

FR 4.4 - Program Length

Program length is appropriate for each of the institution's educational programs.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) adheres to the best practices of determining program length as implemented by the USC system. All University of South Carolina Beaufort baccalaureate degrees require a minimum of 120 credit hours, and all USC Beaufort associate degrees require a minimum of 60 credit hours [i]. These minimums reflect national norms and are based upon a traditional full-time schedule of 15 hours per semester taken over 4 semesters (two academic years) for an associate degree and 8 semesters (four academic years) for a baccalaureate degree.

The curricula for all USC Beaufort degree programs, including program length, are approved by appropriate department chairs, USC Beaufort's Courses and Curricula Committee, USC Beaufort's Faculty Senate, and the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Some USC Beaufort professional degrees require more than 120 credit hours. When this is the case, the additional required credit hours have been approved by the appropriate Department Chair, USC Beaufort's Courses and Curricula Committee, USC Beaufort's Faculty Senate, and the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; these additional credit hours are generally required to meet the demands of both USC Beaufort's general education program and those of state or professional accreditation agencies.

Table 1 Degree Credit Hour Requirements

USC Beaufort Degree	Degree Type	Credit Hours Required
Associate in Arts	A.A.	60
Associate in Science	A.S.	60
Biology	B.S.	120
Business Administration	B.S.	120
Early Childhood Education	B.A.	122
English	B.A.	120
History	B.A.	120
Hospitality Management	B.S.	120
Human Services	B.S.	120
Liberal Studies	B.A.	120
Nursing (RN-BSN)	B.S.N.	127
Psychology	B.A.	120
Spanish	B.A.	120

All USC Beaufort degree programs have mapped their curricula [\[ii\]](#) to ensure that these curricula meet all of their programs' stated outcomes within the confines of their designated program length.

Supporting Documentation

[i](#) [USC Beaufort Bulletin](#)

[ii](#) [USC Beaufort Curricula Maps](#)