Name of Institution: Savannah State University

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INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION
FOR REVIEWERS

Directions:
Please address the following

1. History and Characteristics

Savannah State University (SSU) is the oldest public historically black college or university in the state of Georgia and the oldest institution of higher learning in the city of Savannah. The school was established in 1890 as a result of the Second Morrill Land Grant Act, which mandated that southern and border states develop land-grant colleges for black students. Later that year, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation creating the Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youth, which served as Georgia's 1890 land-grant institution until 1947. The institution opened at its current location in October 1891 with five faculty members and eight students.

Upon the creation of the University System of Georgia (USG) in 1932, the college became one of the first members of the system and its name was changed to Georgia State College. The name changed again in 1950 to Savannah State College, and in 1961, the institution received

full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges. The USG Board of Regents elevated the college to university status in 1996 and renamed the institution Savannah State University.

The institution's mission is to develop "productive members of a global society through high quality instruction, scholarship, research, service, and community involvement. The university fosters engaged learning and personal growth in a student-centered environment that celebrates the African-American legacy while nurturing a diverse student body." This mission is achieved through educational programs that are housed in three colleges: Liberal Arts and Social Science, Business Administration, and Sciences and Technology, and the School of Teacher Education. Academic support is provided in units within each of the colleges and the school, as well as the library, the Center for Academic Success, which provides academic advisement and tutoring services, and the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) center. Faculty and staff promote internships and mentored research training to prepare students for graduate programs and careers. In addition, the academic enterprise is supported by the Division of Student Affairs with services ranging from career fairs to veterans affairs.

Savannah State University serves a diverse student population: 59% are first-generation; 74% of the undergraduates receive Pell funds; 30% have families with household income of less than $25,000; and 50% of the entering students expect to work part-time while 15% expect to work full-time while earning a degree.

SSU has an access component to its mission. As such, SSU serves students whose prior academic preparation has left them with less than college-level skills in many areas, as well as those students who have not performed well on standardized tests, specifically the SAT and ACT. As part of the SSU University College and our limited admissions criteria, these students are served by our Center for Academic Success; and most of these student complete co-requisite learning support courses concurrently with college level coursework.

2. List of Degrees

The following table lists all certificate and degree programs currently offered at Savannah State University. For each program offered, the number of graduates is provided for the academic year 2015 – 2016, (July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016). The Fall 2015 term started on August 10, 2015 and ended on December 3, 2015. The Spring 2016 term started January 10, 2016 and ended on May 15, 2016.

Table 2: Educational Programs by Program Level and Graduates for AY 2015 – 2016

Educational Programs offered by Program Level	No. of Graduates		
	Fall 2015	Spring 2016	Total AY 2015 - 2016
Certificate of Less than One Year			
Homeland Security & Emergency Management *	0	0	0

Advanced Certificate			
Post-Baccalaureate Certificate In Nonprofit Organization and Leadership *	0	0	0
Associate Degree			
Associate of Science**	5	6	11
Bachelor Degrees			
Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Africana Studies	0	0	0
Bachelor of Arts with a Major in English Language and Literature	6	7	13
Bachelor of Arts with a Major in History, General	3	4	7
Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Homeland Security and Emergency Management	18	20	38
Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Mass Communications***	24	36	60
Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Accounting	16	5	21
Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Global Logistics and International Business	1	4	5
Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Information Systems	8	8	16
Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Management (traditional)	8	23	31
Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Management (online)	0	0	0
Bachelor of Business Administration with a Major in Marketing	2	11	13
Bachelor of Fine Arts with a Major in Visual and Performing Arts	5	13	18
Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies	5	5	10
Bachelor of Science in Behavior Analysis	14	14	28
Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science	1	4	5
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Biology	33	31	64
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Biology (with a secondary Teacher Certification track)	0	0	0
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Chemistry	5	2	7
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Civil Engineering Technology	7	2	9
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Civil Engineering Technology (track in Technology Education)	0	1	1
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Computer Science Technology	8	8	16
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Criminal Justice	15	22	37
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Electronics Engineering Technology	6	9	15
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Electronics Engineering Technology (Track in Technology Education)	0	0	0
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Environmental Science	3	0	3
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Marine Sciences	6	4	10
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Mathematics	6	6	12

