



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman John L. Finan and Members, S.C. Commission on Higher Education

From: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chairman, Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing, and Members

Report on Program Productivity, Fall 2008 - Fall 2012

Background

In 2002, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education adopted a policy on program productivity which provides for the biennial review of enrollment and degrees awarded in all degree programs by all public four-year colleges and universities in South Carolina. The policy is available on the Commission's website at http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/AcademicAffairs/Prog_Productivity_Policies_11-2002.pdf.

The attached report provides a list of academic degree programs identified through the review process as non-compliant with program productivity standards based on enrollment and number of degrees awarded during the review period. Institutions were asked to review these programs, comment upon their continued viability, and report their intended actions for resolving productivity issues. This fifth biennial report covers the 2008 to 2012 period and contains findings from the Commission on Higher Education Management Information System (CHEMIS) program data, responses from the institutions, staff analysis, and staff recommendations for the continuation or termination of the programs identified as non-compliant.

Evaluation Policy and Procedures

The policy and procedures for this biennial academic degree program productivity review are identical to those used in the 2009 and 2012 analyses. They require programs offered at public four-year institutions in the state to be evaluated in terms of rolling five-year averages for enrollment and degrees awarded. The following criteria apply:

1. Each baccalaureate program must either produce an average of at least 5 degrees awarded or enroll an average of 12.5 students (headcount) in the program over the most recent five-year period.

2. Each master's program must either produce an average of at least 3 degrees awarded or enroll an average of at least 6 students (headcount) in the program over the most recent five-year period.
3. Each doctoral program must either produce an average of at least 2 degrees awarded or enroll an average of at least 4.5 students (headcount) in the program over the most recent five-year period.

Data sources used for this review are CHEMIS and the Commission's *Academic Degree Program Inventory*. Academic degree programs that meet **at least one of the two productivity standards** automatically receive continuing approval status from the Commission. Programs which fail to meet both the enrollment and degree completion criterion for the biennial review are placed on probation (i.e., provisional approval status), recommended for termination, or, in very rare circumstances, exempted from program productivity standards. Institutions may on their own initiative decide to terminate underperforming programs of study at any time by notifying the Commission on Higher Education.

During the period of probation of an academic program, an institution is expected to enhance degree program enrollment and degrees awarded. A plan to enhance productivity is required to be submitted to the Commission within 60 days of the Commission's action declaring the program's probationary status. At the end of a program's probationary period, which may extend over a four-year period of two biennial reviews, the Commission will recommend either continuing approval status for programs meeting program productivity standards or, except in extenuating circumstances, termination of programs that failed to meet the standards in three consecutive biennial reviews. If warranted, the Commission will remove probationary status from programs as early as the next biennial program productivity review.

The Commission will entertain individual program exemptions to the academic program productivity standards under very limited circumstances and then only if convincing justification can be provided. Programs approved for exemption must be 1) considered essential to the basic mission of the American university (i.e., the arts and sciences); 2) deemed so unique in their subject matter and value to the higher education community in South Carolina that at least one of them is essential to the State's program inventory; 3) considered pre-professional (e.g., Pre-Dentistry and Pre-Medicine) not as degree programs *per se* but as mechanisms for allowing students to leave the institution a year early for entering first-professional degree programs; or 4) represent "stop-out" Master's degrees for programs which typically graduate only at the doctoral level but provide "early out" opportunities to recognize students' accomplishments when they are unable to complete the terminal degree. It should be noted that any "uniqueness" criterion for exemption will rarely be applied to doctoral programs, which very infrequently duplicate each other and which have very modest productivity requirements (an average of 2 graduates per year or 4.5 enrolled students per year over a five-year period).

Program exemption requests may be filed for any degree level. They first must be approved by the chief academic officer and president of the institution and then sent in writing to the Commission. In most cases in which the Commission awards an exemption, it will be for the lifetime of the degree program. The awarding of exemptions is used very sparingly, however, because without a critical mass of students, even at the modest levels of the productivity standards, the quality of a program is too easily compromised in terms of curricular offerings, diversity of professors, student interactions, etc.

