

CS 3.1.1 - Mission

The mission statement is current and comprehensive, accurately guides the institution's operations, is periodically reviewed and updated, is approved by the governing board, and is communicated to the institution's constituencies.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

The mission statement [i] of the University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) outlines the institution's purpose and role in higher education relative to teaching and learning, research, and public service. The current mission statement reflects an exhaustive multi-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 in 2002. Extensive stakeholder discussion and input preceded the decision to revise USC Beaufort's mission in order to meet the expanding needs of the region. In the early fall of 2001, Faculty Division Coordinators met with the Academic Dean to draft a working document incorporating the various components of the institution's activities and the needs uncovered in the stakeholders' meetings. The full faculty met on December 7, 2001, crafted the final document, and unanimously approved the mission statement. The mission was approved by the Dean of USC Beaufort, the USC President, and the USC Board of Trustees; the process was complete in February 2002.

In the fall of 2003, members of the Chancellor's Cabinet put together a list of institutional goals [ii] drawn from the mission statement. These goals serve to extend and explain in greater detail the relationship of the mission statement to the scope of the institution's operations and its relevance to all academic and support units of the institution. In late November and mid-December, 2003, faculty and administrative staff approved this list and suggested two additional goals. The entire list of institutional goals was then approved by all members of the USC Beaufort community via appropriate governing bodies.

USC Beaufort's mission statement undergoes annual review by the Institutional Effectiveness Council (IE Council) [iii] as part of the internal strategic planning [iv] process and in accordance with the South Carolina state-mandated performance-funding indicator outlined in Act 359 (59-103-15, SC Code of Laws, 1976, as amended.) [v]. Every five years, USC Beaufort's mission undergoes a formal state review by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education [vi].

The IE Council, consisting of faculty and staff, annually reviews the institution's mission and goals. In addition, the IE Council annually reviews assessment data relative to defined outcomes to determine progress, to identify changes that must be considered for the upcoming year, and to make recommendations, including those with budget implications, to the Chancellor. The results of an institutional analysis whereby the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in the environment of USC Beaufort are identified are discussed at an annual planning retreat of the Administrative Council (the Chancellor and the heads of each unit). The results of the analysis form the basis for the development and future revision of the mission and strategic goals and objectives. The IE Council along with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research drafts an Annual Report [vii] discussing the annual review of the mission as well as the Strategic Plan goals and objectives; this report is presented to the Administrative Council.

USC Beaufort's mission statement is published on the USC Beaufort website [\[viii\]](#) and in key external publications including the USC Beaufort Bulletin [\[ix\]](#) and the USC Beaufort Student Handbook [\[x\]](#). The mission statement is also communicated to the wider external community, including alumni and friends, by its inclusion in special publications distributed through USC Beaufort's Office of Advancement.

Approval of Mission Statement Revisions:

December 7, 2001 [\[xi\]](#):

Approval of revised mission statement by USC Beaufort Faculty Organization and Administration

February 8, 2002 [\[xii\]](#):

Approval of revised mission statement by USC Board of Trustees

June 6, 2002 [\[xiii\]](#):

Approval of revised mission statement by SCCHE

November 24, 2003 [\[xiv\]](#):

Approval of Institutional Goals by Chancellor's Cabinet

December 16, 2003 [\[xv\]](#)

Approval of Institutional Goals by USC Beaufort Planning Council

February 20, 2004 [\[xvi\]](#):

Approval of amended mission revision USC Beaufort Faculty Organization

January 8, 2008 [\[xviii\]](#):

Approval of minor addition to the mission in compliance with the existing mission statement guidelines and legislative mandate.

Supporting Documentation

- [i USC Beaufort Mission Statement](#)
- [ii Institutional Goals to Achieve the USC Beaufort Mission](#)
- [iii Institutional Effectiveness Council Purpose and Responsibility](#)
- [iv USC Beaufort Strategic Plan 2003-2008](#)
- [v SCCHE Performance Indicator outlined in Act 359 \(59-103-15\), SC Code of Laws, 1976, as amended](#)
- [vi SCCHE Policy & Procedures for Approval of New or Revised Mission Statements](#)
- [vii Office of Institutional Effectiveness & Research Annual Report](#)
- [viii USC Beaufort Mission](#)
- [ix USC Beaufort Bulletin](#)

<u>x</u>	<u>USC Beaufort Student Handbook</u>
<u>xi</u>	<u>December 7, 2001</u>
<u>xii</u>	<u>February 8, 2002</u>
<u>xiii</u>	<u>June 6, 2002</u>
<u>xiv</u>	<u>November 24, 2003</u>
<u>xv</u>	<u>December 16, 2003</u>
<u>xvi</u>	<u>February 20, 2004</u>
<u>xvii</u>	<u>January 8, 2008</u>