Bachelor of Science with a Major in Mathematics (with a secondary Teacher Certification track)	0	2	2
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Political Science	6	9	15
Bachelor of Science with a Major in Sociology	11	11	22
Bachelor of Social Work	1	31	32
Masters Degrees			
Master of Business Administration	5	6	11
Master of Public Administration	2	0	2
Master of Science in Marine Sciences	4	3	7
Master of Science in Urban Studies and Planning	1	1	2
Master of Social Work ****	0	35	35

* These certificate programs are relatively new and thus no certifactes were awarded in Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Nonprofit Organization and Leadership during the 2015-2016 academic year.
** The Associate of Science program offers tracks in Pre-Physics, General Technology, Engineering Studies, Aquarium Science and Health Science.
*** The Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications program offers Core and tracks in Online Journalism, Public Relations and Advertising and Audio/Visual.
**** The Master of Social Work program offers Core and tracks in Social Administration, Clinical Concentration and Generalist.

3. Off-Campus Instructional Locations and Branch Campuses

Savannah State University offers courses for three graduate degree programs at the Coastal Georgia Center in downtown Savannah. The facility has been used by SSU since 1998. The three programs offered there are: the Master of Public Administration (MPA); Master of Social Work (MSW); and Master of Science in Urban Studies and Planning (MSUSP). The Coastal Georgia Center is operated by Georgia Southern University and provides meeting space, continuing education classes, graduate courses, distance learning, and professional development classes.

Table: Off-campus Instructional Site

Name of Site	Physical Address (street, city, state, country) Do not include PO Boxes.	Date Site Approved by SACSCOC	Date Implemented by the institution	Educational programs offered (specific degrees, certificates, diplomas) with 50% or more credits hours offered at each site	Is the site currently active? (At any time during the past 5 years,

					have students been enrolled and courses offered? If not, indicate the date of most recent activity.)
Coastal Georgia Center	305 Fahm Street Savannah, Georgia 31401	2000-01	1998	1. Master of Public Administration 2. Master of Science in Urban Planning 3. Master of Social Work	Yes

Institutions with off-campus instructional sites at which the institution offers **25-49%** credit hours for a diploma, certificate, or degree—including high schools where courses are offered as dual enrollment—are required to notify SACSCOC in advance of initiating the site. For each site, provide the information below

Savannah State University does not have an off-campus instructional site at which the institution offers 25-45% credit hours for a diploma, certificate, or degree program.

4. Distance and Correspondence Education

Provide an initial date of approval for your institution to offer distance education. Provide a list of credit-bearing educational programs (degrees, certificates, and diplomas) where 50% or more of the credit hours are delivered through distance education modes. For each educational program, indicate whether the program is delivered using synchronous or asynchronous technology, or both.

Online education began in the mid 1990's at Savannah State University when the University System of Georgia began allowing all member institutions to provide courses or assistance to USG Distance Learning students and to SSU students taking courses online and offered by other member institutions. The SSU Library aided students in its Distance Learning Center. As reported in the university's 2000 SACSCOC Reaffirmation of Compliance Report, the library had already

begun developing and gathering the resources—electronic transmission of information, computerized database searching, and the online interlibrary loan services—to enable the institution to deliver distance learning courses. [Excerpt from Reaffirmation Report] Other resources included the SSU Library on-line catalog and GALILEO, USG's digital library. Soon, the university began offering online courses under the title, eLearning. By 2010, SSU's SACSCOC Reaffirmation of Compliance Report reiterated that SSU's distance learning program was compatible with that of the other USG member institutions. The university offered several online courses but had yet to develop its first fully online degree program until 2014.

In August 2014, the College of Business Administration (COBA) launched SSU's first and to date only degree program where 50% or more of the credit hours are delivered through distance education modes. This program, the Bachelor of Business Administration in Management (BBA), can be completed primarily through distance education. Online courses in COBA are the same as courses offered on campus; they are offered on the same semester schedule as on-campus courses and meet the same learning objectives. The identical degree is conferred, whether earned through online courses, on-campus courses, or as a hybrid, with a combination of online and on-campus courses. SSU's BBA Online program is taught using synchronous and/or asynchronous technology.

Equally important to SSU's online history is its affiliation with USG's eCore online program. eCore, beginning in 2014, made the first two years of core courses available to all USG member institution students. Savannah State became an affiliate institution in Spring 2015, whereby SSU students could enroll in eCore online courses. Affiliation with eCore broadened the availability of BBA Online to new students and not only to students who had already earned all core credits. In 2015, a director was appointed to lead the newly formed Online Education Office at SSU.