Summary of Process

For the current report, each university received a list of the non-compliant academic programs identified by the staff review for the 2009 to 2012 academic years. The institutions were requested 1) to review the list of programs; 2) to submit any corrections to the data; 3) and to inform staff whether each of the programs cited should be maintained, altered, terminated, or exempted from the policy.

In keeping with the 2012 guidelines for the program productivity review process, any program that received an average score no more than 0.2 points away from meeting enrollment or degrees awarded standards (as defined by the Commission) was rounded up to match the standard score and given full approval status.

Summary of Current Report Findings on Data from Fall 2008-2012

For the five-year period 2008-2012, this study found 769 programs of study eligible for analysis as programs which had been implemented for more than five years. Twenty-three of these programs (2.9%) were found to be non-compliant with enrollment and graduation standards, an increase from the 2.6% of non-compliant programs identified in both the 2012 and 2009 reports and a decrease from the 3.9% of non-compliant programs identified in the 2006 report.

Table 1. Number of Non-Compliant Degree Programs Identified for the Five-year Period, 2008-2012

Institution	Bachelor	Master	Doctoral	Total
Citadel	-	2	-	2
Clemson	-	-	-	0
Coastal Carolina	-	-	-	0
College of Charleston	-	-	-	0
Francis Marion	1	-	-	1
Lander	1	-	-	1
MUSC	-	-	1	1
SC State	1	-	-	1
USC Aiken	1	-	-	1
USC Beaufort	-	-	-	0
USC Columbia	6	8	2	16
USC Upstate	-	-	-	0
Winthrop	-	-	-	0
Total Non-compliant	10	10	3	23

Total Programs: 769

Percent Non-compliant: 2.9%

As shown in Table 1, the following six institutions achieved 100% compliance ratings for their academic programs of study: **Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Winthrop University, USC Beaufort, and USC Upstate**. These institutions are to

be commended for their level of achievement. **Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Lander University, and USC Beaufort** achieved total compliance in 2012 as well. Seven institutions (Francis Marion University, Lander University, Medical University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University and USC Aiken) had only one program that was not compliant. Of the remaining institutions with non-compliant programs, one (The Citadel) had two programs, and one (USC Columbia) had 16 programs that were not compliant.

In response to the program productivity data analyzed during this review, each institution was given the charge to determine the continued viability of their identified programs. As a result, Francis Marion University terminated one program and South Carolina State University terminated two programs that were unsuccessful in meeting the required program productivity standards. These terminated programs are not included in the totals below. The Commission highly commends Francis Marion University and South Carolina State University for taking responsible actions in light of their respective programs' productivity performance.

Table 2 lists the non-compliant identified through the review process. Of the 23 non-compliant programs identified in this report, the sponsoring institutions *requested* that:

- 0 programs be *terminated*;
- 6 programs be recommended for *exemption*; and
- 17 programs be granted *provisional approval*;

For these programs, the Commission staff *recommends* that:

- 0 programs be *terminated*;
- 5 programs receive *exempt* status; and
- 18 programs be placed on *provisional approval* status.

Table 2. Non-Compliant Degree Programs for Public Four-Year Institutions

Degree Level	Program	CIP	Enrollment Average	Completions Average	Institutional Request	Staff Recommendation
The Citadel						
Master	Mathematics Teacher Education	131311	4.8	2.2	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	English Language Teacher Education	230101	4.8	2.8	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Francis Marion University						
Bachelor	Liberal Arts and Sciences	240101	3.6	4	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Lander University						
Bachelor	Criminal Justice	430103	11	2	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Medical University of South Carolina						
Doctorate	Pharmacology	261001	4.2	0.6	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
South Carolina State University						
Bachelor	Junior High/Intermediate Level Education	131203	8.8	0.6	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
University of South Carolina Aiken						
Bachelor	Liberal Arts and Sciences	240101	1.6	1.4	Exemption	Provisional Approval

