

AGENCY NAME:

University of South Carolina Aiken

AGENCY CODE:

H290

SECTION:

20B



**Fiscal Year 2022-23  
Agency Budget Plan**

**FORM A - BUDGET PLAN SUMMARY**

**OPERATING  
REQUESTS  
(FORM B1)**

**For FY 2022-23, my agency is (mark "X"):**

- Requesting General Fund Appropriations.
- Requesting Federal/Other Authorization.
- Not requesting any changes.

**NON-RECURRING  
REQUESTS  
(FORM B2)**

**For FY 2022-23, my agency is (mark "X"):**

- Requesting Non-Recurring Appropriations.
- Requesting Non-Recurring Federal/Other Authorization.
- Not requesting any changes.

**CAPITAL  
REQUESTS  
(FORM C)**

**For FY 2022-23, my agency is (mark "X"):**

- Requesting funding for Capital Projects.
- Not requesting any changes.

**PROVISOS  
(FORM D)**

**For FY 2022-23, my agency is (mark "X"):**

- Requesting a new proviso and/or substantive changes to existing provisos.
- Only requesting technical proviso changes (such as date references).
- Not requesting any proviso changes.

Please identify your agency's preferred contacts for this year's budget process.

	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email</i>
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT:</b>	Kelly Epting	803-777-8411	<a href="mailto:eptingk@mailbox.sc.edu">eptingk@mailbox.sc.edu</a>
<b>SECONDARY CONTACT:</b>	Kevin Russell	803-777-0781	<a href="mailto:russelkr@mailbox.sc.edu">russelkr@mailbox.sc.edu</a>

I have reviewed and approved the enclosed FY 2022-23 Agency Budget Plan, which is complete and accurate to the extent of my knowledge.

	<i>Agency Director</i>	<i>Board or Commission Chair</i>
<b>SIGN/DATE:</b>		
<b>TYPE/PRINT NAME:</b>	Harris Pastides	C. Dorn Smith III

*This form must be signed by the agency head – not a delegate.*

Agency Name:	<a href="#">USC - Aiken Campus</a>
Agency Code:	H290
Section:	20B

BUDGET REQUESTS			FUNDING					FTES				
Priority	Request Type	Request Title	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total	State	Federal	Earmarked	Restricted	Total
1	B1 - Recurring	Access and Affordability for In-State Students-Tuition Mitigation Funding	1,074,000	0	0	0	1,074,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	B1 - Recurring	Develop and Enhance the Cyber Education Program	675,000	0	0	0	675,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	B1 - Recurring	Support for Online Programs and Students	275,000	0	0	0	275,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4	B2 - Non-Recurring	Engineering/Computational Computing/Virtual Reality Lab Upgrades	475,000	0	0	0	475,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	B2 - Non-Recurring	Media Lab Upfit	125,000	0	0	0	125,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	B1 - Recurring	Federal Funds Authorization	0	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7	C - Capital	Etherredge Center HVAC Replacement	5,500,000	0	0	0	5,500,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8	C - Capital	Gregg-Graniteville Library Renovation	10,000,000	0	0	0	10,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	C - Capital	Deferred Maintenance	15,000,000	0	0	0	15,000,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTALS			33,124,000	1,000,000	0	0	34,124,000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>1</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Access and Affordability for In-State Students-Tuition Mitigation Funding</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$1,074,000</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$1,074,000</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This request supports multiple Goals, Strategies and Objectives contained in the annual Accountability Report, but primarily Goals 1 and 2 related to Education, Training and Human Development.</p> <p>Excellence is measured through regular reaffirmation of accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, along with program- and discipline-specific accreditation reviews. Factors associated with The University's ability to attract, recruit, retain and educate students in today's competitive higher education market are also detailed in the University's annual Accountability Report.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Aiken, its student body of over 3,400, and the faculty/administrative staff who serve them. The University only conducts a small percentage of its work through payment of services rendered by</p>
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## FUNDS

contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc. In those instances, the University adheres to all applicable State Procurement requirements.

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

The top budget priority for the University of South Carolina System remains continuing to partner with the state to invest in predictable funding to mitigate against annual tuition increases. UofSC supports creation of a dedicated funding stream for higher education for the principal purpose of increasing access and affordability for in-state students. This new approach would provide reliable revenue for colleges while allowing policymakers to maintain higher education spending as a share of the overall state budget. Note: Due in part to the State's recent investment in tuition mitigation funding, The University of South Carolina system has frozen tuition in each of the last three years.

