University of South Carolina Lancaster

Commencement Exercises

May 2, 2026

USC Lancaster Campus

University of South Carolina Lancaster

Commencement Exercises

Welcome to the University of South Carolina Lancaster on this day of special recognition of our candidates for graduation. We hope you will find these ceremonies — a culmination of the efforts of the faculty, the staff, our students and their families — both meaningful and impressive.

While awaiting the start of the ceremonies, you may wish to read the historical notes on South Carolina's oldest university and on the University of South Carolina Lancaster, which are included on the pages that follow. There follows a brief description of the University Mace, symbol of the university's immortal dignity and of the combined endeavors of the university community, as well as a detailed description of the academic costumes worn by members of the procession and our candidates for graduation.

The exercises will begin with an academic procession. When the University of South Carolina president is present, the academic procession is headed by the University Mace. When the university president is not present, the procession is headed by the Palmetto College Mace. The mace is followed by the degree candidates, USC Lancaster faculty members, participating dignitaries and guests, and university and system officials.

Thank you for joining us for the 2026 Commencement Exercises of the University of South Carolina Lancaster.

We ask that you please stay seated during the ceremony and silence your cell phone.

Order of Exercises

Academic Procession	Brass Ensemble *(please stand)*
National Anthem	Ms. Christina Grace Harding USC Graduate, School of Music JD Candidate, School of Law
Invocation	Dr. Ernest Jenkins Associate Professor of History University of South Carolina Lancaster
Welcome and Introductory Remarks	Dr. Courtney B. Catledge Dean, University of South Carolina Lancaster Dr. Craig Wilson Chancellor, Palmetto College University of South Carolina
Introduction of Speaker	The Dean
Commencement Address	Mr. Chad Douglas Founder and Chief Executive Officer Primary Talent Partners
Presentation of Commencement Scholarship	The Dean
Conferring of Awards	Dr. David Roberts Interim Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs University of South Carolina Lancaster
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	The Interim Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs
Conferring of Degrees in Course	The Chancellor
Benediction	Dr. Jenkins *(please stand)*
Alma Mater	Ms. Harding
Academic Recessional	Brass Ensemble

The graduates and their families will be honored at a reception in the Arnold Special Events Room immediately following the Commencement Exercises.

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The university is governed on behalf of the people of South Carolina by a Board of Trustees. Sixteen trustees are elected by the General Assembly, one from each judicial circuit. There are three ex officio members, including the governor of South Carolina or a designee, the state superintendent of education and the president of the University of South Carolina Alumni Association. There is also one at-large gubernatorial appointee. The president of the Student Government and the chair of the Faculty Senate serve as nonvoting members of the board. The current composition of the board is as follows:

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5th Judicial Circuit

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Commencement Speaker
Chad Douglas

Chad Douglas is the founder and CEO of Primary Talent Partners, a staffing and workforce solutions firm that he launched in 2019, headquartered in Lancaster County, South Carolina. A graduate of the University of South Carolina Lancaster, Douglas has successfully built and sold multiple businesses, establishing a reputation as an innovative entrepreneurial leader within the staffing industry.

Driven by a deep passion for leadership and entrepreneurship, he has been widely recognized for his impact in advancing talent solutions and creating opportunities for others. Under his leadership, PTP has grown into an organization committed not only to business excellence but also to meaningful social impact.

Douglas is the visionary behind Pathways, a signature program at PTP designed to expand access to high-paying career fields, including STEM and other professional industries, for individuals from historically underrepresented communities. Pathways provides paid internships, mentorship and financial scholarships, helping to create tangible opportunities and long-term career pathways for emerging talent. He believes in leveling the playing field for all individuals who are willing to invest in their future and has dedicated significant company resources to advancing this mission and fostering lasting change within the workforce.

Douglas is honored to return to his alma mater as a commencement speaker, celebrating the achievements and potential of the graduating class. He is married and the proud father of an 11-year-old daughter.

Awards and Honors

Highest Academic Average
Lucas Grant Deese

Clara P. Hammond Award
Earl Jasper Caseres Gerona

Division Awards

Humanities Award
Sergio Gonzalez-Eulogio

Mathematics, Science, Nursing, and Public Health Award
Earl Jasper Caseres Gerona

Business, Behavioral Sciences, Criminal Justice, Education, and Library Science Award
Claire Mariette de Groot

Distinguished Teaching Award

Fernanda Marques Burke

Commencement Scholarship

In honor of Chad Douglas
Kinsley Belle Rutledge

Bearer of the University Mace

Hannah Julianne Davis

Graduation with Leadership Distinction in Professional and Civic Engagement

Eileen Athziry Hernandez-Romero
Kylie Elaine Lewis
Parker Vida Mazhari
Santiago Soto Fernandez
Erika Vancampenhoudt

Graduation with Leadership Distinction in Research

Earl Jasper Caseres Gerona

Degrees in Course

The following list of candidates for graduation was prepared before final grades were reported and inclusion herein does not constitute evidence of graduation. The listing of a name in the program should not be construed as an indication that the person will in fact receive a degree from the University of South Carolina Lancaster at this commencement.

