

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

### Judgment of Compliance

- Compliance

### Narrative

Albany State University is empowered by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents with the authority to grant baccalaureate, masters and education specialist degrees. The constitutional authority of the Board of Regents (BOR) to create and govern public institutions of higher education is clearly set forth in the Constitution of the State of Georgia under Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 1(b):

“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.” [\[1\]](#)

This constitutional authority of the BOR to organize, manage and govern each and every public institution of higher education was codified by Act of the General Assembly of Georgia in 1931 [\[2a\]](#) [\[2b\]](#). Authority and control of Georgia’s universities by the BOR is also documented in the bylaws of the BOR [\[3\]](#).

Albany State University, originally established as the Albany Bible and Manual Training Institute, was founded in 1903 by Joseph Winthrop Holley as a privately supported Institution for the education and training of African American youths of Southwest Georgia [\[4\]](#). In 1917, the Institute became the Georgia Normal and Agricultural College, a state-supported, two-year college for the primary purpose of training elementary teachers.

With the creation of the BOR in 1931 [\[4\]](#), the college became a member of the newly established University System of Georgia. The college was granted senior college status in 1943, and assumed the name Albany State College [\[5\]](#). As a four-year institution, the College possessed the authority to confer the bachelor’s degree in elementary education and home economics, received its first accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) in 1951 [\[6\]](#), and experienced several years of secondary level degree program growth and development thereafter.

In 1972, the first graduate degree program, in cooperation with Georgia State University, was authorized. In 1991 the College began offering graduate degree programs solely designed and delivered by internal faculty and staff [\[5\]](#). In July 1996, Albany State College was granted university status and the name of the Institution was changed to

Albany State University [7]. Two years later, Albany State University received notice of reaffirmation of accreditation by SACS-COC [6].

Albany State University remains a leader among the state's degree-granting institutions of higher education. At the monthly meeting of the BOR on January 7, 2003, the Board approved the establishment of a major in Business Information Systems under the Bachelor of Science degree program at Albany State University [8]. At the BOR's November 16, 2004 meeting, a major in Technology Management under the Bachelor of Applied Science degree was also approved [9]. In 2005, the BOR approved distance learning delivery for the University's Accelerated Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) for Registered Nurses (RN to MSN) and Family Nurses or Nurse Educators to Family Nurse Practitioner (MSN/FNP) programs in the College of Nursing [10]. The existing Master of Science Degree in Nursing was approved for distance learning by the BOR April 18, 2006 [11]. As a unit of the University System of Georgia (USG), Albany State University currently awards baccalaureate degrees in 35 major fields of study, master's degrees in 13 major fields of study and a specialist degree in education [12].

### Supporting Documentation

- [1] Authority to Govern Institutions of Higher Education, [Constitution of the State of Georgia, Article VIII, Section IV, Paragraph 1 \(a\) and \(b\)](#)
- [2a] Georgia Code describing Power to Govern, OCGA, Section [20-3-31](#)
- [2b] Georgia Code describing Power to Govern, OCGA, Section [20-3-32](#)
- [3] Board of Regents Charter and Constitutional Authority [Bylaws of the Board of Regents \(Section I, Paragraph 2\)](#)
- [4] Establishment of the Board of Regents, OCGA, Section [20-3-20](#)
- [5] History of the University [Albany State University Undergraduate Catalog, p. 10 \(History\)](#)
- [6] Date of Initial Commission on Colleges Accreditation, [SACS-COC, Data Summary of Membership, January 2007 Report](#)
- [7] University Status, [Board of Regents Minutes, July 9, 1996](#), Section: Nomenclature and Identity
- [8] Approval of a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Information Systems, [Board of Regents Minutes, January 7, 2003](#), Committee on Education, Research, and Extension, item 1
- [9] Approval of a Bachelor of Applied Science in Technology Management, [Board of Regents Minutes, November 16, 2004](#), Committee on Academic Affairs, Item 2
- [10] Master of Science in Nursing (RN to MSN) (Family Nurse or Nurse Educator) Accelerated Program available via distance learning, [Board of Regents News](#)

- [11] Approval of Existing Master of Science in Nursing for Online Delivery, [Board of Regents Minutes, April 18, 2006](#), Academic Affairs Committee, Item 8
- [12] Degrees that the University is Authorized to Confer, [University System of Georgia Board of Regents: Degrees and Majors Authorized](#)