In this spirit, and out of a genuine desire to partner with the state to freeze tuition and required fees for in-state students next year, the UofSC System is requesting a modest increase in recurring funding as outlined below. These funds would enable the System to offset a portion of the rise in basic inflationary costs it faces as well as strategic initiatives to improve access to higher education for students across South Carolina.

**Therefore, USC Aiken respectfully requests \$1,074,000 in new recurring funds. Importantly, this funding would allow the University to freeze tuition and required fees for in-state residents next year by covering the following basic inflationary cost increases including state mandated cost increases:**

Estimated 1% retirement for USC Aiken - \$230,000\*

Estimated 1% health insurance for USC Aiken - \$23,000

Estimated 1% pay plan for USC Aiken - \$264,000

Estimated required cost increases for basic operations including utilities and inflation of goods and services - \$557,000

**Total estimated inflationary and mandated cost increases - \$1,074,000\***

(Estimates are preliminary and subject to change and do not include costs associated with important University excellence and/or other strategic initiatives.)

\*Note: Absent appropriation of these additional funds to cover such a state mandate, the University would request flexibility from the state to limit its increase to in-state students, if any, to an amount necessary to account for the unfunded portion of mandates (to include retirement, health and/or COLA) not covered by the University's final state appropriation.

*Note: This retirement estimate represents USC-Aiken's increased cost to implement year four of the state's recent pension reform which is phasing-in an increase to the employer share of the state's required pension contribution rate, which was 6.85% in FY2004 and will rise to 18.56% by FY2023 as required by state law.*

This request is similar to the request made for FY2021 for which the state awarded more than \$17 million in new recurring funding across the entire System. With those funds available to help cover the cost of mandated increases, UofSC Columbia, the three comprehensive universities as well as the four Palmetto College campuses (including Online) was able to freeze tuition growth again. The entire UofSC System is grateful for this support without which this tuition mitigation would not have been possible.

With the legislature's appropriations in FY22, the UofSC Board of Trustees once again voted to freeze tuition across the entire UofSC System.

The State of South Carolina needs—and the UofSC supports—a comprehensive package to restore state investment and create a sustainable funding model for higher education that:

- Develops a new funding model that rewards institutions for educating South Carolinians;
- Resumes reliable state investments in assets and infrastructure through capital bond bills or other dedicated sources;
- Removes burdensome and duplicative bureaucratic red tape;\*
- Increases state investment in need-based aid programs that increases opportunity for students from low-income families.\*

\*Note: UofSC is grateful to Governor McMaster and the General Assembly for

## JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

supporting an increase in the State's PIP capital threshold, as well as for providing the largest increase in need-based aid in history.

Higher education is the key to our state's future economic and overall prosperity. Our state needs 70,000 additional baccalaureate degree holders above current graduation rates to meet the needs of business and industry by 2030. As the state's largest education provider, the UofSC System is meeting those needs for highly educated, in-demand and employable graduates in high need areas. With appropriate investment and partnership from the state, South Carolina can have the most cost-efficient and cost-effective higher education sector in the country. An example of an exciting statewide partnership between industry and higher education with direct benefit to our state's future economic prosperity is the emerging collaboration between Savannah River National Lab (SRNL), the University of South Carolina (UofSC), Clemson University (CU), and South Carolina State University (SCSU) that we believe – with modest investment from the state over a 5-year period - will result in a RAPID grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This grant will be used to support impactful research projects that involve faculty, staff, and students at UofSC and our partner institutions CU and SCSU. UofSC and its partners are convinced the RAPID grant will lead to new and sustainable growth of advanced chemical manufacturing in SC and will ensure these high level research activities result in new S.C. private-sector investment, new manufacturing jobs, and will support hundreds of S.C. manufacturing jobs. Note: The DOE required investment / cost share for this grant from the state over the 5 year grant period is \$8M/yr each for 5 years for UofSC and CU and \$4M/yr. for 5 years for SCSU.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	2
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Develop and Enhance the Cyber Education Program</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$675,000</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$675,000</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	0.00
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This request supports workforce development in our region and the State of South Carolina in the areas of Cybersecurity/Applied Gaming/Applied Computer Science. The offering of these new impactful degree programs including the hiring of professors with expertise in these areas, and necessary equipment supports University objective 2.1.1 "create new degree programs", 2.1.2 "ensure strategic growth of the student body," and will allow for additional collaborations 4.1.1 "creation of STEM initiatives," 4.2.1 "expand and enhance partnerships" for regional enterprises as reported in UofSC Aiken's State Accountability report.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Aiken, its student body of over 3,600, and the faculty/administrative staff who serve them. New funds will be allocated to the Department of Mathematical Sciences which will host the new faculty and equipment in support of</p>
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**FUNDS**

- (1) students pursuing the newly offered degree in Applied Computer Science/Cybersecurity/Applied Gaming or
- (2) other students taking courses in these areas.

