



October 10, 2025

Dr. Michael Amiridis
President
University of South Carolina - Columbia
206 Osborne Administration Bldg.
Columbia, SC 29208

Dear Dr. Amiridis:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:
OCIS Approval Limited Review
Clinton High School
18132 Highway 72 East
Clinton, SC 29325
Submission date:
7/1/2025
Intended Implementation date:
1/1/2026
Case ID:
SC032542

SACSCOC requested additional information via email on August 31, 2025. The institution's response on September 16, 2025, was added to the record and is reflected in the narrative below.

The University of South Carolina Columbia Union (USCCU) requested approval to offer 50% or more of the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees at the Clinton High School off-campus instructional site (OCIS) located at 18121 Highway 72E, Clinton, SC 29325 with an implementation date of August 1, 2026. The programs of study are currently existing programs. SACSCOC previously acknowledged that the Clinton High School site could offer 25-49% of the two programs. The proposed site is not a branch campus. The site is located in the same state as the institution's main campus. The target audience is dual credit students from Clinton High School, and projected enrollment for programs at the site is 80 students annually. The methods of delivery of the programs include face-to-face and distance learning (online) and will be ongoing. Online courses instruction and/or support will be available through the Blackboard Learn Learning Management System (LMS). The institution was approved for distance learning December 5, 2003.

The institution is well positioned to undertake this change with a positive and established relationship with the high school and school district; growing transfer pathways; and growing faculty, graduation, and retention rates/numbers. USCCU offers associate degrees that provide pathways for students to continue their education in the University as well as providing for the completion of selected bachelor's degrees on campus through cooperative agreements and delivery systems with other US System institutions. The need for the proposed expansion at the OCIS was indicated by both demographic analysis of the area and direct feedback from Clinton High School administration. In Laurens County only 17.9% of residents have a bachelor's



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degree. The institution acknowledged the educational gap and targeted community-based approach to increase postsecondary participation and awards. In addition, expansion of courses offerings will enable USC Union to offer more options for high performing students who are identified as eligible to enroll in college programs.

The change was described in the context of the institution's mission and appeared to be consistent. At USCCU, faculty do not vote on the approval of dual enrollment partnerships; however, they are informed of prospective partnerships or program expansions through regular channels. Faculty have opportunities to engage in open dialogue at the Faculty Organization meetings. Documentation of one meeting was provided. Expansion of course offerings at the site were discussed at a meeting with the USCCU Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs and Clinton High School administrators. At that meeting, courses and a proposed schedule were approved. All courses scheduled either meet specific requirements of the Carolina Core or meet specific requirements for USCCU associate of arts and associate of science degree programs. The formal institutional support process for the change followed through support indicated by the USCCU Campus Dean, the Palmetto College Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, and the Associate Provost. The institution received institutional approval for the change from the Board of Trustees. Documentation was provided. The institution received state approval for the change from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Documentation was provided.

Administrative oversight of the site is provided by personnel in two offices. The Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs is responsible for the ongoing administration and active supervision of the site, including evaluation of instructor performance, and the Dual Enrollment Coordinator, who handles all student services and is the liaison between the Associate Dean and the Clinton High guidance counselors for scheduling and other student services.

The curricula of both programs were provided. A schedule of course offerings for two semesters was provided. The schedule includes 32 possible semester credit hours, which comprised 53% of the AA or AS program. If approval is granted, beginning in Spring 2026, courses offered should exceed the 50% mark. Eight program learning outcomes were provided. All outcomes are Carolina Core principles that are assessed with rubrics. Course descriptions for the courses to be offered were provided and are appropriate for undergraduate general education courses.

The College provided a faculty roster that included nine current full-time faculty and 22 current part-time faculty members. All faculty appear to be qualified to teach the courses in the curriculum. The number of faculty appears to be appropriate for the projected enrollment. Keep in mind that the ultimate determination of faculty qualifications is the responsibility of the peer review team who will assess the program as part of the institution's next SACSCOC reaffirmation.

The institution's library and learning information resources appear to be adequate to support the new site. The library's collections and electronic resources are accessible to distance/offsite learners through the Union County Carnegie Library website. Clinton High School is located approximately 25 miles from the Carnegie Library. The programs offered at the site are general



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and interdisciplinary; therefore, general database resources will be able to serve the program courses. Five discipline-specific databases, including Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, SCDiscus, and Web of Science were provided. The library has interlibrary loan services and participates in PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries). Students must visit the Carnegie Library in person to check out materials. Students are made aware of library and learning/information resources through an orientation session, where students are provided an overview of library services, academic resources, and methods of access. Students are also provided with information about resources via course syllabi, individual course orientations, or during library instruction sessions. Point of need assistance as well as research assistance from a librarian is available in-person and virtually. In addition, students at the OCIS will have access to library materials located at the high school, and high school library staff will be able to assist them with research and resource access. The librarian at USCCU will collaborate closely with the site high school librarians to ensure that students have consistent access to resources and support.

Academic and student support resources appear to be adequate to support the program at the site. Student Services staff are available to visit an off-campus site as needed. Online student support services are also available. Services include admissions support services at the OCIS, virtual academic tutoring, disability services, financial aid counseling (onsite at the OCIS or at USCCU), and psychological and mental health services (online or at USCCU). Students have access to general instructional technologies support by phone, email, or ticket. Support for the Blackboard LMS is available 24/7 by phone or ticket.

The physical resources of the OCIS appear to be adequate to support the program. A sufficient number of classrooms and computer labs at Clinton High School have been allocated to accommodate the USCCU courses. Classrooms are equipped with state-of-the-art technology with minimal to no additional requirements from the institution. Although no major equipment purchases are anticipated for the courses offered, small items, such as laptop computers, printers, projectors, screens, document cameras, and consumable office supplies may be needed. There will be minimal to no impact on current physical facilities and equipment as a result of offering the program at the site.

The institution provided evidence of financial planning and budgeting to support the proposed change. The institution provided a budget for the first three years. The primary source of revenue is tuition. Expenditures include pro-rated program administration and faculty/staff salaries. Supplies and materials are folded into the existing operational budgets of USCCU. Revenue exceeds expenses each year. No resources directed to institutions or organizations for contractual or support services will be needed. As a contingency, should enrollment numbers decline, the institution can scale back the number of course sections offered at the site.

The institution's planning and assessment processes appear adequate. Assessment of all academic programs is done through course evaluations, onsite observations, and the institution's assessment procedure. Course evaluations address quality of instruction, adequacy of facilities, adequacy of library resources, technology, and faculty availability. The assessment of general education curriculum is managed by faculty, the Office of the Provost, and the Office



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of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics. Assessment data will be reviewed each year by the program director, program faculty, and department chair to determine if changes need to be made to individual courses and/or the program. Learning outcomes for students taking courses at the OCIS are included in the annual assessment reports for all associate degree programs.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Clinton High School off-campus instructional site (OCIS). It was the decision of the Board to approve the site and include it in the scope of accreditation.

An invoice for \$500 to help defray the cost of reviewing the prospectus is enclosed with the liaison's copy of this letter.

Should you need assistance, please contact Dr. Kelli V. Mckeone at (404) 994-6545 or via email at kmckeone@sacscoc.org.

Please include the Case ID number above in all submissions or correspondence about this substantive change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen L. Pruitt".

Stephen L. Pruitt, Ph.D.
President

SLP/TBB:lp

Enclosure (invoice with liaison's copy only)

cc: Mr. Donald Miles, Executive Director Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics,
University of South Carolina - Columbia
Dr. Kelli V. Mckeone, Vice President, SACSCOC