COUNSELOR HANDBOOK 2016
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Visit SC.EDU/ADMISSIONS/COUNSELORCONTACT.HTML to provide us with your current contact information.
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ABOUT

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Stunningly beautiful, the University of South Carolina offers the perfect blend of tradition and modern amenities. Students fall in love when they visit and experience this vibrant setting firsthand. You will, too!

400+
student organizations

OUR STUDENTS ARE READY FOR MORE

Résumé writing, mock interviews, internships and job shadowing are just a few ways the Career Center can help students launch their careers. Our advisers have the knowledge and the connections to help students meet their career aspirations.

Students who held internships during college earned an average of $5,291 more in their yearly salary for their first full-time job than students with no internship experience.

2015 TOP EMPLOYERS OF USC GRADS

Accenture
Amazon
Bank of America
Boeing
Disney
ExxonMobil
Grant Thornton
IntegrationPoint
Michelin

Nucor
Palmetto Health
Richland One School District
Target
Textron
Total Quality Logistics
U.S. Air Force
Vanguard
Wells Fargo
USC HAS MORE!

With more subjects to study, more ways to get involved and more ways to have fun, there are no limits to what your students will accomplish at the University of South Carolina. They’ll discover new interests, learn from top professors, and make lifelong friendships.

Plus, Columbia has lots to offer. The capital city has a thriving downtown business district, historic neighborhoods and abundant parks and cultural attractions as well as plenty of entertainment. It’s all here waiting. Come visit us soon, and see for yourself!

THE GOOD LIFE

The award-winning Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center boasts:

- Indoor and Outdoor Pools
- Squash
- Volleyball and Racquetball Courts
- Indoor Track
- 6,000-Square-Foot Fitness Room
- Intramural Fields
- Whirlpool and Sauna
- 52-Foot Climbing Wall
FUTURE GAMECOCKS SAY “YES” TO MORE THAN 100 UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA.
UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
African American Studies
Anthropology
Art Education
Art History
Art Studio
3-D Studies
Ceramics
Drawing
Graphic Design
Painting
Photography
Printmaking
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Biological Sciences
Cardiovascular Technology
Chemistry
Chinese Studies
Classics
Comparative Literature
Criminology and Criminal Justice
Dance
Economics
English
Environmental Science
Environmental Studies
Film and Media Studies
French
Geography
Geological Sciences
Geophysics
German
Global Studies
History
International Studies
Marine Science
Mathematics
Media Arts
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science
Psychology, Experimental
Religious Studies
Russian
Sociology
Spanish
Statistics
Theatre
Women’s and Gender Studies

DARLA MOORE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Accounting
Business Economics
Finance
International Business
Management
Management Science
Marketing
Real Estate
Risk Management
and Insurance

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education
Middle Level Education
Physical Education

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING
Biomedical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil and Environmental Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Information Systems
Computer Science
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

COLLEGE OF HOSPITALITY, RETAIL AND SPORT MANAGEMENT
Hospitality Management
Integrated Information Technology
Interdisciplinary Studies
Retailing with Specialization in Retail Management or Fashion Merchandising
Sport and Entertainment Management
Tourism Management

COLLEGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
Advertising
Broadcast Journalism
Information Science
Journalism
Mass Communications
Public Relations
Visual Communications

SCHOOL OF MUSIC
Composition
Jazz Studies
Music Education
Band
Strings
Vocal
Performance
Brass
Guitar
Organ
Percussion
Piano
Strings
Voice
Woodwinds
Theory

COLLEGE OF NURSING
Nursing

SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
Pharmaceutical Sciences
(B.S. includes two-year prepharmacy curriculum plus first two years of four-year Pharm.D. curriculum)

ARNOLD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Exercise Science
Public Health

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK
Social Work

SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS COLLEGE
Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae
B.A. (B.S.)/J.D.
(six-year pre-law/law degree program)
BARSC M.D. program
(seven-year pre-med/medical degree program)

Note: This list is subject to change. It is intended as a guide and should not be interpreted as a comprehensive list of degree programs. Also available are numerous minors and cognates in a variety of disciplines. For specific information about undergraduate programs, refer to the Undergraduate Student Bulletin at bulletin.sc.edu.

Revised July 2016

100+ UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES
128 MASTER’S DEGREES
68 DOCTORAL DEGREES
PROFESSIONAL DEGREES IN LAW AND MEDICINE

CHOOSE TWO:
Students must select two majors on their application for admission. This ensures the highest consideration for admission. Placement into their first-choice major is based on competitiveness of application. For additional information, visit sc.edu/admissions.