Conversely, the absence of a student's name from this list does not necessarily mean that the person will not be awarded a degree. Honors for degree candidates are based on the cumulative grade point average on file at this time. Honors to be printed on the diploma will be based on the final cumulative grade point average on all collegiate work.

Associate in Arts

Grayson Andrew Auman

Nadege Jolie Baron-Carroll, *With High Honors*

Nedra Santanna Benson Aug-25

Tristan Allen Bodnar, *With Honors* Dec-25

Candis Hailie Carter Aug-25

Jimmie Jamar Clyburn Dec-25

Christopher Rayburn Cole

Tiairra Deasia Coleman

Matthew Charles Conner Dec-25

Pien Coppoolse, *With High Honors*

Avery Elyse Covelli, *With Honors*

Hannah Elizabeth Cragan Aug-25

Abigail Elisabeth Dann Dec-25

Carolynn Marie Davis, *With Honors*

Gracen Faith Davis, *With Honors*

Lucas Grant Deese, *With Highest Honors*

Jordan Michael Diianni, *With High Honors*

Sydney Anne Ferrell Aug-25

Victoria Enid Fuentes Caban, *With Highest Honors*

Jonathan Rafael Galeano-Berrios

Summer Abria Gardner, *With Highest Honors* Dec-25

John Mitchell Glieden

Sergio Gonzalez-Eulogio

Jasmine Azaria Gutierrez, *With Honors*

Kaelann Savannah Hahn, *With Highest Honors*

Jalaya Iana Hudley, *With High Honors*

Haven Dawn Jordan, *With Highest Honors*

Benjamin River Joye, *With Honors*

Lilah Kristine Krueger, *With Honors*

Ashtyn Elizabeth Holiday Lamb, *With High Honors*

Hayden Reese Lawrence

Christopher LaGeorge Lincoln Jr. Aug-25

Delayna Rae Marie Loveland Dec-25

Sara Hinman Luis, *With Highest Honors*

Aliya Satiya-Sonwah Mahase, *With Honors*

Braden Andrew Mauro, *With Highest Honors*

Parker Vida Mazhari, *With Highest Honors*

Emma Esther McCormick, *With Honors*

Riley Madison McLellan

Sidney Elise McManus

Paris Faith Joy McSweaney Dec-25

Christian Skylar Melton

Christian Kennedy Miller, *With High Honors* Aug-25

Hannah Mackenzie Miller, *With High Honors*

Angel Chantel Mintz

Mackenzie Grace Nichols

Isabela Marie Oenbrink, *With Honors* Aug-25

Phyllis Oghosa Omo-Ojo

Jonathan Lee Osborn Aug-25

William Logan Preddy

Kaitlin Lillie Quigg

Katie Jessica Reyes Dec-25

Karly Grace Robinson Dec-25

Savanna Nicole Rowell

Ann Kaela Rugina, *With Highest Honors*

Haileigh Michelle Skinner, *With Honors*

Logan Renee Sneed, *With High Honors*

JaKarr Terell Spivey, *With High Honors*

Isabella Renae Tacker, *With Highest Honors*

Scott Miguel Thomas

Ryker Shaun Tinholt Aug-25

Luke Jacob Torres

Gregory Wilner Toussaint, *With Honors*

Natalie Grace Townes Turner, *With Highest Honors*

Aria Laila Walker Aug-25

Haley Alexandra Weller, *With High Honors*

Joshua Michael Weller

Associate in Science

Kaleia Chamese Arnold Dec-25

Cason Ronburrey Banks, *With Highest Honors*

Tyra Brionne Barnes

Kaidan Wesley Baron

Anna Jane Barth, *With High Honors*

Nedra Santanna Benson Aug-25

Kayley Elizabeth Bobo, *With High Honors*

Yurii Boiko, *With Honors*

Noah Anderson Bowers, *With High Honors* Dec-25

Victoria Grace Breazeale Dec-25

Connor Copeland Bridges, *With Honors*

Ebony Shontay Brown Aug-25

Lucas Allen Burgess

Meghan Riley Carnes, *With High Honors*

Mikayla Hayden Carnes, *With High Honors*

Brianna Paige Cataldo, *With High Honors*

Kaylee Raeann Cato

Kailey Marie Catoe, *With Highest Honors*

Emma Rose Causey Dec-25

Andrew Scott Cheesman Aug-25

Samaria Ajionna Clyburn

Isabelle Catherina Conradie, *With Honors*

Jeffrey Ryan Cornwell, *With Honors*

Hannah Elizabeth Coye, *With Honors*

Carolynn Marie Davis, *With Honors*

Zoey Marie Devore, *With High Honors*

Olivia Florence Diaz, *With Honors*

Krystal Lynn D'Mello, *With Honors*

Alexa Nadine Dubrow, *With Honors* Dec-25

Meredith Amanda Faircloth

Steven Eugene Faircloth, *With Honors*

Elizabeth Danielle Faulkenberry

Isabel Rose Faulkenberry, *With Honors*

Victoria Enid Fuentes Caban, *With Highest Honors*