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST**

New degrees in Cybersecurity/Applied Gaming/Applied Computer Science were approved by CHE in June 2018 and set the stage for great new opportunities for students at UofSC Aiken. These degrees address current and emerging workforce needs and were developed in close consultation with industrial partners (e.g. SRNL, SRNS, SRR, ADP, RSI, JANUS). Faculty and equipment must be augmented to give students the necessary training to fill the local, regional, and state needs. Expertise in these fields are highly sought after across the nation, and we are already experiencing a surge in student interest in these fields. Without these new positions and equipment, we will not be able to satisfy student demands. Student interest will grow dramatically as the Department of Energy invests \$50 million to build the Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative and the South Carolina National Guard invests \$30 million to build a cyber security Dreamport and readiness center, both on UofSC Aiken grounds. Cyber security, virtual reality, and high performance computing will be integral components of these facilities. UofSC Aiken students and faculty will use these spaces daily.

**Cyber Program Faculty - \$575,000:** This amount would be used to hire high quality faculty to develop our new Cyber Education programs

**Cyber Equipment - \$100,000:** This amount would be used to provide ongoing technology and equipment needs for the Cyber Education programs.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>3</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Support for Online Programs and Students</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>General: \$275,000</b> <b>Federal: \$0</b> <b>Other: \$0</b> <b>Total: \$275,000</b>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This request supports the statewide initiative to provide access and affordability to South Carolina's traditional and non-traditional students through online degree program development and student support.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Aiken, its student body of over 3,600, and the faculty/administrative staff who serve them. New funds will provide funding for a Coordinator of Online Programs, an additional Instructional</p>
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## FUNDS

Designer, and two additional Online Advisors. These staff will support online students and faculty developing and enhancing online courses and programs.

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

## JUSTIFICATION OF REQUEST

For several years, UofSC Aiken has offered online degrees in business and special education with dramatic enrollment growth in the MBA and consistent growth in the undergraduate business degree. Three new programs have also been added in Cybersecurity, Communication, and Psychology leading to additional enrollment. We currently employ one instructional designer, two online advisors (one of which handles admission functions as well) and are working to fill our vacant Director of Distance Education position. Currently over 20% of degree-seeking students are fully online, and more staff are required in this area in order to support current and projected enrollment growth. Continued investment in this area will be critical as it will allow an increased level of student recruitment and academic support until graduation. Furthermore, the development and enhancement of new courses and programs is important work for a coordinator of online programs and for an instructional designer.

**Support for Online Programs and Students - \$275,000:** This amount would be used to hire high-quality staff to further develop and support online programs and students at UofSC Aiken.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM B1 – RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	<b>6</b>
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Federal Funds Authorization</b>
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	<p><b>General: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Federal: \$1,000,000</b></p> <p><b>Other: \$0</b></p> <p><b>Total: \$1,000,000</b></p>
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>NEW POSITIONS</b>	<b>0.00</b>
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*Please provide the total number of new positions needed for this request.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Non-Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	<p>This request will foster the University's commitment to excellence and innovation, and supports University objective 3.3.1 "Enhance financial security and excellence through ... grantmanship"; 4.2.1 "Expand and enhance partnerships in support of economic, educational and personal development for the citizens and enterprises in our region"; and 4.3.2 "Seek opportunities with our local business and industry for national and international internship experiences and exchanges" as reported in USC Aiken's State Accountability report.</p>
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF</b>	<p>These funds will benefit the University of South Carolina Aiken, its student body of over 3,400, and the faculty/administrative staff who serve them. The University only conducts a small percentage of its work through payment of services rendered by</p>
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**FUNDS**

outside contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc. In those instances, the University adheres to all applicable State Procurement requirements.