LAW, MEDICAL AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL DEGREES:
Students can study any major and still pursue a law, medical or other health professional degree. Pre-Professional Advising will help steer each individual in the right direction and create a plan for eventual application to professional school.

MORE WAYS TO APPLY
To apply to USC: sc.edu/admissions
To apply to USC via the Coalition Application: MYCOALITION.ORG
ACADEMIC PROFILE
FALL 2015 FRESHMAN CLASS

Freshman admission to the University of South Carolina is primarily based on high school courses and grades, along with SAT and ACT scores. Nearly 75 percent of admitted 2015 freshmen scored an 1130 or higher on the SAT (critical reading and math sections combined) or a 25 or higher on the ACT. Seventy-five percent earned a weighted core GPA of at least 3.60.

25,736 applied
5,190 enrolled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALL FRESHMEN</th>
<th>SC HONORS COLLEGE</th>
<th>CAPSTONE SCHOLARS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1130-1280 SAT mid-range*</td>
<td>1390-1470 SAT mid-range*</td>
<td>1270-1350 SAT mid-range*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-30 ACT mid-range**</td>
<td>31-33 ACT mid-range**</td>
<td>28-30 ACT mid-range**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.61-4.44 GPA mid-range</td>
<td>4.41-4.95 GPA mid-range</td>
<td>4.18-4.73 GPA mid-range</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*critical reading plus math
**composite score

NOTE: All SAT scores mentioned in this publication refer to SAT I scores obtained prior to the introduction of the redesigned SAT (rSAT) in March 2016. Please see sc.edu/admissions and select “Requirements” > “For Freshmen” for information about our use of the rSAT.
South Carolina Honors College Admission:

The Honors College/Top Scholars application is part of the general university application, so students submit these together at one time. The Honors College application and complete academic credentials* are due no later than Nov. 15. Students submitting the Honors College/Top Scholars application should not worry about the Oct. 15 Early Answer Deadline; they’ll receive the same consideration as early answer applicants and will receive a decision for their university admission the week of Dec. 12. Honors College admission decisions are sent separately from regular university admission decisions on a rolling basis from Dec. 12 through the end of February. Honors applicants are automatically reviewed for USC’s most prestigious scholarships: the Stamps Carolina, Carolina, McNair, Hamilton and Horseshoe Scholar awards.

Freshman Admission:

For guaranteed consideration, students must apply no later than Dec. 1. We’ll send decisions the week of March 13. Students have until Feb. 1 to send us their academic credentials.* To receive news before winter break, students should apply by Oct. 15 with complete application and academic credentials. Those students will receive an early answer from us the week of Dec. 12. Possible decisions at this time are acceptance, denial or delay until March. Students have until Feb. 1 to submit improved test scores. Early answer decisions are nonbinding and do not obligate students to attend USC. Admitted students have until May 1 to weigh all their college options.

Application Deadlines

ENCOURAGE YOUR STUDENTS TO APPLY ONLINE!

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FRESHMAN ADMISSION:

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**SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION:**

All freshman applicants who meet our Early Answer, Honors College or Regular application and credentials deadlines will be considered for university merit scholarships. We’ll look at their highest official SAT or ACT scores that we receive by Feb. 1. Students don’t have to fill out a separate scholarship application unless they wish to compete for the Stamps Carolina, Carolina, Hamilton, McNair, Horseshoe or Alumni Scholar awards (these require completion of the Honors College/Top Scholars application).

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**SELF-REPORTED HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT:**

Students will be asked to self-report a limited portion of their academic record within the online application. They will also be required to upload a clear, legible, unofficial copy of their high school transcript with their full name and the name of their high school, so we strongly encourage students to obtain a copy of their transcript before beginning the application. The official high school transcript is not a required credential. In fact, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions prefers that you do not send one unless we notify the applicant that an official transcript is needed. Please note that official transcripts will be required for students who are admitted and intend to enroll at the university.

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**APPLICATION CHECKLIST**

- Application (plus Honors College/Top Scholars application if applying to the South Carolina Honors College)
- $65 application fee (or fee waiver for in-state students who qualify for ACT, College Board or NACAC fee waivers)
- Official scores for all instances of the ACT, SAT or rSAT tests taken (sent to us directly from the testing service)
- Two letters of recommendation only if applying to the South Carolina Honors College

*To learn more about how we will use the rSAT, visit sc.edu/admissions and select this topic under “Requirements > For Freshmen.”*
REQUIRED COURSES FOR 2017-2018

Students entering the University of South Carolina in the summer or fall of 2017 are expected to complete the following minimum high school curriculum.

