

July 12, 2024

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

Dear Dr. Amiridis:

Thank you for submitting the following substantive change:

Substantive change:

**New Program-Approval
Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering**

Submission date:

12/14/2023

Intended Implementation date:

8/1/2024

Case ID:

SC024678

We deferred and requested additional information on January 18, 2024; the institution responded on June 19, 2024. The institution's response has been incorporated into the initial review as discussed below.

Note: the institution submitted the new program classified as a notification rather than approval. The classification has been changed to New Program Approval to align with the prospectus submitted.

The institution will offer the 120-credit hour baccalaureate degree through face-to-face method of delivery on the main campus. The program targets students interested in industrial engineering, including transfer students with an associate degree from a South Carolina technical college, and annual enrollment is projected at 35 students. The program was designed to be transfer friendly and has the potential to increase the representation of women in engineering based on engineering baccalaureate degrees awarded to women over the past three years at the institution.

Program need was informed through prospective student and employer inquiry, projected employment opportunities, data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, market analysis, and other data. The initiative aligns with the institution's mission to educate citizens in an area of high employment need in the state and supports a strategic priority. A Steering Committee, which included eight tenured faculty with relevant expertise, was appointed to discuss and develop the program, and discussion of review and approval by the internal committee process was noted. As requested in the deferral, the institution provided verification of program approval



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by the institution's Board of Trustees and by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

The program of study, projected schedule of course offerings, and course descriptions were provided. Program objectives were aligned with program student learning outcomes and were mapped to courses where outcomes will be demonstrated. Methods of assessment include exams/tests, reports, and presentations. The program will also seek accreditation by ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology) to ensure the program produces graduates prepared to enter a global workforce. Admissions and graduation requirements were noted.

Compliance with Standard 10.7 (Policies for awarding credit) referenced institutional policy congruent with IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) definition. All courses are recorded in semester hours. Courses are developed by faculty with content expertise, and decisions regarding number of credit hours and level of courses are proposed to the Curriculum Committee and voted on within the appropriate Academic Council. A professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering has been identified as the curriculum lead for the program, and the administrative lead is the Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Engineering and Computing/Professor in Mechanical Engineering.

A Faculty Roster Form for two existing faculty and three to-be-hired faculty positions was provided. Based on current and planned faculty positions, faculty qualifications and adequacy of faculty appear appropriate. 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 accreditation review.

A list of databases that support engineering and examples of industrial engineering journals were provided, and access to conference proceedings and books in the discipline was noted. Library resources are enhanced through PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries). Class-tailored library information sessions are offered, and personal instruction is available at the reference desk, via email, online chat, telephone, and by appointment. Students are made aware of library and learning resources during orientation sessions, course syllabi, and individual course orientation.

Students will have access to established support services. The advising model deployed across the College of Engineering and Computing will be provided through academic advisors and faculty advising fellows.

The College of Engineering occupies nine buildings on campus. The program will be located within the Swearingen Engineering Center, and a 1,200 square foot room has been identified for the program's instructional laboratory space. The program's budget includes funds for course resources such as programmable logic controller, articulated robots, flexible manufacturing cells, and others.



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Start-up expenses as well as recurring costs for salaries, instructional/laboratory equipment, and other programming needs will be addressed through reallocation of existing resources. Program revenue will be realized through tuition and fees, and positive revenue is anticipated in year 4 of the initiative. Financial support appears adequate, and contingency planning was noted.

Assessment efforts encompass bi-annual reporting of student learning outcomes to the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics (OIRAA). The OIRAA reviews and provides feedback on all degree program assessment plans. The College of Engineering and Computing will work with the OIRAA to incorporate the program into the institution-wide assessment infrastructure and processes. As noted earlier, the program will seek ABET accreditation, and the program will also be reviewed every six years following accreditation.

The Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reviewed the materials seeking approval of the Bachelor of Science (BS) in Industrial Engineering. It was the decision of the Board to approve the program 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. Randall at 404-994-6545 or via email at krandall@sacscoc.org.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Belle S. Wheelan".

Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

BSW/MAC: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. Randall, Vice President, SACSCOC