University of South Carolina (Columbia)						
Bachelor	European Studies	50106	5.8	1.8	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Latin American Studies	50107	4.2	1.6	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Geophysics	400603	10.6	2.2	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Classics	161200	7.6	2.4	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Comparative Literature	160104	5.6	1.2	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae – Honors College	240199	8.8	4.8	Exemption	Exemption
Master	Comparative Literature	160104	4	2.2	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	French Language	160901	5.2	2.8	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	German Language	160501	4.6	1.6	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	Political Science	451001	0.6	1	Exemption	Exemption
Master	Experimental Psychology	422704	2.2	2.4	Exemption	Exemption
Master	Pharmaceutical Sciences	512003	0.2	1.2	Exemption	Exemption
Master	Software Engineering	140903	1.2	0.6	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	Community Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing	513810	0.6	0.2	Exemption	Exemption
Doctorate	Musical Arts	500904	2.6	0.2	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Doctorate	Music Education	131312	2.6	1.2	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval

Table 3. Non-Compliant Degree Programs Identified by Field

Institution	Engineering	Foreign Language	Health Fields	Music	Sciences	Social Sciences and Humanities	Teacher Education	Other	Total
Citadel							2		2
Clemson									
Coastal Carolina									
College of Charleston									
Francis Marion						1			1
Lander						1			1
MUSC			1						1
SC State							1		1
USC Aiken						1			1
USC Beaufort									
USC Columbia	1	2	2	1	2	6	1	1	16
USC Upstate									
Winthrop									
Total	1	2	3	1	2	9	4	1	23

The non-compliant programs identified encompass several different fields as shown in Table 3. Program-specific results, institutional responses, and staff recommendations are presented below.

THE CITADEL

Total Reviewed Programs: 32

Non-compliant Programs: 2

Percent of Reviewed Programs that were Non-compliant: 6.2%

Non-compliant Programs

Degree Level	Program	CIP Code	Enrollment Average	Completions Average	2009 Status	2012 Status	Institution Request	Staff Recommendation
Master	Mathematics Teacher Education	131311	4.8		PA	PA	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	English Language Teacher Education	230101	4.8	2.2	-	-	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval

Institutional Request and Explanation:

The Citadel requests provisional approval for the program leading to the M.Ed. degree in Mathematics Teacher Education. The institution states that the program is the only non-certification master's program for mathematics teachers in the region combining education and mathematics content. The College has made a major commitment to building the sciences and mathematics in South Carolina by establishing the STEM Center of Excellence (Science Technology Engineering and Math). The Center has been successful in bringing students and teachers to the Citadel for "hands-on" learning experiences, and is expected to continue to be a major recruiting tool for the institution. The institution states the program requires minimal additional resources because the majority of required and elective courses are offered as a part of the M.A.T. program.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges the Citadel's effort to fill the need for the secondary mathematic teachers and commends the institution on the establishment of the STEM Center and other various other initiatives to improve enrollment and graduate averages in the mathematics teacher education. However, this non-unique program does not meet policy standards for exemption. As this program did not meet productivity standards in 2009 and 2012 and currently remains out of compliance, provisional approval will give the program one reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

The Citadel requests provisional approval for the program leading to the M.Ed. degree in English Language Teacher Education. The institution states that it strongly believes in the teacher preparation programs. The institution recognizes there is a need to ensure there are enough qualified teacher candidates to adequately fill the supply and demand gap in the state. Plans are being discussed to develop new enrollment strategies to increase the number of students matriculating into and completing the degree program.

Recommendation:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends to the Commission provisional approval for the M.Ed. in Mathematics Teacher Education and the M.Ed. in English Language Teacher Education at The Citadel.

FRANCIS MARION UNIVERSITY

Total Reviewed Programs: 32

Non-compliant Programs: 1

Percent of Reviewed Programs that were Non-compliant: 3.1%

Non-compliant Program

Degree Level	Program	CIP Code	Enrollment Average	Completions Average	2009 Status	2012 Status	Institution Request	Staff Recommendation
Bachelor	Liberal Arts and Sciences	240101	3.6	4	-	PA	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval

Institutional Request and Explanation:

