CONTENTS

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Life on Campus ................................................................. 1
People & Programs ........................................................... 3
Points of Pride ................................................................. 4

ADMISSIONS
Profile ...................................................................................... 5
Probability of Acceptance ...................................................... 6
Process ....................................................................................... 7
Points of Contact ...................................................................... 10

AFFORDABILITY
Positive Press ........................................................................... 11
Paying for USC ........................................................................ 11
Probability of Receiving Merit Scholarships ......................... 12
Potential USC Scholarships & Awards .................................. 12
Popular Questions Regarding Scholarships ......................... 16

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR HIGH ACHIEVERS
Prestigious South Carolina Honors College ............................ 17
Pillars of Success: Capstone Scholars Program ...................... 19
SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO!
Home to the state capital and a diverse population of about 800,000. Columbia offers a welcoming urban atmosphere that is student-friendly and homegrown combined with big city attractions and opportunities. Five Points, a city village of restaurants and shops, and the Congaree Vista, with high-end eateries and galleries, are within walking distance of campus. Columbia is also the headquarters for numerous state and regional businesses, so internship and employment opportunities abound.

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

LIFE ON CAMPUS
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.
LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Here are some examples of communities at USC:

- Business Community
- Capstone Scholars
- Carolina Men’s Community
- Carolina Women’s Community
- Engineering and Computing Community
- Green Learning Community
- Healthy Carolina Wellness Community
- Honors Residence
- International House at Maxcy College
- Journalism and Mass Communications Community
- Major and Career Exploration Community
- Music Community
- Pre-Law, Justice and Politics Community
- Pre-Medical, Pre-Dental and Pre-Health Community
- Preston Residential College
- Psychology and Service Learning Community
- Sport and Entertainment Management Community

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

39 learning communities

Bike-friendly campus

25 on-campus dining locations
PEOPLE & PROGRAMS

24,180 undergraduates

31,964 total students

265K proud alumni living around the world

STUDENTS FROM ALL 50 STATES & 100+ COUNTRIES

54% female undergraduates

46% male undergraduates

20% minority students

62% in-state students

38% out-of-state students

nearly 100 undergraduate degree programs
ON THE FIELD

HERE'S JUST A SAMPLE OF OUR RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Baseball — 2010 and 2011 College World Series champions
Equestrian — 2013 SEC champions
Women's Basketball — 2013-14 SEC regular season champions
Football — 2014 Capital One champions
Men's Soccer — 20 NCAA tournament appearances
Softball — Eight Women's College World Series berths
Women's Tennis — 20 consecutive NCAA tournament appearances

POINTS OF PRIDE

Undergraduate International Business Program top in the nation — U.S. News & World Report

Best Public University Honors College in the U.S. — “A Review of Fifty Public University Honors Programs”

Since 1994, the Office of Fellowships and Scholar Programs has helped 665 students earn awards and grants totaling $19.6 MILLION

17:1 student to faculty ratio

45 Goldwater Scholar Awards in the last 24 years
ALL FRESHMEN | SC HONORS COLLEGE | CAPSTONE SCHOLARS
---|---|---
1120-1280 SAT mid-range* | 1390-1465 SAT mid-range* | 1280-1350 SAT mid-range*
24-29 ACT mid-range** | 31-33 ACT mid-range** | 29-31 ACT mid-range**
3.59-4.35 GPA mid-range | 4.50-4.82 GPA mid-range | 4.17-4.56 GPA mid-range

Note: Fall 2014 statistics will be posted online when available.
OCT. 4, 2014
Fall Open House for High School Seniors — Invitations Will Be Mailed to Students

SEPT. 20, 2014
Fall Open House for High School Seniors — Invitations Will Be Mailed to Students

NOV 15, 2014
Honors College and Top Scholars Application and Credentials Deadline*

