



FR 4.4 | Program Length

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

Compliance Finding: IN COMPLIANCE

Narrative:

Program Length

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USCB) adheres to the best practices of determining program length as required by USC system policy [ACAF 2.00 p 6](#), and external accrediting agencies. All baccalaureate degrees require a minimum of 120 credit hours, and all associate degrees require a minimum of 60 credit hours. Undergraduate certificates require a minimum of 15 credit hours. 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. Certificates can be completed in one year. Within a major, a minor (minimum 18 hours), cognate (minimum 12 hours) or concentration (minimum 15 hours) may also be available ([ACAF 2.00 p 6-9](#)). Programs of Study, including the length of each program, are published in the University Bulletin which is available on the [Registrar's website](#) and by hardcopy upon request.

Table 1: Academic Programs of Study

| Degree Type* | Program of Study | Credit Hours |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Baccalaureate | | |
| B.S. | Biology | 120 |
| B.S. | Business Administration | 120 |
| <i>Concentration</i> | <i>Accounting</i> | 15 |
| <i>Concentration</i> | <i>Management</i> | 15 |
| <i>Concentration</i> | <i>Marketing</i> | 15 |
| B.A. | Communication Studies | 120 |
| B.S. | Computational Science | 120 |
| B.A. | Early Childhood Education | 123 |
| B.A. | Elementary Education | 123 |
| B.A. | English | 120 |
| <i>Concentration</i> | <i>Writing</i> | 15 |
| B.S. | Health Promotion | 120 |
| B.A. | History | 120 |
| B.S. | Hospitality Management | 120 |
| B.S. | Human Services | 120 |
| B.A. | Liberal Studies | 120 |
| BSN | Nursing | 127 |
| B.A. | Psychology | 120 |
| B.A. | Sociology | 120 |
| B.A. | Spanish | 120 |
| <i>Concentration</i> | <i>Spanish – General Major</i> | 15 |
| <i>Concentration</i> | <i>Spanish – Heritage Speakers</i> | 15 |
| B.A. | Studio Art | 120 |
| Associate | | |
| A.A. | Associate in Arts | 60 |
| A.S. | Associate in Science | 60 |
| Certificate | | |
| Certificate | Professional/Business Spanish | 24 |
| Certificate | Hispanic Studies/Culture | 24 |

*Concentrations and Certificates in abeyance are not included in this table

Criteria and Processes Used to Determine Program Length

Faculty members developing degree programs use a variety of criteria to determine program length and to guide curriculum development. These include program and student learning outcomes; comparison of like programs with peers in the state, region, and nation; external accrediting agencies when applicable; and best practices in the discipline. Moreover, the curricula for all USCB degree programs and modifications, including program length, must be approved through shared governance. The process includes consideration and approval by program and department faculty, the Department Chair, the Courses and Curricula Committee, the Faculty Senate, the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs who is the Chief Academic Officer, the Chancellor, the USC system President and the Board of Trustees. Once these approvals have been obtained, new programs and modifications must be considered and approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (SCCHE), SACSCOC, and

the specialized accrediting agency (SPA) if applicable. Some degrees, such as Nursing, Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education, require more than 120 credit hours. This is due to curriculum requirements mandated by state regulations and external accreditors. The program approval process is the same regardless of the degree. A [tracking document](#) has been developed to ensure all approvals are received.

Distance Education

As defined in ACAF 2.00, pp 8-9, all programs regardless of delivery method or delivery location, maintain the same program length, the same program learning outcomes, and the same student learning outcomes. While USCB offers some general education courses online, and some programs offer blended/hybrid or online courses via distance education, no degree may be earned entirely online at this time. USCB does not offer correspondence education. Dual enrollment students attend classes on campus.

Supporting Documents

1. [ACAF 2.00](#)
2. [Registrar's Website—University Bulletin](#)
3. [Elementary Education Tracking Document](#)
4. [Programs of Study \(combined\)](#)