**ENGLISH — 4 UNITS**
- 2 units with strong grammar and composition components
- 1 unit English literature
- 1 unit American literature
College prep English I, II, III and IV meet this requirement.

**MATHEMATICS — 4 UNITS**
- Algebra I*
- Algebra II
- Geometry
- Algebra III/trigonometry or pre-calculus, calculus, statistics, discrete mathematics or capstone math taken during the senior year

**LABORATORY SCIENCE — 3 UNITS**
- 2 units from different fields: biology, chemistry or physics
- 1 additional unit from biology, chemistry or physics or any other laboratory science with a biology or chemistry prerequisite**

**SOCIAL STUDIES — 3 UNITS**
- 1 unit U.S. history
- ½ unit economics strongly recommended
- ½ unit government strongly recommended
- 1 unit of your choice

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE — 2 UNITS**
- Both units must be in the same language.

**FINE ARTS — 1 UNIT**
- Art appreciation, art history or performance in one of the fine arts

**ACADEMIC ELECTIVES — 1 UNIT**
- College-preparatory course in computer science with significant programming content recommended***

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION OR ROTC — 1 UNIT**

*Applied Mathematics I and II may substitute if a student completes Algebra II.

**Courses in earth science, general physical science or introductory or general environmental science for which biology or chemistry is not a prerequisite will not meet this requirement. Also, it is strongly recommended that students desiring careers in science, math, engineering or technology take one course in each of the three fields.

***Alternative electives include college-prep courses in English, fine arts, foreign languages, social science, the humanities, laboratory science (excluding those for which biology and/or chemistry is not a prerequisite) or math above the level of Algebra II.

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**rSAT INFORMATION:**

For fall 2017 applications, in addition to the ACT, we will accept both the SAT and the redesigned SAT (rSAT), introduced in March 2016.

When warranted, we will also take into consideration factors other than test scores and grades, such as extenuating personal circumstances, activities, leadership and service. Students should forward all test scores from all test attempts of the SAT, rSAT and/or ACT. We will use their best test score, regardless of test date, in the final admissions decision. We will not combine subsections of SAT and rSAT scores when superscoring. We must receive all scores, directly from the testing service, by the Feb. 1 credentials deadline.

For information about the rSAT as it pertains to our admissions process, visit [sc.edu/admissions](http://sc.edu/admissions) and select this topic under “Requirements” > “For Freshmen.”
STAFF DIRECTORY

ADMISSIONS OFFICE:
The Office of Undergraduate Admissions makes every effort to return your calls and emails as promptly as possible. We value your support in the admissions process and will happily answer any questions you have. You may reach us by calling 803-777-7700. Below is a partial listing of our staff that includes those you are most likely to contact.

DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATES
Scott Verzyl, Associate Vice President for Enrollment
Management and Dean of Undergraduate Admissions
Mary Wagner, Director of Undergraduate Admissions
Ed Black, Associate Director for Operations
Frank McClary, Associate Director for International Admissions
Elizabeth Oreto, Associate Director for Recruiting
Connie Scrivens, Associate Director for Marketing and Communications

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
Suzanne Cruea, Assistant Director, College Counselor Outreach
Teresa Florentin, Senior Assistant Director, Operations
Jessica Freed, Assistant Director, In-State Recruitment
Spence Griffin, Assistant Director, Transfer Initiatives
Amy Moffatt, Assistant Director, Out-of-State Recruitment
Chris McCoy, Assistant Director, Out-of-State Recruitment
Caitlin McGuire, Assistant Director, International Admissions
Heather Wheeler, Assistant Director, High-Ability Admissions
Lauren Wright, Assistant Director, Multicultural Recruitment

COORDINATORS
Kountney Love, Coordinator, High-Ability Admissions
Rob McCartha, Coordinator, Regional Recruitment

IN-STATE RECRUITERS
Peter Paul Abella, Counselor, In-State Recruitment
Briana Dinkins, Counselor, In-State Recruitment
Richard Hartley, Coordinator, In-State Recruitment
Julia Hodge, Coordinator, In-State Recruitment
Katie Jerald, Counselor, In-State Recruitment
Corey Jones, Counselor, In-State Recruitment

