

CR 2.7.1 - Program Length

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.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) offers three types of degrees (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing) at the baccalaureate level and two degrees (Associate of Arts, Associate of Science) at the associate level. The associate degrees are offered only to military personnel and their dependents as per the South Carolina Commission of Higher Education (SCCHE). All USC Beaufort baccalaureate degree programs require a minimum of 120 credit hours, while all USC Beaufort associate degree programs require a minimum of 60 credit hours.

All South Carolina college and university programs require oversight approval from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SCCHE) [i]. Following the SCCHE Guidelines, the academic program proposal procedure at USC Beaufort consists of a two-step process: program planning summary and full program proposal. Planning summaries, full program proposals, as well as substantive content changes in a program of study, are developed as follows:

- Origination and approval by discipline faculty
- Approval by Department Chair
- Review and approval by the Courses and Curricula Committee of the Faculty Senate
- Review and approval by the Faculty Senate
- Approval by the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Approval of the Chancellor
- Approval by the President
- Approval by the Board of Trustees
- Review and approval by the SCCHE

Degree Programs and Hours Required

The three types of degrees offered by USC Beaufort at the baccalaureate level (B.A., B.S., B.S.N.) are each based on at least 120 semester credit hours. Within these three degree types, USC Beaufort offers eleven major programs of study.

Major programs of study within the Bachelor of Arts and semester hours required are:

- Early Childhood Education: 122 Hours [ii]
- English: 120 Hours [iii]
- History: 120 Hours [iv]
- Liberal Studies: 120 Hours [v]
- Psychology: 120 Hours [vi]

- Spanish: 120 Hours [\[vii\]](#)

Major programs of study within the Bachelor of Science and semester hours required are:

- Biology: 120 Hours [\[viii\]](#)
- Business Administration: 120 Hours [\[ix\]](#)
- Hospitality Management: 120 Hours [\[x\]](#)
- Human Services: 120 Hours [\[xi\]](#)

The major program of study within the Bachelor of Science in Nursing and semester hours required are:

- Nursing: 127 Hours [\[xii\]](#)

USC Beaufort offers two degree programs (Associate of Arts, Associate of Science) based on 60 semester credit hours at the associate level. The programs of study for both degrees are based on the general education curriculum found in all USC Beaufort baccalaureate degrees.

- Associate of Arts: 60 Hours [\[xiii\]](#)
- Associate of Science: 60 Hours [\[xiv\]](#)

All candidates for degrees and certificates must file formal applications with the Registrar during the last academic term before graduation. Applications must be filed by the third week of the fall or spring semester or within the first 10 days of the first summer session. In order to be eligible for graduation, students must meet all course requirements, be in good academic standing, meet any departmental or program requirements, and have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 on all work attempted within the USC system [\[xv\]](#).

Supporting Documentation

- [i SCCHE Website](#)
- [ii Early Childhood Education Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [iii English Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [iv History Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [v Liberal Studies Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [vi Psychology Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [vii Spanish Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [viii Biology Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [ix Business Administration Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [x Hospitality Management Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [xi Human Services Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [xii Nursing Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [xiii Associate of Arts Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [xiv Associate of Science Degree Programs Hours Required](#)
- [xv USC Beaufort Bulletin Graduation Requirements](#)