Francis Marion University requests provisional approval for the program leading to the B.A. degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences. The institution states that the program is interdisciplinary and assembled from existing courses at the institution and therefore imposes little additional cost to the institution. The program is offered primarily for the benefit of adult learners who have earned numerous college credits at other institutions and in various disciplines over an extended period of time. A faculty committee reviews applications and rigorously controls entry into the program. Once a student is accepted to the program, the student is assigned an academic advisor who will assist the student in choosing an area of concentration. The Liberal Arts and Sciences program was developed as a small program with the intention of targeting a specific audience and producing relatively few graduates. In addition, the most current review of the program indicates a sufficient increase in the number of students majoring in Liberal Arts to now allow the program to meet the required productivity standards.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges Francis Marion's effort to revise the program to increase enrollment and completions. South Carolina has a significant adult population who lack college degrees and could benefit from this program. Staff agrees that the program's non-compliant status has not been a long-term problem, but encourages the institution to consider enhancing and expanding the current marketing strategies for this general studies program. Staff also acknowledges that a review of the current data does indicate the program is on track to meet the required productivity standards. Provisional approval will give the program one reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

Recommendation:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends to the Commission provisional approval for the B.A. in Liberal Arts and Sciences at Francis Marion University.

LANDER UNIVERSITY

Total Reviewed Programs: 25

Non-compliant Programs: 1

Percent of Reviewed Programs that were Non-compliant: 4.0%

Non-compliant Program

Degree Level	Program	CIP Code	Enrollment Average	Completions Average	2009 Status	2012 Status	Institution Request	Staff Recommendation
Bachelor	Criminal Justice	430103	11	2	-	-	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval

Institutional Request and Explanation:

Lander University requests provisional approval for the program leading to the B.S. degree in Criminal Justice Management. The institution will invest in a four prong strategy to market and promote the program. The institution will make direct contact with program managers at the technical colleges with the highest student enrollment in criminal justice programs and reestablish a relationship with the South Carolina Department of Corrections to investigate how to position marketing efforts towards their employees.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges and commends the institution for its plans to increase enrollment and completions. Staff agrees with the institution's request for *provisional approval* for this program. Provisional approval will give the program one reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

Recommendation:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends to the Commission provisional approval for the B.S. in Criminal Justice Management at Lander University.

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Total Reviewed Programs: 26

Non-compliant Programs: 1

Percent of Reviewed Programs that were Non-compliant: 3.8%

Non-compliant Program

Degree Level	Program	CIP Code	Enrollment Average	Completions Average	2009 Status	2012 Status	Institution Request	Staff Recommendation
Doctorate	Pharmacology	261001 1	4.2	0.6	-	PA	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval

Institutional Requests and Explanations:

The Medical University of South Carolina requests provisional approval for the program leading to the Ph.D. degree in Pharmacology. The institution states that several of the program’s senior faculty members recently retired, and as a result, the Director of the pharmacy program decided to suspend new graduate student admissions until a critical mass of faculty were in place. As of 2011, a new chairman and three new faculty members have been recruited. The program has three doctoral students who are in their fourth year and one in her fifth year of study, all of whom are on track to graduate in 2015.

Staff Response:

The staff agrees with the University’s decision to discontinue the admittance of graduate students to the program until a critical mass of faculty was in place. Staff encourages the College of Pharmacy to continue to enhance internal and external efforts to increase enrollment and graduation numbers. Provisional approval will give the program one reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

Recommendation:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends to the Commission provisional approval for the Ph.D. in Pharmacology at the Medical University of South Carolina.

South Carolina State University

Total Reviewed Programs: 54

Non-compliant Programs: 1

Percent of Reviewed Programs that were Non-compliant: 1.9%

Non-compliant Program

Degree Level	Program	CIP Code	Enrollment Average	Completions Average	2009 Status	2012 Status	Institution Request	Staff Recommendation
Bachelor	Junior High/Intermediate Level Education	131203	8.8	0.6	-	-	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval

Institutional Request and Explanation:

