

University of South Carolina Salkehatchie

Act 629 - Summary Reports on Institutional Effectiveness

Fiscal Year 2001 - 2002

Introduction

This report includes: General Education, Achievement of Students Transferring from Two to Four-Year Institutions and Policies and Procedures to Ensure that Academic Programs Support the Economic Development Needs in the State by Providing a Technologically Skilled Workforce.

A reporting schedule for USC Columbia and Regional Campuses can be found at <http://kudzu.ipr.sc.edu/IEReports/a629schd.htm>.

INTRODUCTION

This summary report for the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie campus includes General Education and Achievements of Students Transferring from Two to Four Year campuses. It is the intent of this report to discuss and describe the changes and highlights that have occurred in the two above-mentioned categories.

GENERAL EDUCATION

As indicated in the institution's Mission/Statement of purpose, "Salkehatchie offers associate in arts and associate in science degree programs, and its primary purpose is to provide the first two years of a university education, offering USC Columbia courses taught by USC approved faculty." By definition, General Education is a set of skills and a collection of knowledge in different content areas. To meet these criteria, "USC Salkehatchie requires its graduates to possess oral and written communication, critical thinking, and computational skills. In addition, its graduates must have grounding in the liberal arts through the acquisition of knowledge in the following areas: humanities or fine arts, social or behavioral sciences, and natural sciences or mathematics."

Skills Indicators:

- Oral and Written Communication
- Computational and Numerical
- Critical Thinking

Content Area Indicators:

- Humanities

- Natural Sciences
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
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Assessment Methods

USC Salkehatchie uses annual teaching evaluations, bi-annual alumni surveys, and annual student satisfaction surveys to track the effectiveness of General Education. All surveys include components to aid the institution in its measurement of success in delivering General Education. Moreover, each relevant office studies the results of the surveys to determine if changes are necessary.

Assessment Results

By the requirements of the awarding of an associate's degree, students must take and successfully complete six hours of English. Therefore, if the student satisfies this requirement then they have acquired the written communication skills appropriate for General Education. Additionally, the vast majority of our students complete a course in Speech thus satisfying oral communications requirements. Students must also successfully complete requirements in mathematics, natural science, and social/behavioral sciences. Again, the successful completion of these requirements implies the students have acquired the skills appropriate for General Education.

The campus also administers annual student satisfaction surveys to a random number of classes. The questions that apply to General Education are as follows:

1. I am satisfied with the extent of my intellectual development since enrolling at Salkehatchie.
2. My academic experience at Salkehatchie has had a positive influence on my intellectual growth and interest in ideas.
3. Most of my courses this year have been intellectually stimulating.
4. I am more likely to attend a cultural event (for example, a concert, lecture, or art show) now than I was before coming to Salkehatchie.

The results of the surveys from 1998 to present have been very positive. On average, 80.6% of the students surveyed responded with 'strongly agree' or 'agree' to the above statements. Questions 1-3 above resulted in the strongest positive results while question 4 was weaker. In consideration of this, Salkehatchie has made positive steps to bring cultural events to both the campuses in Allendale and Walterboro. The administration understands its role to make available, as much as possible, events that would stimulate the students

creativity and expose them to the fine arts. It is the feeling of all involved that positive inroads have been made in this area.

As stated earlier, the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie conducts a bi-annual Alumni Survey. The questions in this survey applicable to General Education are as follows:

1. Indicate your satisfaction with your general education program of study.
2. Indicate your satisfaction with instruction in your general education program.
3. Indicate your overall academic experience satisfaction.

It is a pleasure to report that in all three questions above, 100% the respondents indicated they were 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with their general education experience. Moreover, this survey also indicated that our graduates were more likely to vote, attend cultural events, and participate in public or community service.

Use of Assessment Findings

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie campus is proactive in meeting the needs of the students in regards to General Education. One of the reactions to student surveys has been advisors stressing college orientation courses such as University 101 to students. Courses such as this indoctrinate students into the collegiate atmosphere and introduce them to critical thinking. As mentioned earlier, the campus has also realized the importance of cultural events and has taken steps to offer more to our students. The campus operates the Opportunity Scholars Program which, among numerous other things, strives to increase the student's cultural awareness. For example, Jazz recitals on campus and cultural field trips to places such as Charleston, SC, Augusta, GA, and Atlanta, GA have occurred recently just to mention a few.

Although developmental/remedial courses have been dropped from the curriculum, the above mentioned Opportunity Scholars Program has helped supplement these losses for students in need. They offer counseling, tutoring, and career guidance services. In the broader view, the campus offers small class sizes, which allows for more one-on-one interaction with the faculty. Due to assessment results, the campus requires more office hours of the faculty to assist students with difficulties they may be experiencing in a particular class.

The University of South Carolina Salkehatchie campus has and will continue to emphasize General Education as a prime focus its mission.

Achievement of Students Transferring from Two to Four-Year Institutions

Transfer reports for the USC Regional Campuses can be found at <http://kudzu.ipr.sc.edu/IEReports/transfers/tran2002.doc>

Policies and Procedures to Ensure that Academic Programs Support the Economic Development Needs in the State by Providing a Technologically Skilled Workforce

As indicated in the institution's Mission/Statement of purpose, "Salkehatchie offers associate in arts and associate in science degree programs, and its primary purpose is to provide the first two years of a university education, offering USC Columbia courses taught by USC approved faculty." Faculty instruct students in a set of skills and a collection of knowledge about computer skills. To meet these criteria, USC Salkehatchie requires its graduates to possess oral and written communication, critical thinking, and computer skills. To assess computer skills, USC Salkehatchie uses annual teaching evaluations, bi-annual alumni surveys, and annual student satisfaction surveys to track the effectiveness of General Education.