site team reviewed the curricula of the individual associate degrees not already subject to program accreditation and concluded that all individual programs appear to conform to reasonable commonly accepted standards for the programs.