South Carolina State University requests provisional approval for the program leading to the M.Ed. in Junior High/Intermediate Level Education degree. The institution states that enrollment in this program has progressively increased over the last few years to approximately 24 students in Spring 2013. The institution's School of Education will continue its successful recruitment efforts as it partners with the Division of Enrollment Management. The Junior High/Intermediate Level Education program is a critical needs area in the South Carolina. An Academic Program Coordinator has been appointed to the middle level program. Under the Coordinator's leadership, the University plans to foster relationships with school superintendents to assist with the support of the Middle Level Education teacher candidates' programs and services.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges South Carolina State University's effort to revise the program to increase enrollment and completions. Staff agrees that the program's non-compliant status has not been a long-term problem, but encourages the institution to consider enhancing and expanding current marketing strategies for the program. Provisional approval will give the program one reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

Recommendation:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends to the Commission provisional approval for the M.Ed. in Junior High/Intermediate Level Education at South Carolina State University.

USC Aiken

Total Reviewed Programs: 21

Non-compliant Programs: 1

Percent of Reviewed Programs that were Non-compliant: 4.7%

Non-compliant Program

Degree Level	Program	CIP Code	Enrollment Average	Completions Average	2009 Status	2012 Status	Institution Request	Staff Recommendation
Bachelor	Liberal Arts and Sciences	240101	1.6	1.4	-	PA	Exemption	Provisional Approval

Institutional Requests and Explanations:

The University of South Carolina Aiken requests *exemption* for the program leading to the B.A. degree in Liberal Arts. The institution states that faculty has revised the Liberal Arts program to make it stronger. A new coordinator was appointed in 2012 and two new courses have been developed to inform students about interdisciplinary programs and to create interest in the program. The institution also states that the budget for the program is minimal. Because of the low cost, and its centrality to the institution's liberal arts and sciences mission, the institution requests an exemption.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges USC Aiken's effort to revise the program and address the issue of enrollment and completion standards. Staff recognizes that this program imposes little additional cost to the institution; however, the relative cost of a program is not part of the standard for productivity status. Provisional approval will give the program one reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

Recommendation:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends to the Commission provisional approval for the B.A. in Liberal Arts at USC Aiken.

USC COLUMBIA

Total Reviewed Programs: 222

Non-compliant Programs: 16

Percent of Reviewed Programs that were Non-compliant: 7.2%

Non-compliant Programs

Degree Level	Program	CIP Code	Enrollment Average	Completions Average	2009 Status	2012 Status	Institution Request	Staff Recommendation
Bachelor	European Studies	50106	5.8	1.8	PA	PA	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Latin American Studies	50107	4.2	1.6	PA	PA	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Geophysics	400603	10.6	2.2	-	-	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Classics	161200	7.6	2.4	-	-	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Comparative Literature	160104	5.6	1.2	-	-	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Bachelor	Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae – Honors College	240199	8.8	4.8	-	-	Exemption	Exemption
Master	Comparative Literature	160104	4	2.2	-	-	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	French Language	160901	5.2	2.8	PA	PA	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	German Language	160501	4.6	1.6	PA	PA	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	Political Science	451001	0.6	1	-	-	Exemption	Exemption
Master	Experimental Psychology	422704	2.2	2.4	-	-	Exemption	Exemption
Master	Pharmaceutical Sciences	512003	0.2	1.2	-	-	Exemption	Exemption
Master	Software Engineering	140903	1.2	0.6	PA	PA	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Master	Community Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing	513810	0.6	0.2	PA	-	Exemption	Exemption
Doctorate	Musical Arts	500904	2.6	0.2	-	-	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval
Doctorate	Music Teacher Education	131312	2.6	1.2	-	-	Provisional Approval	Provisional Approval

Institutional Requests and Explanations:

The University of South Carolina requests *provisional approval* for the programs leading to the B.A. degree in European Studies and the B.A. degree in Latin American Studies.

The institution indicates that the programs have continued to remain small, which has led the

institution to conclude that a total reconceptualization of the two programs under the larger umbrella of a global studies degree program is the best course of action. The institution states that terminating the European Studies and the Latin American Studies majors at this point before the global studies degree program is established would represent no savings to the University. Required course offerings, which also serve other majors, would continue as before.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges and commends the institution's decision to merge the two degree programs under the larger umbrella of a global studies degree program. However, the programs remain out of compliance with program productivity standards for the fifth cycle in a row. While the productivity policy allowed for a recommendation of termination during the third cycle of not meeting program productivity, staff determined that a recommendation of provisional approval is appropriate given the plans for the substantive change presented.