*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION OF  
REQUEST**

Aiken's Federal Funds are comprised primarily of Student Financial Aid (mostly Pell Grants, but also work study, SEOG and Teach grants). Research Funds are the second largest Federal source and have seen recent increases as the result of continued gains in nuclear science related grants. Preliminary figures for Fall 2019 indicate enrollment will be flat which should lead to more stable Student Financial Aid expenditures and corresponding authorizations. With a number of Department of Energy related facilities proximate to USC Aiken and renewed interest in collaboration, the University believes that prospects continue to be good for increased Federal grant activity.

Total Federal Funds expenditures for FY20 are estimated to remain at \$10,500,000 based on recent experience and anticipated stable enrollment and grant activity. This estimate is the same as the amount authorized for FY19. Pending grant applications could yield an additional \$1,000,000 by FY21.

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
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## **FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	4
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Engineering/Computational Computing/Virtual Reality Lab Upgrades
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$475,000
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	An upfit of existing engineering/computational/virtual reality labs is important to support new and growing programs, student research and capstone projects, and industry collaborations. These non-recurring funds will significantly impact the quality of the student learning environment and the department's ability to recruit and retain students.
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS</b>	Office of Academic Affairs will allocate these funds to the College of Sciences & Engineering/Department of Mathematical Sciences. All of these degrees and research efforts are concentrated in these areas.
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*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION  
OF REQUEST**

UofSC Aiken now offers new degrees in Mechanical Engineering and in Applied Gaming (virtual/augmented reality) and new emphases in computational studies in several disciplines (bioinformatics, computational chemistry, data analytics). These efforts will be fully integrated into the Department of Energy's Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative which is being built on the UofSC Aiken campus. Non-recurring funding is needed during this fiscal year to purchase equipment for high-performance computing, additional equipment for mechanical engineering including additive manufacturing, and additional AR/VR equipment.

- HPC equipment for the AMC space - \$150,000
- Mechanical engineering equipment for lab - \$150,000
- 3D printer(s) for additive manufacturing - \$100,000
- AR/VR equipment - \$75,000

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM B2 – NON-RECURRING OPERATING REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	5
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Media Lab Upfit
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$125,000
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*What is the net change in requested appropriations for FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in cost of providing current services to existing program audience
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Change in case load/enrollment under existing program guidelines
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated change in eligibility/enrollment for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-mandated program change in service levels or areas
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed establishment of a new program or initiative
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss of federal or other external financial support for existing program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exhaustion of fund balances previously used to support program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	IT Technology/Security related
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Consulted DTO during development
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Request for Non-Recurring Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Federal/Other Authorization to spend existing funding	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Related to a Recurring request – If so, Priority #	

<b>STATEWIDE ENTERPRISE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>Mark "X" for primary applicable Statewide Enterprise Strategic Objective:</b>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Education, Training, and Human Development
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Healthy and Safe Families
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintaining Safety, Integrity, and Security
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Infrastructure and Economic Development
<input type="checkbox"/>	Government and Citizens	

<b>ACCOUNTABILITY OF FUNDS</b>	An upfit of existing media lab facilities is important to support student learning opportunities within the new and growing programs in Communication and in Emerging Media. These non-recurring funds will significantly enhance the ability of students to be career-ready when graduating with these degrees.
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*What specific strategy, as outlined in the most recent Strategic Planning and Performance Measurement template of agency's accountability report, does this funding request support? How would this request advance that strategy? How would the use of these funds be evaluated?*

<b>RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS</b>	Office of Academic Affairs will allocate these funds to the College of Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences/Department of Communication and Emerging Media. These degrees and students are located in these areas.
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*What individuals or entities would receive these funds (contractors, vendors, grantees, individual beneficiaries, etc.)? How would these funds be allocated – using an existing formula, through a competitive process, based upon predetermined eligibility criteria?*

**JUSTIFICATION  
OF REQUEST**

UofSC Aiken now offers degrees in Communication and in Emerging Media that emphasize a variety of forward-looking technologies, analytics, research, and strategies for impactful communication. Critical to effective communication is studying and understanding the way the target/market both receives and processes messages. While our media lab already contains some quality equipment, these non-recurring funding is needed to support increased student enrollment and exciting new directions in the program. Faculty research, student capstone projects, and university communication will be greatly impacted by this investment. Furthermore, this upfit will allow us to pursue external partnerships and investments in our students and university.