DEC. 15, 2014
Early Answer Application Decision Week Begins

DEC 1, 2014
Regular Application Deadline

OCT 15, 2014
Nonbinding Early Answer and Credentials Deadline*

APPLICATION TIMELINE
PROCESS
SC.EDU/ADMISSIONS/APPLY/FIRST_YEAR_STUDENTS
FRESHMAN ADMISSION:
Students should apply no later than Dec. 1 for guaranteed consideration, and we’ll send them a decision the week of March 9. They’ll have until Feb. 1 to send us their academic credentials.* Students who apply by Oct. 15 with complete application and academic credentials* will receive an early answer from us the week of Dec. 15. Possible decisions at this time are acceptance, denial or delay until March. They’ll still have until Feb. 1 to submit improved test scores and final grades on completed courses. Early answer decisions are nonbinding and do not obligate students to attend USC. Admits have until May 1 to weigh all their options.

SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION:
Submitting a complete university application and academic credentials in compliance with all applicable deadlines ensures consideration for university merit scholarships. Students don’t have to fill out a separate scholarship application unless they wish to compete for the Carolina or McNair Scholar awards. We’ll look at their highest official SAT or ACT scores that we receive by Feb. 1.

SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS COLLEGE ADMISSION:
Interested students should submit their application and complete academic credentials* no later than Nov. 15. Honors College applicants can ignore 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. 15. Honors College admission decisions are sent separately from regular university admission decisions on a rolling basis from Dec. 16 through the end of February. Honors applicants are automatically reviewed for USC’s most prestigious scholarships: the Carolina, McNair, Hamilton and Horseshoe Scholar awards.

SELF-REPORTED HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT:
Students will be asked to self-report their academic record within the online application. They will also be required to upload an unofficial copy of their high school transcript (JPG, PDF, or Word formats are acceptable), so we are strongly encouraging 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 Admissions office 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. For more information on how to complete the online application, please see www.sc.edu/admissions/apply/guide.

*COMPLETE APPLICATION AND CREDENTIALS INCLUDE:
- Application (plus Honors College/Top Scholars application if your students apply to the South Carolina Honors College
- $50 application fee (or fee waiver for S.C. residents who qualify for College Board or ACT fee waiver)
- Official scores for all instances of ACT or SAT tests taken (sent to us directly from the testing service)

Note: We require the submission of at least one writing score from either the ACT or the SAT.

Note: The College Board is issuing a new SAT format starting in spring 2015. We will post information at sc.edu/admissions about our use of the SAT format when we have more information.

- Two letters of recommendation (only if your students apply to the South Carolina Honors College)
REQUIRED COURSES FOR 2015-2016:

Students entering the university in summer or fall 2015 are expected to complete the following minimum high school core course 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 the same field as one of the first two units**

**SOCIAL STUDIES — 3 UNITS**
- 1 unit U.S. history
- 2 units of their choice (1/2 unit each of economics and government strongly recommended)

**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.

**Laboratory science for which biology and/or chemistry is a prerequisite may serve as the third unit. 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.*

HOW TO APPLY:

Students must apply online at sc.edu/admissions where they must first set up an account with a unique user ID and password. Once they’ve begun their application, they may save their work and return to it as many times as necessary before submitting it.

If students encounter a problem with their online application, please have them e-mail help@collegenet.com with a clear description of their observations. Documenting the steps that led up to the event of concern is especially helpful for effective troubleshooting assistance.
POINTS OF CONTACT

ADMISSIONS OFFICE:
The Office of Undergraduate Admissions makes every effort to return your calls and e-mails 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
Morgan Allen, Associate Director for Strategic Technology Initiatives
Ed Black, Associate Director for Operations
Elizabeth Orehovec, Associate Director for Recruiting
Connie Scriven, Associate Director for Marketing & Communications

ASSISTANT DIRECTORS
Suzanne Cruea, Assistant Director, College Counselor Outreach
Teresa Fiorentin, Senior Assistant Director, Operations
Jessica Freed, Assistant Director, In-State Recruitment
Michael Jinnette, Assistant Director, College Relations & Special Populations
Rachel Kelley, Assistant Director, Out-of-State Recruitment
Frank McClary, Assistant Director, International Admissions