For each educational program that uses distance education technology to deliver the program at a specific site (e.g., a synchronous program using interactive videoconferencing), indicate the program offered at each location where students receive the transmitted program. Please limit this description to one page, if possible.

Savannah State University (SSU) offers coursework for its academic programs through traditional classroom instruction, hybrid, and distance education. SSU does not offer correspondence education—defined by SACSCOC as "courses where instructional materials are provided by mail or electronic transmission."

Policies. Distance education programs at SSU operate in accordance with the SACSCOC Distance and Correspondence Education Policy Statement, and faculty utilize the following document—

Online Learning Policy and Procedures—as the foundation for designing and implementing distance education courses and/or programs.

Two sources acknowledge the university's origins for online. The first indication of online courses is in the *2005-2007 SSU Catalog*:

> Online courses are taken exclusively over the Internet. There are no required on-campus meetings. Hybrid courses are held both on campus and online. They are traditional face-to-face courses in which some of the on-campus class meetings are replaced with online assignments. Web-enhanced courses are traditional face-to-face courses that are augmented by course websites. Unlike the class meetings for hybrid courses, the class meetings for web-enhanced courses are all scheduled on campus unless classes are redirected for special activities. Writing-enhanced courses are those in which the instructor uses writing substantially in the class, and at least 20% of the grade is based on writing assignments.

The second source is the *Faculty Senate Committees* document.

1.10.3.12   Distributed Learning Committee

> The Distributed Learning Committee shall have the authority to approve equipment purchases, to establish operational procedures, and to evaluate the operation of instruction through various distance learning venues (Web-based Internet, Distance Learning, Correspondence, and/or Off Campus Instructional Sites). Members are appointed by the Senate on the recommendation of the Committee on Committees. All members are required to demonstrate that they have completed training workshops in distance learning. The members are eligible for reappointment. The members of the committee will elect a chair.
>
> The committee shall also be charged with assuring that faculty have ready access to adequate library/learning resources and services to support the courses, programs and degrees offered. Additionally, the committee will develop procedures to allow students access to appropriate student development services when they participate in distance learning programs. Finally, the committee will review the Deans' annual evaluative reports on distance learning.
>
> The committee will meet as necessary to assure the growth of service via distance learning while maintaining compliance with SACS' criteria. The committee will report in writing to the Faculty Senate at the November meeting.

5. Accreditation

(1) Agencies currently accrediting individual Savannah State University programs:

   a. Business Administration (BBA, MBA): Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB). Last reviewed February, 2015.

   b. Chemistry (BS): American Chemical Society Committee on Professional Training (ACS CPT), Last reaffirmed 2011. Last periodic review submitted June 2016, awaiting certification reaffirmation from ACS, Spring 2017.

   c. Civil Engineering Technology (BS): Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). Last reviewed November, 2012.

   d. Education (BS); Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC). Last reviewed November, 2013.

   e. Electronic Engineering Technology (BS): Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). Last reviewed November 2012

   f. Journalism/Mass Communications (BA): Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC). Last reviewed May, 2013.

   g. Public Administration (MPA): National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPA). Last reviewed Spring 2016 (Next review visit is March 31, 2017).

   h. Social Work (BSW, MSW): Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Last reviewed October, 2010.

(2) The SACS Commission on Colleges is Savannah State University's primary accreditor for access to United States Department of Education USDOE Title IV funding.

(3) USDOE recognized accrediting agencies from which Savannah State University has voluntarily withdrawn.

   a. Mechanical Engineering Technology: ABET. Savannah State University cancelled its program in Mechanical Engineering Technology in 2007 due to lack of student interest and therefore did not renew its request for accreditation from ABET. The program was fully accredited by ABET prior to that time.

(4) No sanctions have been applied or negative actions taken toward Savannah State University by any USDOE-recognized accrediting agency during the two years immediately preceding the date of this report.

6. Relationship to the U.S. Department of Education

[Indicate any limitations, suspensions, or termination by the U.S. Department of Education in regard to student financial aid or other financial aid programs during the previous three years. Report if on reimbursement or any other exceptional status in regard to federal or state financial aid.]

Savannah State University has had no limitations, suspensions, or terminations as it relates to participating in Title IV aid programs. We are not on reimbursement or any other exceptional status in regards to federal or state financial aid programs.

The University has provided audit and review reports for the last several years as it relates to the administration of Title IV Programs for comprehensive standard 4.7. Please refer to 4.7 for the University's response to reports, reviews and request to reimburse Department of Education Title IV funds.