

CR 2.4 - Institutional Mission

The institution has a clearly defined, comprehensive, and published mission statement that is specific to the institution and appropriate for higher education. The mission addresses; teaching and learning and, where applicable, research and public service.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

USC Beaufort Mission Statement [\[i\]](#)

"The University of South Carolina Beaufort, a small (1,000 to 3,000 students/fall headcount enrollment) senior campus of the state's largest public university, brings the University of South Carolina's statewide mission of teaching, research, scholarship, and public service to the rapidly growing Lowcountry of South Carolina. USC Beaufort offers baccalaureate degrees that respond to regional needs, draw upon regional strengths, and prepare graduates to participate successfully in communities here and around the globe. The campus also supports the USC Extended Graduate Campus, which provides local access to graduate courses and programs. USCB offers programs in mathematics and the natural sciences, humanities, and professional and social sciences. Its curriculum is designed to promote acquisition of knowledge and, through it, the intellectual dispositions and skills that encourage depth of understanding, tolerance of others and individual accountability. Attracting a racially and culturally diverse student body of varying ages and experiences, the University of South Carolina Beaufort draws its students primarily from the South Carolina Lowcountry, with representation from other parts of the state, other states, and foreign countries. The University encourages students to think analytically and abstractly, to explore options, to see similarities, to be open to differences, to communicate effectively, and to respect each individual. The major intellectual and cultural center for the region, the University enriches the quality of life for area residents of all ages through presentations of the performing and fine arts, community service, symposia, research initiatives, and partnerships with area schools, businesses and organizations."

The mission statement outlines USC Beaufort's purpose and role in higher education relative to teaching and learning, research, and public service. The current mission statement is a reflection of an exhaustive two-year process undertaken by USC Beaufort in changing its mission from that of an associate-degree-granting institution to that of a baccalaureate-degree-granting university. Extensive discussion and input from internal stakeholders including faculty, administration, staff, and the student government association preceded the decision to revise USC Beaufort's mission in order to meet the expanding needs of the region. A series of well-attended public forums open to the local community were also held in order to obtain input from external stakeholders within the local community, as well as regional and state leadership, on the change of mission. Faculty Division Coordinators met to draft a working document to incorporate the various components. On December 7, 2001, the Faculty Organization met and crafted the final document. The mission statement was then unanimously approved by this body and approved by the Chancellor on December 7, 2001. Any change in mission must also be approved by the USC Board of Trustees; therefore, on February 8, 2002, the USC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the new USC Beaufort mission statement.

USC Beaufort’s Mission Statement undergoes annual institutional review by the USC Beaufort Institutional Effectiveness (IE) Council as part of its internal strategic planning process. The IE Council is a committee charged with reviewing, monitoring, and revising the institutional effectiveness and strategic planning framework, processes and procedures, conducting an annual review of the Mission and Goals, and making recommendations for revision to the Chancellor of USC Beaufort. Any changes to the Mission and Goals of USC Beaufort must be approved by the President and the Board of Trustees before going to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SCCHE). The actions taken by the IE Council relative to the review of the USC Beaufort Mission Statement are found in the IE Council meeting minutes of December 16, 2003[[ii](#)]; February 13, 2004[[iii](#)]; January 28, 2005[[iv](#)]; and November 14, 2006[[v](#)].

In accordance with the [South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976 \(as amended\), Section 59-103-45](#) [[vi](#)] “the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education has the duty to (6) review and approve each institutional mission statement to ensure it is within the overall mission of that particular type of institution as stipulated by Section 59-103-15 and is within the overall mission of the State [[vii](#)]. In keeping with the requirement of the law, and taking into consideration mission statement-related requirements for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) and existing Performance Funding (PF) requirements for Indicator 1C [[viii](#)] – Mission Statement, the policy is intended to:

1. Provide South Carolina public institutions with clear guidelines for mission statement revisions;
2. Insure to the greatest extent possible that CHE-approved mission statements will meet SACS-COC principles, guidelines, and expectations;
3. Create a flexible mechanism for approval of non-substantive changes to mission statements; and
4. Define the process flow for institutions wishing to revise mission statements.”

The complete SCCHE Policy and Procedures for the Approval of New or Revised Mission Statements was approved October 6, 2005. [[ix](#)]

USC Beaufort’s Mission Statement is published on the USC Beaufort website [[x](#)] and in key external publications including the USC Beaufort Bulletin [[xi](#)] and the USC Beaufort Student Handbook [[xii](#)]. Additionally, the mission statement is published in the 2003-2008 USC Beaufort Strategic Plan [[xiii](#)], the Institutional Effectiveness Manual [[xiv](#)], and the 2006-2007 USC Beaufort Factbook [[xv](#)]. The Mission Statement is also communicated to the wider external community including alumni and friends of USC Beaufort by its inclusion in all major outside presentations by the Chancellor.

Timeline of Internal and External Approval Dates for USC Beaufort’s Mission Statement

December 7, 2001	Approval of mission by USC Beaufort Faculty Organization and Chancellor
February 8, 2002	Approval of mission by USC Board of Trustees
December 16, 2003	The IE Council reviewed the USC Beaufort mission statement and passed a motion to approve the USC Beaufort mission statement (February 8, 2002) revision
June 6, 2002	SCCHE letter dated July 3, 2002 confirming approval of “a change in USC Beaufort’s mission from a two-year regional campus of the University of South Carolina to a four-year, baccalaureate institution.”
February 13, 2004	IE Council met to review the USC Beaufort mission. There were no

	suggestions for changes to the University mission statement at this time
February 20, 2004	Approval of a revision of the mission by the USC Beaufort Faculty Organization
April 21, 2004	Approval of a revision of the mission by the USC Board of Trustees
January 28, 2005	The IE Council reviewed the Mission Statement and drafted “considerations for changes to the USC Beaufort mission statement to be recorded but not adopted at this time.” The suggestions for future changes were presented to senior administration at the <u>March 28, 2005 Chancellor’s Administrative Retreat</u> but no actions were taken at this time
November 14, 2006	The IE Council met to review the USC Beaufort mission. There were no suggestions for changes to the University mission statement at this time
January 8, 2008	Approval of amended mission by SCCHE

Supporting Documentation

- [i USC Beaufort Mission Statement](#)
- [ii USC Beaufort IE Council meeting minutes December 16, 2003](#)
- [iii USC Beaufort IE Council meeting minutes February 13, 2004](#)
- [iv USC Beaufort IE Council meeting minutes January 28, 2005](#)
- [v USC Beaufort IE Council meeting minutes November 14, 2006](#)
- [vi SC Code of Laws Section 59-103-45](#)
- [vii SCCHE Mission Letter](#)
- [viii SCCHE Performance Funding Indicator 1C](#)
- [ix SCCHE Policy & Procedures for the approval of New or Revised Mission Statements](#)
- [x USC Beaufort website](#)
- [xi USC Beaufort Bulletin](#)
- [xii USC Beaufort Student Handbook](#)
- [xiii USC Beaufort Strategic Plan](#)
- [xiv USC Beaufort Institutional Effectiveness Manual](#)
- [xv USC Beaufort Fact Book](#)