Needed equipment for:

- Social Media Analytics (smart tv's/monitors/computers)
- Psychophysiological Research (biometric research related to media consumption)
- Media & Podcast Studio (equipment/software)

Research/Focus Group Room (microphones/monitors/computers)

*Please thoroughly explain the request to include the justification for funds, potential offsets, matching funds, and method of calculation. Please include any explanation of impact if funds are not received. If new positions have been requested, explain why existing vacancies are not sufficient.*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	7
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Etherredge Center HVAC Replacement
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$5,500,000
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*How much is requested for this project in FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>CPIP PRIORITY</b>	<b>Plan Year 1 of 2; Overall 4 of 6; First appeared in CPIP in 2020</b>
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*Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.*

<b>OTHER APPROVALS</b>	With the inclusion of this project in the University's CPIP, the concept of this project has had vetting within the UofSC System. Further approvals would be required of the UofSC Board of Trustees, CHE and as applicable the JBRC and SFAA.
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*What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)*

<b>LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	UofSC Aiken has had a history of living within its means and only requesting projects that are deemed most necessary for the success of its students. This project is intended to replace the existing HVAC system which is nearing the end of its useful life and is not intended to result in any additional requests for capital or operating funds in the future (beyond those requested.) and should result in A Fund energy cost savings because of improved efficiency.
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*What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?*

<b>LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	The Etherredge Center contains approximately 54,000 gross square feet and the HVAC system, installed in 1980, has not been updated. It is reaching the end of its serviceable life. It no longer provides the needed cooling and HVAC needed for the building. Maintenance has extended the life of the system, but it is now becoming cost prohibitive to maintain. This project will replace air handlers, Variable Airflow Valves (VAVs), controllers, thermostats, chiller, associated duct piping and components, and provide some asbestos removal.
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## SUMMARY

*Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	8
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Gregg-Graniteville Library Renovation
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$10,000,000
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*How much is requested for this project in FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>CPIP PRIORITY</b>	Plan Year 1 of 1; Overall 6 of 6. First appeared in CPIP in 2015 Tuition increases over multiple years for this project is a consideration, but this approach would delay the project resulting in the continued lack of centralized learning common space for its students.
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*Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.*

<b>OTHER APPROVALS</b>	With the inclusion of this project in the University's CPIP, the concept of this project has had vetting within the UofSC System. Further approvals would be required of the UofSC Board of Trustees, CHE and as applicable the JBRC and SFAA.
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*What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)*

<b>LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	This project is intended to support State and University initiatives and is not intended to result in any additional requests for capital or operating funds in the future (beyond those requested for the renovation.) The existing library operating budget will continue to provide funding for operations.
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*What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?*

<b>LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	The facility, support staff, and collections of the Gregg-Graniteville Library comprise an integral part of UofSC Aiken's instructional program. The two-story 40,000 square foot building houses an extensive book, periodical, and microform collection. The facility, constructed in 1975, added an additional 20,000 square feet in 1984, doubling the size of the building. No significant construction has taken place in the facility since that time. The library made some cosmetic changes that provided increased collaborative spaces and computing capabilities for students.  Recent growth of the University has resulted in increased utilization of the library by as much as 20%. Relocation of the Center for Student Achievement into the library has also created additional student visits to the facility. Library faculty will teach over 100 Library Instruction classes this semester in the library classroom as part of the course curriculum, additionally the library faculty will travel to other classes on campus due to the limited
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## SUMMARY

capacity of seating in the library classroom. Library Instruction is incorporated into coursework from English to Engineering and everything in between.

Needs of students are changing in the way that they learn and study and the library must keep current with these needs in order to provide students with the best educational experience they can have. Providing the proper spaces and services are key aspects to recruiting, retaining, promoting, and graduating students. The current library configuration is woefully inadequate in this regard. Through a renovation, the library would effectively meet the changing learning needs by offering increased flexibility for the existing space. Plans for a library renovation include adding both individual and group study rooms, as well as additional collaborative workspace areas; an innovative state of the art teaching lab and classroom that would not only allow faculty to experiment with new methods of knowledge delivery but would also incorporate new technologies into teaching; and flexible spaces and technology that could change and evolve as the needs of students and learners change and evolve.

This renovation would also incorporate an area for an 'Engineering/Innovation Lab', which would house educational technology integral to our growing engineering program curriculum. Students would have access to items such as 3-D printers, Virtual Reality technology, and green screens in the Lab.