COORDINATORS
Tomeika Banks, Coordinator, Multicultural Outreach
Spence Griffin, Coordinator, Transfer Initiatives
Jordan Lehr, Coordinator, Operations
Rob McCartha, Coordinator, Regional Recruitment

IN-STATE RECRUITERS
Rebecca Fussemecker, Admissions Counselor
Hailey Gooding, Admissions Counselor
Richard Hartley, Coordinator, In-State Recruitment
Julia Hodge, Admissions Counselor
Kourney Love, Coordinator, In-State Recruitment
Jamie Williams, Admissions Counselor

REGIONAL RECRUITERS
Kate Balboni, Northern New Jersey
Megan Carlier, California
Dania Castro, South Florida
Lori Corley, Tennessee
Cynthia Harding, North Carolina
Katherine Hilson, Georgia
Charlene Kasinski, Western North Carolina
Chris McCoy, Ohio and Kentucky
Katherine Miele, Massachusetts and Connecticut
Ryan Mitchell, Central and North Florida
Trey Patty, Texas
Katie Price, Triangle and Triad, North Carolina
Stacy Sailer, New York
Lindsay Tulloss, Virginia

OTHER RESOURCES:

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: USCFinancialaid

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 800-777-6744

Federal Student Aid
fafsa.ed.gov
800-433-3243

NCAA Division I Initial Eligibility Requirements
eligibilitycenter.org
Select “2016 Division I New Academic Requirements Guide” under “resources” in the “high school administrators” portal for a comprehensive explanation of new high school core course and GPA requirements for your students who will start college in August 2016.
POSITIVE PRESS

PAYING FOR USC

DID YOU KNOW?

• More than 90% of USC’s undergraduates receive financial assistance from the university.
• 100% of 2014 South Carolina Honors College freshmen received at least one merit-based award.
• 100% of 2014 Capstone Scholars freshmen received at least one merit-based award.

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS:

Estimated college expenses at the University of South Carolina for the 2014–15 academic year are itemized on the chart below. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Expenses</th>
<th>S.C. Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition and Technology Fee*</td>
<td>$11,158</td>
<td>$29,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>$6,378</td>
<td>$6,378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>$3,032</td>
<td>$3,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and Supplies</td>
<td>$1,008</td>
<td>$1,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$21,576</td>
<td>$39,858</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some academic programs, majors and classes have additional fees.
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 Admitted Freshmen Receiving USC Merit Scholarship**

This chart is intended as 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 USC merit scholarships are based upon additional or alternate criteria (e.g. valedictorian) and/or may have other eligibility requirements (e.g. citizenship).

Note: This chart has nothing to do with probability of admission, which is entirely separate from the scholarship award process.

POTENTIAL USC SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS

Stamps Carolina Scholars Award*  |  Carolina Scholars Award*  |  Hamilton Scholars Award*

Stamps Carolina Scholars: Annual value: $10,000  •  Enrichment fund: $8,000  •  Four-year value: $48,000

Carolina Scholars: Annual value: $10,000  •  Four-year value: $40,000

Hamilton Scholars: 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. If your students have a strong academic record and are leaders in your high school and community, we encourage them to apply for the Top Scholars competition for these awards. 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 (February 21-23, 2015) in order to remain in consideration for these awards. Last year, Carolina and Hamilton Scholars had an average SAT score of 1488 (ACT score of 33) and an average weighted GPA of 4.86.

Please note: To apply for this scholarship, both an application for general university admission and a Top Scholars application must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. The deadline for Top Scholars applications 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, National Achievement Finalists and National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars. The competition for these awards begins when students take 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. National Achievement Finalists must send a copy of the National Achievement Finalist certificate to the admissions office. 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 is one of only two USC scholarships that can be combined with another university-issued scholarship (the other is the USC STEM Supplement).

Alumni Scholars Award*

Annual value: $5,000  •  Four-year value: $20,000

Sponsored by the Carolina Alumni Association, these awards signify outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, talent and service. In 2014, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1517 (ACT score of 33) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.79. To apply for this award, your 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 incoming freshmen who are academically talented or who demonstrate financial need. This scholarship is one of our premier awards, and candidates typically present high SAT or ACT scores and an excellent GPA.

