

CR 2.6 - Continuous Operation

The institution is in operation and has students enrolled in degree programs.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) has one of the oldest traditions of higher education in the nation, dating to the 1795 charter of the original Beaufort College. An official act of the South Carolina legislature authorized the College to confer degrees in the liberal arts or sciences as were usually conferred in other colleges in Europe and America. The College was closed by war in 1861. In 1959, the South Carolina legislature created the Beaufort campus of the University of South Carolina on the original Beaufort College site on the banks of the Beaufort River to offer USC courses.

USC Beaufort was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) in 1968 as a Level I associate-degree-granting institution. USC Beaufort began offering courses in southern Beaufort County in 1985. In 1987 USC Beaufort leased a facility on Hilton Head Island rather than using Beaufort County School District facilities. In 1994 International Paper gave eighty acres of land to USC Beaufort to build an additional full-service campus in the area of the region's highest growth. In 2001, Beaufort County agreed to provide the funds to construct the campus if USC Beaufort were designated as a baccalaureate-degree-granting campus of the USC system.

In June 2002, USC Beaufort was granted four-year status by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Once state approvals for four-year status were obtained, construction of the South Campus began. In June 2004 (retroactive to January 2004) USC Beaufort was accredited by SACS as a Level II institution. In August 2004, USC Beaufort moved all of its operations from the leased facilities on Hilton Head Island and classes began on the newly completed South Campus. The Beaufort-Jasper Higher Education Commission exercised an option and purchased an additional 120 acres contiguous with the original 80 acre gift. In addition the Commission constructed on-campus student apartments at the South Campus which opened in the fall of 2005. With the operation of the Gateway to Hilton Head Campus (South Campus) and the continuing operation of the Historic Beaufort Campus (North Campus), USC Beaufort became one institution serving students on two campuses. The state's newest four-year university, USC Beaufort offers associate and baccalaureate degrees, access to USC's Extended Campus classes and degrees, and numerous continuing education programs.

This 200-year commitment to liberal arts education has remained constant, even as the USC Beaufort evolves to meet the changing needs of higher education. USC Beaufort is in compliance because it is in operation and has students enrolled in programs as indicated below in **(Table 1)**.

Table 1 Students Enrolled at USC Beaufort by Degree Program

Degree Program	Fall 2006	Spring 2007	Fall 2007	Spring 2008*
Biology B.S.	56	66	115	104
Business Administration B.S.	211	224	262	249
Early Childhood Education B.A.	117	101	110	104
English B.A.	56	51	44	44
History B.A.	26	26	31	28
Hospitality Management B.S.	94	98	104	106
Human Services B.S.	74	78	98	91
Liberal Studies B.A.	15	15	23	22
Nursing - B.S.N. (RN to BSN track)**	.	.	7	6
Psychology B.A.	56	61	67	67
Spanish B.A.	8	10	12	13
Associate Arts/Associate Science	142	124	117	98

*Spring 2008 is unofficial data as of February 15, 2008. Spring II classes begin on March 17, 2008, and enrollment numbers will continue to change.

**The nursing degree completion program (RN to BSN) did not begin until fall 2007. The BSN generic degree will begin in spring 2009.

Additional information about degrees awarded and credit hours produced are included in the USC Beaufort Factbook [\[i\]](#).

Supporting Documentation

[i](#) [2006-2007 USC Beaufort Factbook](#)