



Office of the Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

April 27, 2026

Dr. Kevin Sightler, Director of Substantive Change  
Commission on Colleges  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools  
1866 Southern Lane  
Decatur, GA 30033-4097

Dear Dr. Sightler:

This letter serves as notification to the Southern Association of Colleges and School Commission on Colleges to terminate the postbaccalaureate certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages program.

**Postbaccalaureate Certificate, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL)**

- The program is being terminated due to the low year-over-year enrollment, loss of faculty specializing in TESOL, and completing degrees developed in other colleges.
- The final student is expected to graduate from the program in Spring 2027.
- Closure of the program was communicated to faculty, staff and students through several forms of communication (via email, direct mail, face-to-face, advisors, website, and staff and faculty meetings).
- Faculty voted unanimously to end the program. There will be no direct impact to faculty and staff because of this closure as there is sufficient work and responsibilities for faculty and staff after closing this program.

The University of South Carolina Columbia will terminate the program effective Fall 2026 and currently enrolled students will have graduated or transferred to other programs by Fall 2028.

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding this notification.

Sincerely,

Provost Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
USC Educational Foundation Distinguished Professor

MFP/TH

cc:

Trena Houp, Executive Director of Academic Program Planning and Decision Support  
Donald Miles, Associate Vice Provost for Institutional Intelligence and Accreditation and Executive Director of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analytics