

2008-2009 Blueprint for Academic Excellence

Executive Summary

Vision Statement

The USC SOM will be a highly regarded community-based medical school recognized for the quality of its educational, research, and service programs and their relevance to the needs of the citizens of South Carolina.

The SOM had its strongest entering class in history, significantly increased its research productivity, and expanded its clinical services.

Mission Statement

The mission of the USC SOM is to improve the health of the people of the state of South Carolina through medical education, research, and the delivery of health care. Allocation of resources reflects the health care needs of South Carolina with respect to healthcare providers and focused research as well as the requirements for accreditation by all appropriate organizations.

Education: Medical and graduate education are conducted in a highly personal atmosphere which emphasizes a balance between scientific disciplines, humanistic concerns, and societal needs and results in highly competitive, competent, caring graduates.

Medical student national board scores and residency match were excellent in 2007. Applications to the Ph.D. program more than doubled this year.

Research: Research in the basic biomedical sciences, in the clinical sciences, and in the delivery of health care is conducted to promote excellence in medical education, the development and application of new knowledge, and will be recognized as such by external entities.

Publications, grant applications, and extramural expenditures were all up significantly in 2006-2007.

Service: Faculty members, both in the course of teaching and in order to maintain superior clinical skills, provide comprehensive outpatient and inpatient services to patients, consult with other physicians, other health care professionals and health care agencies throughout the state to improve the health of the state's citizens, and provide professional service to USC, the SOM, granting agencies, governmental organizations, professional societies, and the public.

The clinical practice plan generated almost \$41 million in practice revenues, and the SOM clinical departments provided over \$4.5 million in uncompensated medical care. Clinical services were expanded in needed areas (neurology, neurosurgery, pulmonary, and infectious disease). Faculty are heavily involved in professional services throughout the institution and nationally.

Goals

Educational

To provide educational programs of excellence for medical, graduate, and undergraduate students that are conducted in a highly personal atmosphere, utilize the latest in methodology and technology, and emphasize a balance between scientific discipline, humanistic concerns, and the needs of SC.

1. Prepare for LCME reaccreditation
2. Explore the use of innovative technology in the undergraduate curriculum.
3. Expand the use of information technology in the curriculum to better manage and track course content.
4. Increase underrepresented minority recruitment and matriculation.
5. Develop plans to include elective time in the M-III year.
6. Develop a plan to incorporate ultrasound technology into the medical student curriculum.
7. Expand collaborations between educational programs of the USC SOM, the main campus, MUSC, and GHS.
8. Improve USC SOM graduate education programs.
9. Expand student scholarships.
10. Expand educational and administrative facilities in the USC SOM.
11. Expand faculty development programs.
12. Update the PH-USC Strategic Plan for Optimizing the Size and Configuration of GME Programs.
13. Create Clinical Simulation Assessment Centers on the DVAMC and PHR campuses.
14. Establish a state-of-the-art assessment center.
15. Members of the Class of 2008 will achieve acceptance into competitive residency training programs of their choice in the annual National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).
16. On average, graduates in the Class of 2007 will perform in the "average" to "outstanding" range during their first year of residency.
17. On average, USC SOM graduates in the Class of 2007 will express satisfaction with the quality of their medical education in the range of "average" to "outstanding" on the PGY-1 surveys distributed to them by the Office of Curricular Affairs and Faculty Support in their residency programs one year after their graduation from the USC SOM.
18. Members of the Classes of 2008 and 2010 will perform well on Steps 2 and 1 of the USMLE, respectively.
19. On average, medical students will express satisfaction with instruction in first- and second-year courses and third- and fourth-year clinical clerkships.

20. Members of the Class of 2008 will choose to enter residency training programs in specialties and subspecialties in greatest need in South Carolina.
21. The USC SOM will continue its excellent record of tracking graduates through the completion of their residency training programs into clinical practice.
22. The Office of Medical Education and Academic Affairs will be productive in the areas of research and other scholarly activity in medical education.
23. Prepare for reaccreditation of the Office of CME.
24. The Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Science will review its program size and continue to adjust student enrollment to match number of mentors, job market, applicant quality, and research resources.
25. The Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Science will review and modify, as needed, the core interdisciplinary biomedical science curriculum.
26. The Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Science will enhance its student recruitment process, by completing written recruitment materials (brochure and CD) and more numerous visits to targeted undergraduate colleges.
27. First- and second-year doctoral students in the Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Science will express satisfaction with program course work.
28. The Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Science, in collaboration with the Office of the Associate Dean for Basic Science, will continue long-range plans to ensure stable funding of stipends for doctoral students enrolled in years three to five of the program.
29. The Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Science, in cooperation with the Associate Dean for Basic Science will work to develop a cooperative graduate program in Biomedical Science with other units of the University. The Vice President for Research and Health Sciences will be involved.
30. The Biomedical Science Graduate Committee will review and adjust as appropriate the number of students enrolled in the Master's Program in Biomedical Science in accord with the number and nature of positions available nationally for master's degree-prepared science graduates and the availability of research mentors.
31. The Biomedical Science Graduate Program will update its student recruitment process, including revision of written recruitment materials and computer website information and visits to targeted undergraduate colleges.
32. The SOM Office of Graduate Studies will continue implementation of a current applicant/student/graduate database for the Master's Program in Biomedical Science similar to that of the Ph.D. Program, including information regarding student satisfaction with the program, time to employment following degree receipt, and employer satisfaction.
33. Students enrolled in the Master's Program in Biomedical Science will express satisfaction with program course work.
34. Graduates will demonstrate clinical competency in communications skills, critical thinking skills, counseling and psychosocial assessment skills, and professional ethics and values as defined by the American Board of Genetic Counseling.