REGIONAL RECRUITERS
Tara Aylward, New York
Megan Carlier, California
Lori Corley, Tennessee
Stephanie Creasman, Florida
Charlene Culbreth, Charlotte/Western North Carolina
Sharon Gramcko, Philadelphia, Delaware, and Southern New Jersey
Cynthia Harding, Northeastern North Carolina
Katherine Hilson, Georgia
Michelle Holler, Maryland
Katie Huber, Raleigh-Durham/Eastern North Carolina
Veronica McLaughlin, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Missouri
Katherine Miele, Massachusetts and Connecticut
Ben Nelson, Texas (Houston and San Antonio)
Chape Ovalle, Ohio and Pittsburgh, PA
Casey Padgett, Virginia
Trey Patty, Texas (Dallas, Fort Worth, Austin)
Anastasia Sailer, Northern New Jersey

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
sc.edu/admissions
sc.edu/admissions/audience/counselors.html
803-777-7700, 800-868-5872 (toll-free)
Facebook: USCAdmissions
Twitter: UofSCAdmissions

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS
sc.edu/financialaid
803-777-8134
Facebook: USCfinaid

VISITOR CENTER
sc.edu/visitorcenter
803-777-0169, 800-922-9755 (toll-free)

SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENCY OFFICE
registrar.sc.edu/html/residency

UNIVERSITY HOUSING
housing.sc.edu
803-777-4283

AP/IB COURSE CREDIT CHART
sc.edu/admissions/apply/first_year_students/apandibcredit.html

USC COURSE CATALOG AND BULLETIN
sc.edu/bulletin

DISABILITY SERVICES
sa.sc.edu/sds
TDD/Voice 803-777-6744

FEDERAL STUDENT AID
fafs.ed.gov
800-433-3243

NCAA DIVISION I INITIAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS
eligibilitycenter.org
ESTIMATED EXPENSES

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS:
Estimated college expenses at the University of South Carolina for the 2016–17 academic year are itemized on the chart to the right. Remember, this is the general “sticker price” of attending Carolina, and it does not take into account potential financial aid and scholarship awards. Tuition costs are set by the Board of Trustees in July for the next academic year. Please check sc.edu/admissions for the latest tuition figures.

TUITION AND FEES ESTIMATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>S.C. RESIDENT</th>
<th>NONRESIDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUITION, TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>$11,814</td>
<td>$31,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOUSING</td>
<td>$7,200</td>
<td>$7,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEALS</td>
<td>$3,650</td>
<td>$3,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOOKS, SUPPLIES</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,664</strong></td>
<td><strong>$43,045</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These figures are estimates for the 2016-2017 academic year. Tuition, housing and meal plan are subject to change by the Board of Trustees. Expenses will vary depending on course selection and miscellaneous personal expenses.

PROBABILITY OF RECEIVING MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Students who have excellent high school grades and present competitive scores on the SAT or ACT are generally considered for university merit scholarships.

LIKELIHOOD OF AN ADMITTED FRESHMAN RECEIVING A USC MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

This chart is a guide and is not a guarantee for future awards. Each entering class competes with itself, which influences how many students are offered merit awards and what academic credentials are necessary to qualify for these awards. Some merit scholarships are based upon additional or alternate criteria (e.g. valedictorian) and/or may have other eligibility requirements (e.g. citizenship). All freshman applicants who meet our Early Answer, Honors College or Regular application and credentials deadlines will be considered for university merit scholarships. We’ll look at students’ highest official SAT, rSAT and ACT scores that we receive by Feb. 1.

*pNote this chart has nothing to do with probability of admission, which is an entirely separate process from awarding of scholarships. Additionally, the SAT scores listed in this chart do not reflect those of the redesigned SAT (rSAT), first administered in March 2016.*
SCHOLARSHIPS & GRANTS

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS

STAMPS CAROLINA SCHOLARS AWARD*
Annual value: $10,000 • Enrichment fund: $8,000
Four-year value: $48,000

CAROLINA SCHOLARS AWARD*
Annual value: $10,000 • Four-year value: $40,000

HAMILTON SCHOLARS AWARD*
Annual value: $7,000 • Four-year value: $28,000

The Stamps Carolina Scholars, Carolina Scholars and Hamilton Scholars Awards are the University of South Carolina’s most prestigious awards bestowed on South Carolina residents. We encourage students who have a strong academic record who are also leaders in the community to compete for a Top Scholars award. Fifty scholar candidates are invited to participate in an interview weekend, after which 25 candidates are named Carolina Scholars and 25 are named Hamilton Scholars.