The University of South Carolina requests *provisional approval* for the program leading to the B.S. degree in Geophysics. The institution states that the B.S. in Geophysics is the only one of its kind in the state. The program's specialized nature also makes it the only program available to students in specific states across the region through the SREB Academic Common Market. The degree in Geophysics is a specialized option focusing on the physics of the earth including seismology, oceanography, and volcanology. The institution states that the recent increase in domestic oil and gas exploration as well as the potential for petroleum off-shore near South Carolina makes the degree increasingly important to the state.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges the Geophysics program's uniqueness and importance to the Academic Common Market and agrees with the institution's request for *provisional approval* for this program. Provisional approval will give the program two reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

The University of South Carolina requests *provisional approval* for the program leading to the B.A. degree in Classics. The institution states that the Classics program is one of only two such programs at public institutions in the state. In addition to its majors, the Classics program serves students in general education and offers courses applicable to a number of other undergraduate majors. All courses for the Classics major are populated by a range of other majors in the humanities, so that students interact with peers working on questions and problems from a variety of perspectives.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges the significance of the program to the state and agrees that the program's non-compliant status has not been a long-term problem; however, it is important to remain vigilant to ensure the program stays on track with the required program productivity standards. Provisional approval will give the program two reporting cycles to comply with program productivity standards.

The University of South Carolina requests *provisional approval* for the program leading to the B.A. degree in Comparative Literature. The institution states that the B.A. degree in Comparative Literature is the only program of its kind in the state. The National Research Council's latest rankings, released in Fall 2010, place the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature as 10th nationally among comparative literature programs at public universities. Faculty who teach in the doctoral program in Comparative Literature also teach the undergraduate courses,

providing undergraduates with top-tier scholarly expertise. All courses for the Comparative Literature major are populated by a range of other majors in the humanities, in particular foreign language majors and English majors, so that students interact with peers working on questions and problems from a variety of perspectives.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges the importance of the program to the institution and the state. Staff agrees with the institution's request for *provisional approval* for this program. Provisional approval will give the program two reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

The University of South Carolina requests *provisional approval* for the program leading to the M.A. degree in Comparative Literature. The institution states that the Master of Arts in Comparative Literature is the only program of its kind in the state. Moreover, it is an important part of a constellation of programs that feed into the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature. The National Research Council's latest rankings, released in Fall 2010, place the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature as 10th nationally among comparative literature programs at public universities. Students looking to complete the doctoral program in Comparative Literature may come from a range of academic background backgrounds. Given the range of options, the number of students who complete the Master of Arts in Comparative Literature in any given year will be small.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges the importance of the program to the institution and the state. Staff agrees with the institution's request for *provisional approval* for this program. Provisional approval will give the program two reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

The University of South Carolina requests an *exemption* for the program leading to the BARSC degree (Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae - Honors College). The "BARSC" degree is the most selective undergraduate degree program at the University of South Carolina, and one of the most selective in the country. Students must develop a program of study approved by a panel consisting of an Associate Dean and the Dean of the Honors College as well as two faculty members chosen by the student from fields reflecting the student's interests. Each Baccalaureus student's program of study is completely individualized to serve that student's particular interests and aspirations. Baccalaureus students must satisfy the general education requirements for both the B.S. and B.A. degrees and take a language through the third year. The required Senior Thesis/Project (9-15 credits) represents the student's effort to pull the strands of this unique educational opportunity together in an extended research/scholarly experience.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges the program's uniqueness and agrees with the institution's request for an *exemption* for this program.

