

October 6, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Layton R. McCurdy, Chairman, and Members, Commission on Higher Education

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

**Annual Report on the
Academic Common Market Program
FY 2004-05**

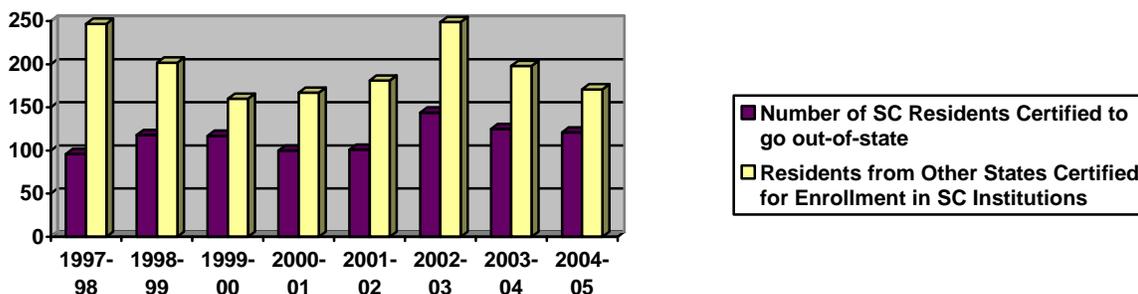
Established in 1974 by the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the Academic Common Market program was designed “to share between states specified degree programs located at southern public colleges and universities through an exchange of students across borders at in-state rates.” As a cooperative 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 and 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 course 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. Secondly, the 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, 151 undergraduate and 163 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, 2004, through March 31, 2005, period, South Carolina certified 121 state residents for participation in the Academic Common Market. During this same period, 171 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 fifth highest number (171) of Academic Common Market students from other states. Texas received the most students with 605 certifications and West Virginia was next highest with 269 student certifications.

In terms of sending its residents to programs in other states, with 121 certifications, South Carolina ranks eighth out of 16 (after Virginia - 423; Maryland - 357; Georgia - 244; Tennessee - 172; Louisiana - 166; Mississippi - 144; and Kentucky - 122). 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 2004-05, the majority of South Carolina Academic Common Market students were ACM certified for programs in Tennessee (51) and Georgia (28). In Tennessee the most requested program was the Bachelor of Science in Recording Industry offered at Middle Tennessee State University (13) and the Bachelor of Art in Legal Studies at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville coming in a distant second (7). 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 Recording Industry at Middle Tennessee State University (13) followed closely by the Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering program offered at various institutions (11).

In Fall of 2004 South Carolina institutions had a total of 423 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 Bachelor of Science in Marine Science program offered at Coastal Carolina University with a total of 265 students (**Attachment 3**).

The College of Charleston officially withdrew from the Academic Common Market effective Fall 2005, taking with it their two programs, the MS in Environmental Studies and the MS in Marine Biology.

The 66 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, the Academic Common Market information will be transmitted electronically this fall to over 600 high school and middle school guidance counselors.

This report is being presented for information only.

/jb

Attachments:

- 1) Out-of-State Programs available to S.C. residents through the ACM
- 2) Multi-State Matrix of all ACM Certifications April 1, 2004, to March 31, 2005
- 3) Out-of-State ACM Students Enrolled in S.C. Programs, Fall 2004
- 4) Current S.C. Programs made available to other states through the ACM