Additionally, the top five candidates named as Carolina Scholars will be nominated as Stamps Carolina Scholars and will interview for the chance to receive an enrichment stipend to fund opportunities such as undergraduate research, study abroad, service projects or unpaid internships. Candidates must participate in the entire weekend (Feb. 18-20, 2017) in order to remain in consideration for these awards. In 2016, Carolina and Hamilton Scholars had an average SAT score of 1507 (ACT score of 33) and an average weighted GPA of 4.83.

Please note: To apply for these awards, students must submit both a USC application and a Top Scholars application supplement to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The deadline for the Top Scholars application is Nov. 15.

LIEBER SCHOLARS AWARD
Annual value: up to $10,000 • Four-year value: up to $40,000

The university annually awards scholarships to National Merit Finalists and National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars. The competition for these awards begins when a student takes the PSAT/NMSQT in their junior year of high school. To be eligible, National Merit Finalists must list the University of South Carolina as their first choice through the National Merit Corporation. The National Hispanic Recognition Program will send USC the names of scholars selected for its program. No scholarship application is required. The Lieber Scholars Award may be combined with another university issued scholarship.

ALUMNI SCHOLARS AWARD*
Annual value: $5,000 • Four-year value: $20,000

Sponsored by the MyCarolina Alumni Association, these awards signify outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, talent and service. In 2016, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1514 (ACT score of 34) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.89.

Please note: To apply for this award, students must submit both a USC application and a Top Scholars application supplement to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The deadline for the Top Scholars application is Nov. 15.

TRUSTEES’ ENDOWMENT SCHOLARS AWARD*
Annual value: $5,000 • Four-year value: $20,000

Students may receive this scholarship if they are an incoming freshman who is academically talented or who demonstrates financial need. This scholarship is one of our premier awards, and candidates typically present high SAT or ACT scores and an excellent GPA. In 2016, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1525 (ACT score of 33) and an average weighted GPA of 4.94.

VALEDICTORIAN SCHOLARS AWARD*
Annual value: $3,000 • Four-year value: $12,000

Students ranking first in their class at the end of their junior year or later, may be eligible for the Valedictorian Scholars Award. High school counselors should note this on the transcript as class rank is the sole criterion for this award.

DEAN’S SCHOLARS AWARD*
Annual value: $3,000 • Four-year value: $12,000

In 2016, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1380 (ACT score of 31) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.59. Note that if a student is named a Palmetto Fellows Scholar by the Commission on Higher Education, they will automatically qualify for the Dean’s Scholars Award.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS AWARD*
Annual value: $2,000 • Four-year value: $8,000

For freshmen entering in 2016, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1297 (ACT score of 29) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.19.

THORNEWELL SCHOLARS AWARD*
Annual value: $500 • Four-year value: $2,000

In 2016, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1227 (ACT score of 27) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.29.

USC STEM SUPPLEMENT
Annual value: $3,300 freshman year only

To support students pursuing degrees in science, math, technology and engineering fields (STEM fields), USC offers this one-time, freshman-year-only award supplement to all admitted freshmen who are named Palmetto Fellows and who enroll in a STEM-eligible major. Visit sc.edu/financialaid/scholarships/palmetto_fellows_scholarship_guidelines for a list of STEM-eligible majors. The USC STEM Supplement may be combined with another general university award.

*May not be combined with any other general university scholarship, except for the Lieber Scholars Award and/or USC STEM Supplement.
STATE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS

PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP*
Annual value: up to $6,700 for the first year • Four-year value: up to $29,200

A student is eligible to apply for this state-awarded scholarship, worth up to $6,700 for the first year and up to $7,500 for the next three years, if they are a S.C. high school student with exemplary academic credentials. Palmetto Fellows recipients are not eligible for LIFE or S.C. HOPE scholarships. For more information, contact the S.C. Commission on Higher Education.

LIFE SCHOLARSHIP
Annual value: up to $5,000 • Four-year value: up to $20,000

The Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence Scholarship is a state-awarded scholarship valued at $5,000 per year. If a student meets two of the following three requirements, they are eligible for this scholarship: 1) final, cumulative grade point average is at least a “B” (3.00); 2) SAT score is at least 1100 on critical reading and math sections combined (ACT composite score of at least 24); or 3) graduate in the top 30 percent of their class.