The goal of the University and the library faculty and staff is through this renovation to create an inviting space for learning and knowledge creation. Creating flexible use areas will allow maximum utility, while also creating a facility where students feel welcome and relaxed. This will involve more than just furniture and fixtures but will incorporate technology essential to our educational programming.

*Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM C – CAPITAL REQUEST**

<b>AGENCY PRIORITY</b>	9
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*Provide the Agency Priority Ranking from the Executive Summary.*

<b>TITLE</b>	Deferred Maintenance
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$15,000,000
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*How much is requested for this project in FY 2022-2023? This amount should correspond to the total for all funding sources on the Executive Summary.*

<b>CPIP PRIORITY</b>	Not on CPIP
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*Identify the project's CPIP plan year and priority number, along with the first year in which the project was included in the agency's CPIP. If not included in the agency's CPIP, please provide an explanation. If the project involves a request for appropriated state funding, briefly describe the agency's contingency plan in the event that state funding is not made available in the amount requested.*

<b>OTHER APPROVALS</b>	To the extent necessary by policy or regulation, approvals from the University Institutional Board, CHE, JBRC and SFAA must be secured.
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*What approvals have already been obtained? Are there additional approvals that must be secured in order for the project to succeed? (Institutional board, JBRC, SFAA, etc.)*

<b>LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	The University prioritizes and addresses deferred maintenance issues annually from institutional funds. If the state does not provide additional funds for this purpose, available funds will be leveraged to address those maintenance needs deemed most critical.
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*What other funds have already been invested in this project (source/type, amount, timeframe)? Will other capital and/or operating funds for this project be requested in the future? If so, how much, and in which fiscal years? Has a source for those funds been identified/secured? What is the agency's expectation with regard to additional annual costs or savings associated with this capital improvement? What source of funds will be impacted by those costs or savings? What is the expected useful life of the capital improvement?*

<b>LONG-TERM PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY</b>	<p>Maintenance is a continued cost of ensuring the learning infrastructure is managed in a manner to maximize the educational use while maintaining a strong sense of stewardship for the assets and available resources. U of SC Aiken would use this funding to continue to address a variety of deferred or appropriate critical repair and related maintenance, and or address any other critical equipment, and systems repair. Key focus is upon using funds on life and safety maintenance matters to maintain an efficient and effective operation of U of SC Aiken's educational missions.</p> <p>Appropriated funds would only be utilized for capital renewal, maintenance, and repairs of E&amp;G facilities and would not be used for new construction. Matching funds by the university would exclude supplemental, capital reserve, lottery, and or non-recurring state funds appropriated to U of SC Aiken for a specific use in the current fiscal year.</p> <p>The strategic use of this funding will act as a catalyst to address:</p>
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## SUMMARY

1. Critical repairs
2. Maintain state university assets at a more optimal operating basis
3. Maximize existing educational space for instruction and guidance
4. Support new and or growing number of jobs through the use of repair and maintenance services companies and or component manufacturers.

*Provide a summary of the project and explain why it is necessary. Please refer to the budget guidelines for appropriate questions and thoroughly answer all related items.*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM E – AGENCY COST SAVINGS AND GENERAL FUND REDUCTION CONTINGENCY PLAN**

<b>TITLE</b>	Agency Cost Savings and General Fund Reduction Contingency Plan
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<b>AMOUNT</b>	\$358,129
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*What is the General Fund 3% reduction amount? This amount should correspond to the reduction spreadsheet prepared by EBO.*

<b>ASSOCIATED FTE REDUCTIONS</b>	Current plans do not include FTE reductions for USC Aiken.
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*How many FTEs would be reduced in association with this General Fund reduction?*

<b>PROGRAM / ACTIVITY IMPACT</b>	<p>Education and General Unrestricted (I.A) and associated Employee Benefits (II).</p> <p>The University of South Carolina Aiken is dedicated to preserving the instructional program of the institution, and therefore reductions suggested are intended to be the least impactful on institutionally supported instructional programs. In some cases, reductions to other University programs are proposed to allow for internal reallocations to preserve instructional activity. Both academic and service units are funded from the Campus' general fund which is comprised almost exclusively from State General Fund and student tuition and fee revenue.</p> <p>The University of South Carolina Aiken is dedicated to preserving the instructional program of the institution and therefore reductions suggested are intended to be the least impactful on institutionally supported instructional programs. In some cases, reductions to other University programs are proposed to allow for internal reallocations to preserve instructional activity.</p> <p>See summary of proposed reductions on next page.</p>
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*What programs or activities are supported by the General Funds identified?*

