

SUMMARY OF SOUTH COLLEGE PROGRAM REVIEW

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

South College is an existing licensee seeking to expand program offerings. South College was founded in 1882 as a branch of Nashville Business College and subsequently was renamed Knoxville Business College. It was purchased by Stephen South in 1989 and organized as South College of Tennessee, Incorporated. A 2012 reorganization created South College of Tennessee, LLC, with Stephen South, President, and a separate corporation to conduct institutional property management business, South Development Corp, Inc. South College was initially accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in 2000, with its most recent reaffirmation in 2015. The College currently operates 17 programs at its Asheville campus and was approved to offer 8 additional programs in 2017. The last site visit to South College took place on July 11, 2017.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM SUBMITTED FOR LICENSURE:

Bachelor of Business Administration – Project Management (BBA-PM)

Staff Recommendation: APPROVAL OF LICENSURE

Program Site: Asheville

Projected start date: Fall 2018

Projected enrollment: 10-20 students annually

Annual tuition and fees: \$18,075

The BBA-PM is a 180 quarter credit hour degree program, to be completed in 14 quarters over 3 years. With 68 required quarter hours of general education courses, appropriately distributed, this proposed degree meets the general education standards of South College-Asheville. The remainder of the curriculum comprises 116 quarter credits of “major curriculum” (including accounting, financial management, finance, business law, marketing, economics, and other business courses) and 24 credits in the project management concentration.

INSTITUTIONAL METRICS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION INFORMATION:

Metric	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Student Retention Rate	68%	62%	71.4
4-year Graduation Rate	49%	51%	62
6-year Graduation Rate	42%	50%	56
Student Loan Default Rate	18.9%	16.6%	16.8
Employment Placement Rate	92.3%	90%	85
Federal Financial Composite Score	2	1.6	1.6

In its last yearly report and new program application, South College reported an upward trend in the retention and graduation rates over a three year period, as well as an overall decline of the student loan default rate over the same period. The institution’s Federal Financial Composite score along with a review of its audited financial statements over the past three years and current line of credit indicates that the institution is financially stable.

The State Authorization Unit did not receive any complaints for South College during the 2016-2017 academic year, but the institution provided an internal student complaint log detailing the nature and the outcome of complaints that were handled at the institutional level. We determined that the nature of the complaints were not unusual and the institution's response to the complaints was adequate.

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS AND INSTITUTION'S RESPONSE:

After review of the application, the Team of Examiners and State Authorization staff submitted requirements for the institution to address concerning its faculty qualifications and financial metrics. The institution met those requirements by confirming its compliance with SACSCOC's requirements for faculty qualifications and clarifying its financial calculation methods and providing the requested documentation to confirm financial stability.