

CS 3.5.3 - Undergraduate Program Requirements

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.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) defines and publishes general education and major program requirements for all programs on the USC Beaufort website [i]. These requirements are explained to new undergraduates during mandatory orientation [ii]. In addition, undergraduates are also informed about requirements by department chairs and faculty members as well as by academic advisors.

These requirements conform to commonly accepted standards and practices for degree programs. Such conformity is assured in four major ways.

First, all content for academic programs (including general education) are developed by faculty and all academic proposals follow the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SCCHE) Guidelines [iii] Thus, the process ensures that standards and practices are monitored and maintained.

Second, the USC Beaufort Mission Statement [iv] indicates USC Beaufort's commitment to offering programs "...that respond to regional needs, draw upon regional strengths ...". Business, Education, Hospitality Management, Nursing, and Human Services are examples of such 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."

Third, all degree programs publish program learning outcomes, goals [v] and a rationale for the way in which programs are sequenced [vi]. Student learning outcomes are also published in the USC Beaufort Bulletin. For example, students who graduate with a B.A. in English should [vii]:

- be effective critical thinkers, analyzers, and close readers of literature
- be sensitive to genre, historical period, tone, style, nuance, and detail
- be strong writers, able to formulate a thesis, organize a complex idea, support it with appropriate evidence, and render it in coherent, grammatical, and properly punctuated written English
- have a broad historical understanding of the development of English and American literature
- understand the intellectual and aesthetic trends characteristic of major historical periods and major literary and artistic movements

- understand the fundamentals of linguistics and understanding the historical development of the English language
- have a sense of Western intellectual/philosophical history appropriate to their area of interest in English
- have a broad background in European or American history appropriate to their interests in English
- know how to conduct literary research using MLA bibliography and important databases such as JSTOR, Project Muse, Expanded Academic ASAP, etc.
- understand the basic theoretical lenses often brought to bear upon literature

Fourth, course descriptions and requirements for majors (including general education requirements, are available on the website and in the Bulletin [viii]. A comparison of USC Beaufort's descriptions and requirements with those of our sister institutions at USC Aiken [ix] and USC Upstate [x] demonstrate that USC Beaufort is conforming to commonly accepted standards and practices for degree programs within the USC system.

Finally, where appropriate, USC Beaufort programs meet specialized accreditation requirements; examples include Early Childhood Education and Nursing.

Supporting Documentation

- i [USCB Beaufort General Education Major Program Requirements](#)
- ii [USC Beaufort Orientation](#)
- iii [South Carolina Commission on Higher Education \(SCCHE\) Guidelines](#)
- iv [USC Beaufort Mission](#)
- v [Program Learning Outcomes and Goals](#)
- vi [Program Rationale](#)
- vii [English Degree Program Learning Outcomes and Goals](#)
- viii [Degree Programs Course Descriptions and Requirements](#)
- ix [USC Aiken](#)
- x [USC Upstate](#)