

November 4, 2004

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Vermelle J. Johnson, Chair, and Members, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing

**Informational Report on the
Academic Common Market Program
FY 2003-04**

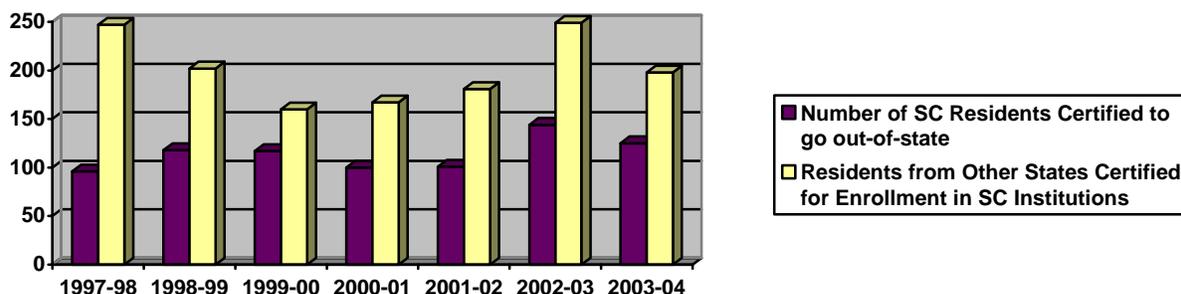
Established in 1974 by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the Academic Common Market program was designed “to share between states specified degree programs located at southern public colleges and universities through an exchange of students across borders at in-state rates.” As a cooperative agreement among states, the Academic Common Market seeks to eliminate unnecessary duplication of degree programs among states while supporting those programs which are able to serve additional students. The Market allows residents of the 16 participating states (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia) to pay in-state tuition rates while enrolled in certain degree programs at participating out-of-state colleges or universities. Florida, North Carolina, and Texas participate at the graduate level only.

Since one of the goals of the Academic Common Market is to provide access to degree programs not available in the home state, each participating state compiles its own list of programs for access by its residents. In accord with SREB policy, eligible programs are those undergraduate and graduate programs which are at least 50 percent different in curricular content from programs offered in the home state. During annual reviews, each state’s institutional coordinator decides whether new programs should be added and whether any should be removed. In addition, students can request throughout the year inclusion of other programs.

In South Carolina, interested students must contact the Commission on Higher Education for access to the Academic Common Market. This process involves two steps. First, Commission staff must determine whether the student has satisfied the required **one-year** period of residence in the State. Second, Commission staff must verify that the student has been admitted to one of the specific programs to which South Carolina residents have access. These programs, 147 undergraduate and 157 graduate programs, are listed in **Attachment 1**. Once the student has been certified, the student will retain Academic Common Market status as long as the student remains enrolled in the degree program on a full-time basis and as long as the student retains South Carolina residency.

During the April 1, 2003 - March 31, 2004 period, South Carolina certified 125 state residents for participation in the Academic Common Market. During this same period, 210 residents from other states were certified for enrollment in South Carolina institutions (**Attachment 2**). In relationship to other participating states, South Carolina institutions received the third highest number of Academic Common Market students from other states. Tennessee received the most students with 603 certifications and West Virginia received 250 student certifications.

In terms of sending its residents to programs in other states, with 125 certifications, South Carolina ranks eighth out of 16 (after Virginia - 546; Maryland - 262; Georgia - 247; Tennessee - 191; Kentucky - 160; Louisiana - 148; and Arkansas - 132). As in the past, there is no discernable trend other than South Carolina continues to bring into the state more students than it certifies to go out-of-state through the Academic Common Market.



- During FY 2003-04, the majority of South Carolina Academic Common Market students were ACM certified for programs in Tennessee (40) and Georgia (38). In Tennessee the most requested program was the Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry offered at Middle Tennessee State University (13). In Georgia the two most requested programs were the Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering (6) followed closely by the Bachelor of Science in Nuclear & Radiological Engineering (5), both offered at Georgia Institute of Technology.

- The two most popular programs overall for South Carolina residents were the Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering program offered at various institutions (21) followed by the Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry at Middle Tennessee State University (13).

In Fall of 2003 South Carolina institutions had a total of 500 out-of-state students enrolled with Academic Common Market status. Once again, the S.C. program with the most ACM students that semester was the Marine Biology program offered at Coastal Carolina University with a total of 333 students (**Attachment 3**).

The 64 programs currently made available through the Academic Common Market by South Carolina institutions are listed in **Attachment 4**.

To advertise this valuable program, which costs the state nothing, in April 2004, Academic Common Market information was transmitted electronically to over 600 high school and middle school guidance counselors.

This report is being presented for information only.

/jb

Attachments:

- 1) ACM Programs available to SC residents.
- 2) ACM Certifications April 1, 2003, to March 31, 2004
- 3) ACM Students Enrolled in SC Programs, Fall 2003
- 4) Programs made available through the ACM by SC Institutions