Valedictorian Scholars Award*  
Annual value: $3,000  •  Four-year value: $12,000  
If a student is ranked first in their class at the end of their junior year or later, be sure to note it on the guidance counselor evaluation form (part of their university application) and on their transcript, as they may be eligible for the Valedictorian Scholars Award. The sole criterion for this award is class rank.

Dean’s Scholars Award*  
Annual value: $3,000  •  Four-year value: $12,000  
In 2014, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1386 (ACT score of 31) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.55. 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 2014, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1299 (ACT score of 29) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.13.

Thornwell Scholars Award*  
Annual value: $500  •  Four-year value: $2,000  
In 2014, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1226 (ACT score of 27) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.23.

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 added to any other admissions merit 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  
Students are 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. For more information, contact the S.C. Commission on Higher Education. Palmetto Fellows recipients are not eligible for LIFE or S.C. HOPE scholarships.

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 students meet two of the following three requirements, they are eligible for this scholarship: 1) their final, cumulative grade point average is at least a “B” (3.00); 2) their SAT score is at least 1100 on critical reading and math sections combined (ACT composite score of at least 24); or 3) they 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 freshmen 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 2014 cap is $25,985.

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 who are also the very first in their families to seek a bachelor’s degree. The Gamecock Guarantee covers the cost of undergraduate tuition and technology fees at USC Columbia. All freshmen admitted into the university who meet the qualifying criteria can receive this award. There is no separate application process. Eligible students must apply for admission by December 1 and submit a FAFSA by March 1. For more information about the Gamecock Guarantee program benefits and eligibility criteria, visit www.sa.sc.edu/guarantee.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NONRESIDENTS

**McNair Scholars Award** | **Horseshoe Scholars Award**
Annual value for McNair Scholars: $15,000 award + tuition reduction  •  Four-year value: more than $130,800
Annual value for Horseshoe Scholars: $11,000 award + tuition reduction  •  Four-year value: more than $114,800
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 (February 28–March 2, 2015) in order to remain in consideration for these awards. Last year, McNair and Horseshoe Scholars had an average SAT score of 1532 (ACT score of 34) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.79. Recipients of these awards qualify for the in-state tuition rate.

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

**Lieber Scholars Award**
Annual value: up to $6,000 + tuition reduction  •  Four-year value: up to $94,800
The university annually awards scholarships to National Merit Finalists, National Achievement Finalists and National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholars. The competition for these awards begins when students take 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. National Achievement Finalists must send a copy of the National Achievement Finalist certificate to the admissions office. The National Hispanic Recognition Program will send us the names of the scholars selected for that program. The Lieber Scholars Award is the only admissions merit 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.

**Alumni Scholars Award**
Annual value: $5,000 + tuition reduction  •  Four-year value: more than $90,800
Sponsored by the Carolina Alumni Association, these awards signify outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, talent and service. In 2014, recipients of this award had an average SAT score of 1517 (ACT score of 33) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.79. To apply for this award, your 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. Recipients of this award qualify for the in-state tuition rate.
Cooper Scholars Award*
Annual value: $4,000 + tuition reduction • Four-year value: more than $86,800
In 2014, recipients of the Cooper Scholars Award had an average SAT score of 1482 (ACT score of 33) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.67. Recipients of this award qualify for the in-state tuition rate.

McKissick Scholars Award*
Annual value: $2,000 + tuition reduction • Four-year value: more than $78,800
In 2014, recipients of the McKissick Scholars Award had an average SAT score of 1368 (ACT score of 31) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.56. Recipients of this award qualify for the in-state tuition rate.

Flinn Scholars Award*
Annual value: $500 + tuition reduction • Four-year value: more than $72,800
In 2014, recipients of the Flinn Scholars Award had an average SAT score of 1338 (ACT score of 30) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.24. Recipients of this award qualify for the in-state tuition rate.