The University of South Carolina requests *provisional approval* for the program leading to the M.A. degree in French Language. The institution states that the program is the only program of its kind in the state. Moreover, the M.A. in French is an important part of a constellation of programs that feed into the Ph.D. degree program in Comparative Literature. The rigorous preparation provided by the M.A. in French enables students to be accepted into

and succeed in the Comparative Literature doctoral program. The Master of Arts in French also shares content coursework with the Master of Arts in Teaching, Foreign Languages.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges that foreign language programs are important to the state as well as to teaching and employment across many professions and agrees with the institution's request for *provisional approval*. However, this program was provisionally approved in 2009 and 2012 and remains out of compliance with productivity standards. Failure to bring the program into compliance for the 2016 review will render this program eligible for a recommendation for termination. Provisional approval will give the program one reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

The University of South Carolina requests *provisional approval* for the program leading to the M.A. degree in German Language. The institution states that the Master of Arts in German is the only program of its kind in the state. Moreover, the M.A. in German is an important part of a constellation of programs that feed into the Ph.D. degree program in Comparative Literature. The rigorous preparation provided by the M.A. in German enables students to be accepted into and succeed in the Comparative Literature doctoral program. The Master of Arts in German also shares content course work (German) with the Master of Arts in Teaching, Foreign Languages.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges that foreign language programs are important to the state as well as to teaching and employment across many professions and agrees with the institution's request for *provisional approval*. However, this program was provisionally approved in 2009 and 2012 and remains out of compliance with productivity standards. Failure to bring the program into compliance for the 2016 review will render this program eligible for a recommendation for termination. Provisional approval will give the program one reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

The University of South Carolina requests *exemption* for the programs leading to the M.A. degree in Political Science, the M.A. degree in Experimental Psychology, and the M.S. degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences. The institution requests that CHE consider the recommendation of exemption from program productivity standards based on the programs' function as "stop out" program for students in the doctoral programs. According to USC Columbia officials, the Master's degree is awarded to students originally enrolled in the doctoral program but chose not to complete the terminal degree.

Staff Response:

The programs leading to the M.A. degrees in Political Science and Experimental Psychology and the M.S. degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences represent "stop out" degrees for programs which typically graduate only at the doctoral degree level but provide opportunities to recognize students' accomplishments when they are unable to complete the doctoral degree. The precedent for this type of program is to grant an exemption.

The University of South Carolina requests *provisional approval* for the program leading to the M.S.E. degree in Software Engineering. The institution states that several initiatives are underway that are expected to strengthen the Software Engineering program. A faculty member in safety-critical systems and with expertise in software engineering has recently been hired. The new faculty hire will facilitate the Computer Science and Engineering Department's

plans to increase the programmatic emphasis on the software engineering area. Course-sharing collaboration is already underway with the College of Charleston in software engineering and information assurance at the graduate level. The Department has also begun discussions with both the College of Charleston and The Citadel about offering the M.S.E. in the Charleston area. USC Columbia has begun other relevant departmental initiatives to include APOGEE and the Bachelors/Masters Accelerated program, both of which are increasing the enrollment in the MSE.

Staff Response:

The staff recognizes the institution's efforts to increase participation in program; however, in the 2009 and 2012 program productivity report, the institution set a one-year deadline for growth or termination of the program. While staff would recommend that the institution comply with their own recommendation for termination, we determined that a recommendation of *provisional approval* is more appropriate given the plans for substantive changes described above.

The University of South Carolina requests exemption for the program leading to the M.S.N. degree in Community Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing. The institution states that mental illness is a major public health concern in the US; it is a primary cause of disability and carries a high financial cost. South Carolinians have limited access to mental health care and suffer from a shortage of mental health providers. The USC College of Nursing MSN degree in Community Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing trains practitioners to meet a critical need in the state. In the last few years, the need for Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioners (PMHNP5) in South Carolina and the region has expanded significantly, with close to 60 vacancies reported in current settings based on needs assessment reports from various healthcare entities.

Staff Response:

The staff agrees with the institution's analysis that the program meets the "unique program" and "value" requirements for exemption. There is a critical need in to move quickly and efficiently to address the unmet mental health needs of the underserved populations in South Carolina.

