



U N I V E R S I T Y O F
SOUTH CAROLINA
S U M T E R

**Blueprint for Quality Enhancement
FY2009**

I. VISION, MISSION, AND GOALS

A. Executive Summary and Mission Statement

Vision Statement

The University of South Carolina Sumter aspires to become the next four-year campus of the University of South Carolina System.

Current Standing of USC Sumter Relative to the Vision

USC Sumter has begun to make progress toward the Vision and Mission in the following areas:

- 1) For two consecutive years student enrollment has increased approximately 7% each year.
- 2) Faculty are increasing the number of grant proposals submitted and the number that are being funded.
- 3) Faculty scholarship is also increasing.

Mission Statement:

The University of South Carolina Sumter, a regional campus of the University of South Carolina, has as its mission to provide higher education and intellectual leadership for the Sumter area. At the heart of this mission is a teaching faculty of high quality dedicated to excellence in instruction, scholarship, public and professional service and creative endeavor which enrich the classroom experience. USC Sumter offers a varied curriculum rooted in the liberal arts and aimed at preparing students to continue their education in the university and throughout life. The University of South Carolina Sumter recruits students prepared to begin or planning to complete a baccalaureate level education. While USC Sumter does not offer remedial instruction, it is nonetheless able to admit most students who apply because of the close working relationship between students and faculty. Enrollment varies with community need, but is expected to remain near 1000 FTE students.

The University of South Carolina Sumter was established to encourage higher education in Sumter and adjacent counties. It primarily serves students from Sumter, Lee, Clarendon, Williamsburg, and Kershaw counties. The design of the early institution incorporated a flexibility that has allowed changes in institutional capability with increasing educational demand of constituents.

The institution itself grants the Associate in Arts and Associate in Science degrees and provides for the completion of selected bachelor degrees on campus through cooperative agreements with other institutions. Graduate education is coordinated at USC Sumter through the University's Graduate Regional Studies program. USC Sumter also provides access to a wide variety of baccalaureate degree programs on other campuses by teaching some courses that must be taken by students in these programs. The mission includes other appropriate upper division coursework as well as non-credit courses, seminars, and workshops made available to the community for cultural enrichment and for professional development.

The traditions of cultural diversity and freedom of thought are valued at USC Sumter. In an atmosphere that develops respect for this diversity and an awareness of individual, societal, and global responsibilities, USC Sumter promotes courses, activities, and attitudes which favor the development of men and women who continue learning throughout life.

The university emphasizes the development of the whole person. The institution especially seeks to foster in students the disciplines essential to an educated citizenry. These include the ability to communicate through effective writing and articulate speech, as well as quantitative competence, creative and critical thinking, and the integration of knowledge. Classroom experiences, student activities, and physical education programs provide opportunities for cultural enrichment, leadership development, intellectual growth and interpersonal relationships contributing to a sense of self-reliance and self-esteem.

This statement was approved by the USC Sumter Faculty Organization March 6, 1998.

This statement was approved by the Dean of USC Sumter March 6, 1998.

This statement was approved by the Vice Provost and Executive Dean for Regional Campuses and Continuing Education.

This statement was approved by the USC Board of Trustees on April 23, 1998.

How the Vision and Mission Relate to each other:

The focus of the mission statement is to provide the opportunity for higher education to the citizens of a five county service area. The vision statement reflects a natural evolution for USC Sumter as it endeavors to fully provide that opportunity.

Long Term Goals:

USC Sumter has determined that the following long term goals will allow the campus to progress substantially toward the achievement of the stated vision and mission.

1. The University of South Carolina Sumter will strengthen its ability to offer a program of high quality learning experiences, through a continued commitment to a tradition of teaching excellence and co-curricular activities, for the completion of associate degrees, joint programs, cooperative bachelor degrees, Palmetto Programs, and eventually the campus's own bachelor degrees.
2. The University of South Carolina Sumter will enhance and expand its student recruitment and retention programs in order to increase headcount and FTE enrollment and to attract and retain an academically talented and diverse student body.
3. The University of South Carolina Sumter will support and encourage the scholarly and creative pursuits of its faculty, including the pursuit of research grants and other types of grants from internal and external sources to support research and other scholarly endeavors.
4. The University of South Carolina Sumter will seek greater financial support from local and state governments, as well as private resources.
5. The University of South Carolina Sumter will develop and improve its physical plant and related campus infrastructure as outlined in the campus master plan and actively seek public and private funding to achieve this goal.