Woodrow Scholars Award*
Annual value: $500 + tuition reduction • Four-year value: more than $52,000
In 2014, recipients of the Woodrow Scholars Award had an average SAT score of 1277 (ACT score of 29) and an average weighted high school GPA of 4.20. Recipients of this award also receive a significant tuition reduction of nearly half of the out-of-state rate.

Sims Scholars Award*
Annual value: $500 + tuition reduction • Four-year value: 34,600
In 2014, recipients of the Sims Scholars Award had an average SAT score of 1245 (ACT score of 28) and an average weighted high school GPA of 3.70. Recipients of this award also receive a significant tuition reduction.

*May not be combined with any other general university scholarship, except for the Lieber Scholars Award.

OTHER AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

University Departmental Scholarships
Some academic colleges and departments at the University of South Carolina award scholarships to outstanding entering 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 information. For more information, visit www.sc.edu/financialaid, point to “Scholarships” and click on “Departmental Scholarships.”

Athletic Grants-in-Aid
Men in football, track, baseball, basketball, golf, tennis, swimming and soccer and women in basketball, golf, tennis, softball, volleyball, track, cross country, soccer, swimming and equestrian may be offered these awards. If your students are interested in playing on a Division I NCAA team, have them talk with their high school coach in their junior year. These awards do not participate in the tuition reduction benefit provided to some nonresident scholarship recipients.
Should students take the SAT or the ACT?
The university does not give any preference to either the SAT or the ACT. Students should take the test with which they feel most comfortable. If they submit both SAT and ACT scores, 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 February 1 in order to use them in scholarship consideration.

Should students keep taking the test?
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 the 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 here. If students have experience with only one of the standardized tests, they may want to consider trying the other. Some students find that the format of the ACT is a better fit than the format of the SAT, and vice versa. The university does not give any preference to which test they take.

When will I hear if I’ve been awarded a scholarship?
General 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.

Will I hear if I am NOT awarded a scholarship?
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.

How do students get reduced tuition?
Some scholarships come with a reduced tuition benefit. Please review the scholarship descriptions for more information.

If a student doesn’t receive a scholarship for the freshman year, can they get one later?
General university scholarships are only offered to entering freshmen. However, departments may offer scholarships for upperclassmen. Students should check with their academic advisers about the opportunity for any awards.

How will students be notified about financial aid?
The university’s Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships will notify students of any awards via their online student account. Admitted students receive login information for their personal account and will use that account to monitor their financial aid award status.

Where else can students look for scholarships?
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.

Can international students receive a USC scholarship?
To be eligible for general university awards, students must be legal permanent residents or citizens of the United States. Some departments offer merit aid to international students.
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR HIGH ACHIEVERS

PRESTIGIOUS SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS COLLEGE

Can you see yourself playing the blues? In Walter Liniger’s Echoes in Blues class, one of many unique courses taught in the Honors College, you might find yourself onstage with your professor. Liniger is passionate about music and what it can teach us about our emotions and our history.

"A Review of Fifty Public University Honors Programs" ranks the South Carolina Honors College as the best public university honors college in the country.
WHAT MAKES THE SOUTH CAROLINA HONORS COLLEGE SO SPECIAL?

The Honors College is...

**INSPIRING**
1692 curious students

**DEGREE GRANTING**
400+ honors specific courses taught across a wide variety of disciplines each year

**INTIMATE**
average class size: 14 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 Fast Track**
The Honors College offers a six-year joint B.A. (B.S.)/J.D. law degree with the USC School of Law.

**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 $3,000. 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. From documenting a road trip across China, to playing the sitar at the Koger Center for the Arts, to 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.
PILLARS OF SUCCESS: CAPSTONE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Capstone Scholars Program is a two-year academic enhancement program that operates on four programmatic pillars that encourage its students to “Dream Big! Impact the Community and Leave a Legacy.” Capstone Scholars must engage in one activity for each of the pillars:

**LEADERSHIP**
- complete a personal challenge

**SERVICE**
- participate in community service

**ACADEMICS**
- attend a Capstone Conversation, News and Views, Global Perspectives or other approved university event

**SOCIAL**
- attend a Capstone Scholars event

**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 residence hall 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.
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.

UGRAD 8/14