The University of South Carolina requests provisional approval for the program leading to the D.M.A degree in Music Arts. The institution states that the Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Composition program continues its return to good health. The current student enrollment is 4 students, one of whom will graduate in May 2014 and two students are expected to complete the program in 2015. There is one new student and one potential enrollee for the fall 2014 semester. A new faculty member position was added in 2011 and an additional new assistant professor position will be added in Fall 2014. The faculty is now solidified and the new hires have stellar reputations that will be attractive to students – each of the two new faculty have won Guggenheim Fellowships in the last three years, as well as a Rome Prize and an Opera America grant. The number of applications for the DMA in Music Composition is trending upward. The institution states that based on the current situation, it is reasonable to assume that the DMA in Music Composition program will meet both enrollment and completion goals within three years.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges USC Columbia's efforts to revise the program to increase enrollment and completions. The institution is encouraged to consider enhancing and expanding current marketing strategies for the program. Staff agrees with the

institution's request for *provisional approval* for this program. Provisional approval will give the program one reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

The University of South Carolina requests *provisional approval* for the program leading to the Ph.D. degree in Music Education. The institution states that the USC School of Music is the sole grantor of the Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Music Education in South Carolina, and the fifteen graduates of the program are placed in teaching and research positions around the nation. Recent contacts have been made with several prospective students from within the state and from institutions at which USC graduates currently teach. In addition, more courses are being redesigned for online delivery, decreasing the time Ph.D. candidates must be present on the USC campus and increasing USC's attractiveness to in-service teachers. The institution explains that growing the doctoral enrollment is a matter of highest priority for the department, as the program is considered among the best in the Southeast.

Staff Response:

The staff acknowledges the program's significance to the state and the institution's efforts to revise the program to increase enrollment and completions. The institution is encouraged to consider enhancing and expanding current marketing strategies for the program. Staff agrees with the institution's request for *provisional approval* for this program. Provisional approval will give the program two reporting cycle to comply with program productivity standards.

Recommendation:

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends to the Commission the following for the non-compliant programs at USC Columbia:

Exemption:

Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae – Honors College
B.A. in Political Science
B.A. in Experimental Psychology
B.S in Pharmaceutical Sciences
M.S.N. in Community Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing

Provisional approval:

B.A. in European Studies
B.A in Latin American Studies
B.A in Classics
B.A in Comparative Literature
B.S. in Geophysics
M.A. in French Language
M.A. in German Language
M.A. in Software Engineering
M.A. in German Language
D.M.A. in Musical Art
Ph.D. in Music Teacher Education

Recommendation

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing commends favorably to the Commission *exemption* status for the Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae – Honors College, B.A. in Political Science, B.A. in Experimental Psychology, B.S. in Pharmaceutical Sciences, and M.S.N. in Community Mental Health & Psychiatric Nursing at USC Columbia.

The Committee further recommends *provisional approval* for the M.Ed. in Mathematics Teacher Education and the M.Ed. in English Language Teacher Education at The Citadel; B.A. in Liberal Arts and Sciences at Francis Marion University; B.S. in Criminal Justice Management at Lander University; Ph.D. in Pharmacology at the Medical University of South Carolina; M.Ed. in Junior High/Intermediate Level Education at South Carolina State University; B.A. in Liberal Arts at USC Aiken; and B.A. in European Studies, B.A. in Latin American Studies, B.A. in Classics, B.A. in Comparative Literature, B.S. in Geophysics, M.A. in French Language, M.A. in German Language, M.A. in Software Engineering, M.A. in German Language, D.M.A. in Musical Art, and Ph.D. in Music Teacher Education at USC Columbia.

Institutions awarded *provisional approval* for non-compliant programs must submit a plan for initiatives to meet enrollment and completion productivity standards to CHE staff within 60 days of the approval of this recommendation; staff will report to CAAL on plans submitted at the Committee meeting immediately after the 60-day period.

**Table 4:
Staff Recommended Action Summary Table, 2008-2012**

Institution	Termination	Exemption	Provisional Approval	Total
Citadel			2	2
Clemson				
Coastal Carolina				
College of Charleston				
Francis Marion			1	1
Lander			1	1
MUSC			1	1
SC State			1	1
USC Aiken			1	1
USC Beaufort				
USC Columbia		5	11	16
USC Upstate				
Winthrop				
Total		5	18	23