PALMETTO FELLOWS AND LIFE SCHOLARSHIP ENHANCEMENTS
Annual value: up to $2,500 beginning sophomore year • Three-year value: up to $7,500

Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarship recipients enrolled in certain math and science majors may be eligible for an enhancement award beginning in their second year of enrollment. Eligible students must have completed 14 hours in mathematics or life or physical science, or any combination of both, during their first year. Complete information on the enhancement is available at sc.edu/financialaid.

SOUTH CAROLINA HOPE SCHOLARSHIP
Annual value: $2,800

The S.C. HOPE scholarship is state-awarded and valued at $2,800 for the freshman year only. If a student’s final, cumulative GPA is at least a “B” (3.00) and they do not qualify for a Palmetto Fellows or LIFE scholarship, they are eligible to receive this scholarship.

Please note: Recipients of these scholarships must enroll on a full-time basis and be in a degree-seeking program. Renewal information is available at sc.edu/financialaid.

*While the vast majority of incoming freshman Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipients will receive $6,700, there is a cap on the total amount of funding that can be awarded to an individual student per year from the state of South Carolina. If the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, in combination with all other sources of gift aid (scholarships and grants), including federal, state, USC and private funds, exceeds the recipient’s cost of attendance cap, adjustment to the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship will be made in order to prevent an overaward. The 2016-2017 cap is $28,312.

OTHER AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

GAMECOCK GUARANTEE PROGRAM

The Gamecock Guarantee is a need-based financial and academic support initiative to make attendance at the university more affordable for low-income S.C. residents who are first-time, full-time freshmen and are also the very first in their families to seek a bachelor’s degree.

All freshmen admitted into the university who meet the qualifying criteria can receive the Gamecock Guarantee, which covers the cost of undergraduate tuition and technology fees at USC Columbia. There is no separate application process. Eligible students must apply for admission by Dec. 1 and submit a FAFSA by March 1. For more information about the Gamecock Guarantee program benefits and eligibility criteria, visit sa.sc.edu/guarantee.

UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Some academic colleges and departments at the University of South Carolina award scholarships to outstanding new freshmen. Other scholarships are available only after the freshman year. Eligibility and actual award amounts vary. Some departments award scholarships based on information provided with the application for admission, and others require additional action on the student’s part. For a complete list of departmental scholarships, corresponding criteria and application requirements, visit sc.edu/financialaid, select “Types of Aid,” then “Scholarships” and then “Departmental Scholarships.” You’ll find a variety of scholarships listed.

ATHLETIC GRANTS-IN-AID

If you have a student who is interested in playing on a Division I NCAA team, ask them to talk to their high school coach in their junior year. These awards do not participate in the tuition reduction benefit provided to some nonresident scholarship recipients.
The McNair and Horseshoe Scholars Awards are two of the most prestigious awards at the university. Forty out-of-state students with strong academic records who are leaders in their high schools and communities will be invited to participate in an interview weekend. Of these 40 candidates, half will be named McNair Scholars, and the other half will be named Horseshoe Scholars. Candidates must participate in the entire weekend (Feb. 25-27, 2017) in order to remain in consideration for these awards. Last year, McNair and Horseshoe Scholars had an average SAT score of 1545 (ACT score of 34) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.80. Recipients of these awards qualify for the in-state tuition rate.

Please note: To apply for these scholarships, both an application for general university admission and a Top Scholars application must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The deadline for McNair and Horseshoe Scholars is Nov. 15.

The university annually awards scholarships to National Merit Finalists and National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars. The competition for these awards begins when a student takes the PSAT/NMSQT in their junior year of high school. To be eligible, National Merit Finalists must list the University of South Carolina as their first choice through the National Merit Corporation. The National Hispanic Recognition Program will send us the names of the scholars selected for that program. The Lieber Scholars Award is the only general university award that can be combined with another admissions-issued scholarship. Recipients of this award qualify for the in-state tuition rate if this is their sole award. If they receive two university-issued awards, they will receive only one instance of tuition reduction.

Please note: To apply for these scholarships, both an application for general university admission and a Top Scholars application must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The deadline for McNair and Horseshoe Scholars is Nov. 15.

Sponsored by the MyCarolina Alumni Association, these awards signify outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, talent and service. In 2016, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1514 (ACT score of 34) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.89.