35. Graduates will possess the ability to apply, conduct, and/or synthesize research in clinical genetics and genetic counseling within their professional practices.
36. Course work and clinical rotation experiences will continually strive to maintain focus on the most important aspects of training genetic counselors and incorporating advances in clinical genetics, as needed.
37. At the time of their graduation, students will express satisfaction with the Master's Program in Genetic Counseling and the level of preparation provided for genetic counseling practice.
38. Graduates and their employers will express satisfaction with graduates' preparation in the program for eventual clinical practice.
39. Graduates will achieve certification by the American Board of Genetic Counseling within two examination cycles of graduation.
40. Graduates will provide a significant proportion of the genetic counseling services in South Carolina and the southeastern United States.
41. On average, students of the Master's Program in Nurse Anesthesia will express satisfaction with didactic instruction in their program.
42. On average, graduates from the Master's Program in Nurse Anesthesia will pass the National Certification Examination in Nurse Anesthesia on their first attempt at a rate at or above that for all nurse anesthesia students nationally.
43. In collaboration with the American Association of Nurse Anesthesia (AANA) and the South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists (S.C.A.N.A.), the Master's Program in Nurse Anesthesia will enhance its recruitment process in order to increase the overall number of applicants to the program and to improve the quality of the applicant pool.
44. The Master's Program in Nurse Anesthesia will continue investigating the feasibility of expanding the program to additional training sites.
45. The Master's Program in Nurse Anesthesia will collaborate with personnel in the SOM Office of Medical Education and Academic Affairs and the SOM Alumni Office to continue to collect data about alumni satisfaction with the program, alumni employment, and employer satisfaction with program graduates.
46. Graduates of the 2006-2007 Master's Program in Rehabilitation Counseling will assess positively the quality of their professional preparation in the program.
47. Program faculty and staff will continue to develop an effective alumni tracking system in collaboration with personnel in the USC SOM Alumni Office and the Office of Medical Education and Academic Affairs.
48. Program graduates will continue to achieve success on national Rehabilitation Counseling certification examinations and state Licensed Professional Counselor licensing examinations at or above national and state pass rates, respectively.
49. The Master's Program in Rehabilitation Counseling and the Certificate of Graduate Study in Psychiatric Rehabilitation will continue to recruit and admit five distance education students in the 2005-2006 academic year.

50. The Master's Program in Rehabilitation Counseling will continue to enhance its student recruitment activities.
51. Faculty will actively work with agencies employing Program graduates to explore potential places for rehabilitation counseling and graduates within their agencies. This exploration will include pay rates and career ladders.
52. Continue to participate in the training of professionals in South Carolina agencies through the development of training contracts, offering of continuing education training options, and professional development contracts.

Research

To promote and conduct discipline-specific as well as multidisciplinary biomedical science, clinical science, and health services research in focused areas of special need in SC.

1. Develop a progressive research agenda as part of USC SOM Strategic Plan.
2. Recruit teams of senior investigators to the SOM with research interests consistent with the USC SOM Focus Areas of Research.
3. Continue the USC SOM Research Development Fund.
4. Initiate planning for Program Project Grant applications.
5. Increase extramural funding by 10% over 2006-2007 levels.
6. Increase the number of proposals or the amount of funding requests of proposals for extramural funding by 10% over 2006-2007 levels.
7. Increase the number of proposals submitted for internal start-up grants for preliminary studies by 10% over 2006-2007 levels.
8. Increase the number of scholarly publications by 10% from previous calendar year.
9. Participate in major USC grant initiatives.
10. Expand research space on the DVAMC campus.
11. Increase USC SOM Faculty FTE dedicated to research.
12. Promote translational research to foster basic science – clinical science collaborations.
13. Expand clinical research base through development of clinical programs.

Service

To provide comprehensive outpatient and inpatient services to patients in SC in consultation with other physicians, other health care professionals, and health care agencies, and to provide professional service to USC, the SOM, granting agencies, governmental organizations, professional societies, and the public.

1. Improve the structure and function of University Specialty Clinics.

2. Implement the USC SOM-PHA Billing Compliance Plan.
3. Continue to develop Primary Care services within USC SOM.
4. Expand specialty services in University Specialty Clinics.
5. Upgrade USC SOM clinical facilities.
6. Expand relationships between University Specialty Clinics and Palmetto Health.

Administrative

To provide and support quality facilities, equipment, faculty, and staff necessary to achieve the USC SOM educational, research, and service goals.

1. Upgrade computer and communications resources in the USCSOM.
2. Upgrade USC SOM Clinical Facilities
3. Expand fundraising activities in the SOM.
4. Increase foundations/corporations giving to the SOM.
5. Increase planned giving to the SOM.