<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p><b>\$100,000 – Reduce Funding for Education and Analysis of Emergent Trends in Accreditation/Compliance and Other Risk Areas</b>– Annually, the University is required by both State and Federal agencies to provide data and analyses to meet accreditation and compliance regulations. Additionally, data analytics, participation/sponsorship of seminars by industry knowledge experts, and participation in benchmarking activities are used to identify emerging trends that are a growing concern both locally and nationally. Some examples of topics are: students' ability to pay for college, reduction of default rates, trends in online education, and teaching efficiency, etc. This reduction represents approximately 50% of the funding available to for these activities. The reduced ability to conduct/be involved with these activities will hamper the institution's ability to meet the growing expectations of both State and Federal Agencies. Additionally, reduction of these funds could result in increased difficulty in addressing new risks as they emerge.</p> <p><b>\$100,000 – Reduce Funding for Student Retention, Progression and Graduation (RPG) Efforts</b> - There has been growing concern with student retention, progression and graduation rates at both the State and national levels. USC Aiken has invested in pilot projects using academic coaches/success managers and topical seminars to help students meet their goals. Initial data from these projects indicate that this model has positive impacts on RPG. Reductions would jeopardize the ability to continue these and related projects.</p> <p><b>\$100,000 – Reduce Funding Intended to Support/Seed Academic Programs</b> -The development of new programs takes time and often additional efforts of faculty and staff. This funding will limit the development of new programs intended to support the needs of our regional and State economies. Partnerships are also intended to provide enhanced work-readiness opportunities for South Carolinians. USC Aiken's current enrollment boasts approximately 91% South Carolinians. The University pays great attention not to lose sight of the overall mission to serve students of the Palmetto State.</p> <p><b>\$58,129 – Reduce Support for Campus Maintenance/Renewal Projects</b> – USC Aiken has made efforts in recent years to do more to address its aging facilities and infrastructure. This would reduce the available funding for maintenance/renewal projects and fleet replacements, and put greater burden on related systems in subsequent years.</p>
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**\$358,129 – Grand Total**

Calculation is based on 3% actual ongoing state appropriation funding currently included in the FY21-22 University of South Carolina Aiken Budget received from the State as provided by the Executive Budget Office.

Amounts for reduction are based on amounts currently included in the FY21-22 University of South Carolina Aiken Budget.

*Please provide a detailed summary of service delivery impact caused by a reduction in General Fund Appropriations and provide the method of calculation for anticipated reductions. Agencies should prioritize reduction in expenditures that have the least significant impact on service delivery.*

**AGENCY COST SAVINGS PLANS**

These cost savings would be realized by delaying hires and/or not filling vacant positions, reducing the scope of or eliminating programming, and by deferring maintenance expenditures into future periods. All such decisions will, have an impact on operations and service levels across all areas of the University.

*What measures does the agency plan to implement to reduce its costs and operating expenses by more than \$50,000? Provide a summary of the measures taken and the estimated amount of savings. How does the agency plan to repurpose the savings?*

Agency Name:	USC - Aiken Campus		
Agency Code:	H290	Section:	20B

## **FORM F – REDUCING COST AND BURDEN TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS**

<b>TITLE</b>	Reducing Cost and Burden to Businesses and Citizens – USC Aiken
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*Provide a brief, descriptive title for this request.*

<b>EXPECTED SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS</b>	UofSC Aiken has implemented programs and taken steps over the last several years designed to assist students in obtaining a degree in a timely manner and to minimize the overall cost of obtaining a quality education. Providing a quality workforce to the businesses within the State is a vital aspect of continuous economic development. The savings to citizens and business of the state are incalculable. The economic impact of the University on the State of South Carolina is significant, and highlights are provided further below.
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*What is the expected savings to South Carolina's businesses and citizens that is generated by this proposal? The savings could be related to time or money.*

<b>FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE REQUEST</b>	<p><b>Mark "X" for all that apply:</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Repeal or revision of regulations.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Other</td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	Repeal or revision of regulations.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reduction of agency fees or fines to businesses or citizens.								
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater efficiency in agency services or reduction in compliance burden.								
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other								

