

2.1 The institution has degree-granting authority from the appropriate government agency or agencies. **(Degree-granting Authority)**

Compliance Status: Compliance

The College of Coastal Georgia's has degree-granting authority established by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG). The Board of Regents was created by an Act of the General Assembly of Georgia in 1931 to provide governing control over all of the public institutions of higher education in the USG. Documentation of that authority can be found in the Constitution of the State of Georgia, [Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 1\(b\)](#), which states:

The Board of Regents shall have the exclusive authority to create new public colleges, junior colleges, and universities in the State of Georgia, subject to approval by majority vote in the House of Representatives and the Senate. Such vote shall not be required to change the status of a college, institution or university existing on the effective date of this Constitution. The government, control, and management of the University System of Georgia and all of the institutions in said system shall be vested in the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

The *Bylaws of the Board of Regents* also document the governing board's constitutional authority – [Section I, Paragraph 2](#). The College is a unit of the USG and receives its degree-granting authority from the Board of Regents. Documentation of the College's inclusion in the USG can be found in [Section I, Paragraph 6](#) of the Board's *Bylaws*.

Institutional Transformation

Founded in 1961, as Brunswick College, the institution has gone through various transformations. Focusing on the needs of the surrounding communities, in 1996, the College became Coastal Georgia Community College.

In November 1993, the College submitted a substantive change proposal to develop an off-campus site in Camden County, Georgia, to offer the associate for transfer and the associate degree as a non-transfer career degree. The proposal was approved by the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges in [January 1994](#). The Center was housed in a temporary facility from 1994 to 2004, when the Center moved into a permanent facility on property adjacent to that of the Camden High School in Kingsland, Georgia. The Camden Center is not a branch campus within the meaning of the *Principles of Accreditation*. The faculty members who teach at the Camden Center also teach in Brunswick. All instruction is under the governance of School Deans operating from the Brunswick site.

In [June 2008](#), with approval from the USG Board of Regents, Coastal Georgia Community College became the College of Coastal Georgia, authorized to grant baccalaureate degrees, following its designation as a state college within the University System.

At its meeting in [December 2008](#), SACSCOC granted the College initial approval as a Level II institution to offer baccalaureate degrees in business administration, early childhood/special education and middle grades education, and nursing.

In [March 2009](#), as part of the transition to state college status, the College sought and received approval from SACSCOC to discontinue the technical college programs effective July 1, 2009.

With the College's change in institutional status, moving from two-year to four-year, a new mission statement – representing the core principles of an access institution while incorporating goals to become a destination institution with strong scholarship, worthwhile community linkages and exemplary student development – was developed and approved by the USG Board of Regents in [August 2009](#).

In [April 2010](#), in an effort to continue its progress as a new state college, the USG Board of Regents approved the offering of baccalaureate degrees in biological sciences and health informatics; SACSCOC subsequently approved both degree programs in [August 2010](#).

The SACSCOC substantive change review team visited the campus in February 2010 and had no "recommendations" for the College. At its June 2010 Board of Trustees meeting, the Commission on Colleges [reconfirmed](#) the College as a Level II institution authorized to offer baccalaureate degrees.

Supporting Documentation

[Authority to Govern Institutions of Higher Education, Constitution of the State of Georgia, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 1 \(a\) and \(b\)](#)

[USG Board of Regents Charter and Constitutional Authority Bylaws of the Board of Regents \(Section I, Paragraph 2\)](#)

[USG Bylaws of the Board of Regents, Section I, Paragraph 6](#)

[Letter from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges granting approval for Camden Center development, January 15, 1994](#)

[Meeting Minutes from the USG Board of Regents approving the mission change, June 11, 2008](#)

[Letter from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges granting initial approval for elevation to Level II institution status, January 9, 2009](#)

[Letter from the USG Board of Regents approving request to discontinue technical college programs, March 17, 2009](#)

[Meeting Minutes from the USG Board of Regents approving revised mission statement, August 11, 2009](#)

[Meeting Minutes from the USG Board of Regents approving biological sciences and health informatics baccalaureate degree programs for the College of Coastal Georgia, April 21, 2010](#)

[Letter from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, approving biological sciences and health informatics degree programs for College of Coastal Georgia, August 9, 2010](#)

[Letter from Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges reconfirming College as a Level II institution, July 8, 2010](#)