Please note: To apply for these scholarships, both an application for general university admission and a Top Scholars application must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The deadline for McNair and Horseshoe Scholars is Nov. 15.
POPULAR QUESTIONS REGARDING SCHOLARSHIPS

**Q. SHOULD STUDENTS TAKE THE SAT OR THE ACT?**

**A.** The university does not give any preference to the SAT I, rSAT or ACT. If they submit scores from more than one type of test (SAT I, rSAT, or ACT), the university will use their highest score to make the scholarship determination. Their highest SAT score is calculated by taking their highest math and their highest critical reading score from all test administrations. For the ACT, their single highest composite score will be used. The university must receive official scores directly from the testing service no later than Feb. 1 in order to use them in scholarship consideration. We will use their best test score, regardless of test date, in the final admissions decision. We will not combine subsections of SAT and rSAT scores when superscoring. Students should use school code 5818 for the SAT and 3880 for the ACT.

**Q. SHOULD STUDENTS KEEP TAKING THE TEST?**

**A.** Students should use their own judgment of their abilities to determine whether or not their scores are likely to improve with additional testing. Be aware that members of each class compete among themselves for these awards. Actual award criteria are established annually based on the size and strength of the applicant pool and the availability of scholarships. This year’s scholarship recipients may present higher or lower standardized test scores and GPAs than the averages listed in this booklet. The university does not give any preference to which test they take.

**Q. HOW WILL USC USE THE REDESIGNED SAT (RSAT) FOR SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS?**

**A.** Students must send all scores from all test attempts. This will ensure that we consider the score that gives each applicant the greatest advantage in the admissions and scholarship awarding process. Visit sc.edu/admissions and select “Requirements” > “For Freshmen” for updates on our use of the rSAT.

**Q. WHEN WILL YOUR STUDENTS HEAR IF THEY’VE BEEN AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP?**

**A.** Most university scholarships are awarded in mid-March for the freshman class entering in the fall. Students will receive notification through the United States Postal Service. Departmental award notification varies; students should check directly with the department about their schedule.

**Q. WILL YOUR STUDENTS HEAR IF THEY ARE NOT AWARDED A SCHOLARSHIP?**

**A.** The university only sends notification to award recipients. If after mid-March students are interested in their scholarship status, they should call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

**Q. HOW DO STUDENTS GET REDUCED TUITION?**

**A.** Some scholarships come with a reduced tuition benefit. Please review the scholarship descriptions for more information.

**Q. CAN STUDENTS WHO DON’T RECEIVE A SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE FRESHMAN YEAR GET ONE LATER?**

**A.** The university awards listed in this booklet are only offered to entering freshmen. However, departments may offer scholarships for upperclassmen. Students should check with their academic adviser about the opportunity for any awards.

**Q. HOW WILL STUDENTS BE NOTIFIED ABOUT FINANCIAL AID?**

**A.** The university’s Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships will notify students of any awards via their university email account. This email notification refers students to Self Service Carolina (SSC) for detailed information about their awards. Admitted students receive login information for SSC and can monitor their financial aid application status, as well as view and accept their awards, on SSC.

**Q. WHERE ELSE CAN STUDENTS LOOK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?**

**A.** There are many resources students can use to find non-USC scholarships. Excellent resources include collegeboard.org and fastweb.com. These websites provide detailed information about a wide variety of scholarships and financial aid.

**Q. MAY YOUR STUDENTS NEGOTIATE FOR A BETTER SCHOLARSHIP?**

**A.** Due to the competitiveness of our awarding process and financial aid pool, the university is unable to negotiate aid or scholarships.
In Walter Liniger’s Echoes in Blues class, one of many unique courses taught in the Honors College, students might find themselves onstage with their professor. Liniger is passionate about music and what it can teach us about our emotions and our history.

SCHC.SC.EDU
**DIVERSE**
400+ honors specific courses taught across a wide variety of disciplines each year

**INTIMATE**
average class size:
14 students

**INSPIRING**
1632 curious students

**HONORS STUDENTS CAN DESIGN THEIR OWN MAJOR**
Are your students passionate about a particular subject or discipline? Maybe they'd like to combine certain areas of study? In the Honors College, they can pursue any major offered by the university or a Baccalaureus Artium et Scientiae degree, which allows them to design their own customized major with the support of faculty advisers.

**HONORS STUDENTS CAN EARN SPECIAL RECOGNITION**
When they complete all requirements, they'll receive the “With Honors from South Carolina Honors College” designation on their diploma and transcript.

**HONORS STUDENTS CAN JUMP ON THE LEGAL OR MEDICAL FAST TRACK**
The Honors College offers a six-year joint B.A. (B.S.)/J.D. law degree with the USC School of Law, and a seven-year joint BARSC M.D. with the USC School of Medicine.