<b>METHOD OF CALCULATION</b>	<p>Serving Our Region: USC Aiken educates the next generation of professionals, so they have the broad understanding and critical capabilities necessary to succeed in their careers, enjoy a full life, and contribute as citizens and neighbors, building vibrant communities for decades to come.</p> <p>Accreditation: Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges</p> <p>Economic Impact: UofSC Aiken pumps more than \$350.7 million annually into the South Carolina economy, most of which benefits Aiken and Aiken County. (Estimate from the Darla Moore School of Business, 2021.)</p>
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*Describe the method of calculation for determining the expected cost or time savings to businesses or citizens.*

<b>REDUCTION OF FEES OR FINES</b>	<p>The only published State of South Carolina regulations UofSC Aiken has are those contained in Chapter 119 dealing with motor vehicle registration, parking, obeying traffic signs and adhering to posted speed limits while on campus. These regulations were promulgated under the authority of Section 59-117-40 of the S.C. Code of Laws. All tuition, fees and fines are reviewed annually before being presented to the Board of Trustees for their consideration and approval. These tuition and fees are contained in the annual budget and are related to providing instructional services to enrolled students. There are a few fines contained in that schedule which relate to parking, traffic violations, smoking or Student Judicial Affairs.</p>
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*Which fees or fines does the agency intend to reduce? What was the fine or fee revenue for the previous fiscal year? What was the associated program expenditure for the previous fiscal year? What is the enabling authority for the issuance of the fee or fine?*

<b>REDUCTION OF REGULATION</b>	<p>The University's regulations do not pertain to business operations. Nor do they pertain to the citizens of the State in general. The University has taken steps over the last several years to assist students in obtaining a degree in a timely manner and to minimize the overall cost of obtaining a quality education. See summarized highlights below.</p>
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*Which regulations does the agency intend to amend or delete? What is the enabling authority for the regulation?*

	<p>UofSC Aiken has been consistently highly ranked by <i>U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges</i> guide. The university has been recognized 21 times among the top three in the Regional Comprehensive Public College in the South category. Fourteen times it has been honored as the #1 institution in that category. Additionally, UofSC Aiken has been recognized as a top institution for veterans and their family members. Some of USC Aiken's Points of Pride include:</p> <p><b>Student Debt:</b> 31% of the students who start college at UofSC Aiken and graduate do so with no debt. The average debt load of UofSC Aiken students is \$19,415, which is far lower than the national average of \$32,731 as of January 4, 2021, according to the Federal Reserve.</p>
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## SUMMARY

**Alumni:** 20,000 Alumni of record

**NCAA Athletics:** 6 men's teams and 6 women's teams consistently ranked among the nation's best.

**Student-Faculty ratio:** 15:1 creates opportunities for individualized learning

Talented faculty including recipients of the Governor's Award for Excellence in Scientific Research, the Governor's Professor of the Year, and a Grammy-Award winning Artist-in-Residence

### Honors and Distinctions

*U.S. News and World Report (2021): #1 Regional Comprehensive Public College in the South.* This 2021 distinction marks USC Aiken's 23rd consecutive ranking among the top three in this category. The university has won the first place ranking fifteen times.

*College of Distinction (2020):* By demonstrating continued dedication to high-impact educational practices that influence both student learning and student success, UofSC Aiken has been named as one of the nation's Colleges of Distinction.

The selection process at Colleges of Distinction requires that institutions adhere to the four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community, and successful outcomes. This process also includes a review of each institution's freshman experience as well as its general education program, strategic plan, alumni success, satisfaction measures, and more.

Additionally, UofSC Aiken has been further recognized in the fields of Business, Education, and Nursing for 2020-21. The University received "Field of Study" badges in these areas from Colleges of Distinction. These additional awards are based on qualities such as accreditation, breadth of program, and the track record of success for the individual programs.

*Military Times (2020):* UofSC Aiken once again ranks as one of the top institutions committed to the success of military and veteran students, according to Military Times, a highly ranked source among the armed forces. The rankings are based on the results of Military Times' annual survey - the most comprehensive school-by-school assessment of veteran and military student services and rates of academic achievement - as well as a detailed review of public data collected by federal agencies.

*Tree Campus USA (May 2020):* The Arbor Day Foundation has once again designated the University a Tree Campus USA®.

More information can be found at <https://www.usca.edu/about/acc...>

*Provide an explanation of the proposal and its positive results on businesses or citizens. How will the request affect agency operations?*