**HONORS STUDENTS CAN DISCOVER SOMETHING TOTALLY NEW**
That’s the principle behind our undergraduate research initiatives. Honors College students can apply for Undergraduate Research Fellowships worth up to $9,000. Fellowships are granted to third year students; many use their research as a source for their senior thesis. But as early as their freshman year in the Honors College, they can apply for Magellan Scholar awards to conduct research in any discipline. These opportunities allow them to explore interests at greater depths than they could in the classroom alone.

**HONORS STUDENTS CAN UNLEASH THEIR MUSE**
Many honors students use the senior thesis requirement to explore an area of interest outside their major; others spend their time researching topics that will enhance their competitiveness for graduate school or employment in their chosen field. Whether documenting a road trip across China, playing the sitar at the Koger Center for the Arts, or building an electronic biomedical device, Honors theses unfold in countless fascinating ways.

**TO APPLY**
Students whose self-reported scores are high enough on the online application are automatically invited to complete the Honors College/Top Scholars application. Students must submit the freshman application, Honors College/Top Scholars application and all required credentials by November 15.
Capstone Scholars Program is a highly selective, invitation-only program for first and second year students. If chosen to be a Capstone Scholar, students will immerse themselves in the four pillars of the program: academics, leadership, social activities and service. Plus, they will live in the Capstone Scholars Learning Community where they’ll make lasting friendships with outstanding students like them – students who dream big, impact the community, and leave a legacy!

4 SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS

1. Maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA.
2. Meet once per semester for a Capstone Consultation.
3. Complete a Personal Challenge.
4. Engage in service.
CAPSTONE SCHOLARS CAN TAKE CAPSTONE CLASSES
University 101; English 101; English 102 and University 290, an introduction to research and scholarly activities, offer Capstone-specific sections.

CAPSTONE SCHOLARS CAN EARN DISTINCTION
Scholars who meet all program requirements receive a designation on their official transcript and are eligible to live in the nicely-appointed Fellows House on campus.

CAPSTONE SCHOLARS CAN FORM A COMMUNITY
Scholars live in a supportive atmosphere at Capstone or Columbia residence halls with other Capstone Scholars. They are encouraged to eat meals with Capstone Scholars staff once a week in Gibbes Court Bistro in Capstone residence hall. They also enjoy interacting in regular “Capstone Conversations” with faculty, staff and community leaders.

CAPSTONE SCHOLARS CAN IMPACT THEIR COMMUNITY
Scholars contribute to the local community through numerous service learning opportunities.

CAPSTONE SCHOLARS CAN EXPAND THEIR CULTURAL HORIZONS
Scholars may attend touring Broadway productions free of charge at Koger Center for the Arts. They may also compete for $2000 passport travel grants for Maymester and summer study abroad trips.

TO APPLY
Students must submit the freshman application no later than December 1 and all required credentials no later than February 1. Students whose applications are competitive enough will be invited to join the Capstone Scholars Program by early March.
### 2015 Freshman Class
- **25,736** applied
- **5,190** enrolled
- SAT (midrange) *1130-1280*
- ACT (midrange) *25-30*
- WGP (midrange) *3.61-4.44*

### Honors College
- **2,767** applied
- **488** enrolled
- SAT (midrange) *1390-1470*
- ACT (midrange) *31-33*
- WGP (midrange) *4.41-4.95*

### Capstone Scholars
- **823** enrolled
- SAT (midrange) *1270-1350*
- ACT (midrange) *28-30*
- WGP (midrange) *4.18-4.73*

### Demographics
- **54%** female students
- **46%** male students
- **20%** minority students
- **60%** in-state students
- **40%** out-of-state students

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**USC HAS MORE**

**#1**
- Nation's No. 1 Undergraduate International Business Program
  — U.S. News & World Report

**#1**
- Honors College
  — A Review of Fifty Public University Honors Programs

**#52**
- in the nation among public universities
  — U.S. News Best College Rankings

**100+**
- majors

**47**
- nationally ranked academic programs
  — U.S. News 2016

**½**
- of the freshman class typically receives a merit scholarship

**“Outstanding Learning Communities”**
  — U.S. News & World Report

**TOP 1%**
- of patent-producing universities in the world
  — National Academy of Investors

**TOP 10**
- Models of Excellence in Student Success Center
  — University Business 2015

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**USC Office of Undergraduate Admissions**

- Lieber College
  902 Sumter Street Access
  Columbia, SC 29208
- **803-777-7700**
- **800-868-5872** (toll free)
- admissions-ugrad@sc.edu

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The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetics, sexual orientation or veteran status.

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