Jonathan Rafael Galeano-Berrios

Alyssa Paige Gallman, *With High Honors*

Jessica Xiomara Garcia-Mora, *With Honors*

Elise Sophia Gatas, *With Honors*

Aaron Edward Genest, *With Honors*

Earl Jasper Caseres Gerona, *With Highest Honors*

Ayden Ray Goldhammer, *With Honors*

Kylie Rynn Graney, *With High Honors*

Kate Elise Greeley, *With Highest Honors*

Jasmine Dakota Brooke Green

Jordin Alyse Hamilton

Rylee Dianne Harris

Eileen Athziry Hernandez-Romero, *With Highest Honors*

Victoria Alexis Hibbs, *With Honors*

Caylie Marie Hilton, *With Highest Honors*

Rylan Advertus Arthur Hoff, *With Honors*

Elijah Cole Hokke

Jalaya Iana Hudley, *With High Honors*

Daniel Rochelle Hylton, *With Honors*

André Shemar Jackson Aug-25

Taylor Makenzie Jackson, *With Honors*

Falon Victoria Jones Dec-25

Haven Dawn Jordan, *With Highest Honors*

Benjamin River Joye, *With Honors*

Jana Islam Hafez Kandil, *With Highest Honors*

Shelby Anne Kellam, *With Honors*

Georgia Lynn Knight

Kayleigh Ann Knight

Megan Louise Lambert Dec-25

Tanner Kaleb Landires Dec-25

Brennan Patrick Lauderback, *With Honors*

Kylie Elaine Lewis, *With Highest Honors*

Sage Losee Aug-25

Greysen Nathanael Lowery

Sara Hinman Luis, *With Highest Honors*

Aliya Satiya-Sonwah Mahase, *With Honors*

Parker Vida Mazhari, *With Highest Honors*

Camille Justille McKinney, *With High Honors*

Riley Madison McLellan

Sheridyn Olivia Mickles, *With Highest Honors*

Alexis Rena Moore, *With Highest Honors*

Ikierra Ja'Nae Moore, *With Honors*

Christopher John Tagum Morales Aug-25

Aniya C'Era Moultrie, *With Honors*

Jaylee-Rae Leann Oliver, *With Honors* Dec-25

Isabella Rose Partenio, *With High Honors* Dec-25

Tracee Sean Pelzer Aug-25

Riley McCray Petty, *With High Honors*

Sadie Jayne Pinciotto Aug-25

Madeline Nicole Pope, *With Honors*

Aiden Britt Pressley, *With Highest Honors*

Andre Samuel Providence, *With High Honors* Aug-25

Jozzlyn Vierra Relford

Benjamin David Richards

Bella Grace Richi

Thomas Robert Riney, *With High Honors*

Anslee Bonae Robinson

Katerra Lyrical O'Shay Robinson Dec-25

Matthew Robles Jimenez

Taaj Amaya Rockman

Juan Sebastian Rojo Gutierrez

Wendell Peter Roth IV, *With Honors*

Ann Kaela Rugina, *With Highest Honors*

Melina Rose Rutter, *With Honors*

Stephen Tyre Shelley, *With Highest Honors*

Haileigh Michelle Skinner, *With Honors*

Nyla Janeah Snipes

JaKarr Terell Spivey, *With High Honors*

Gavin Cooper Steen

Dazariah Rashawnna Stokes, *With Honors* Dec-25

Peighton Grayce Sweatt

Grace Parimala Talluri

MaryLyn Danelle Tanner, *With High Honors*

Savannah Katherine Trosper, *With High Honors*

Joslyn Hope Truesdale, *With High Honors*

Gary Lee Upton

Erika Vancampenhoudt, *With High Honors*

Tyler Marlin Vinson, *With Highest Honors* Dec-25

Ryan Kanyi Wahome, *With Honors*

Landon Darcy Dooks Wakelyn Aug-25

Grace Lee Wallace

Shelton Elizabeth Walters, *With High Honors*

Genesis A'Ziyia Iokie Watts, *With High Honors* Dec-25

Zachary Davis West

William Michael Whitesides Jr., *With Honors*

Leeya D'Ann Williams, *With Honors*

Kaison Joseph Wimmer, *With High Honors* Aug-25

Madison Marie Yarbrough, *With Honors*

Elizabeth Grace Young

Jaden Thomas Young, *With Honors* Aug-25

Jennifer Zermeno, *With High Honors*

Fallon Avalee Zimba, *With Honors*

Associate in Science in Business

Evan Herschel Allen, *With Honors*

Jesse Brayden Allen

Felix Bastian Bader, *With Highest Honors*

Sallie Anne Blackmon, *With Honors*

Felicia Louise Boland, *With Honors*

Dalton Brice Bowers, *With High Honors*

Meghan Riley Carnes, *With High Honors*

Alexa Carvajal, *With High Honors* Aug-25

Katelyn Michele Cullison, *With High Honors*

Timothy Bernard Cureton

Claire Mariette de Groot, *With High Honors*

Lucas Grant Deese, *With Highest Honors*

Varinia Isabelle Delgado

Andrew Wilkie Dent

Brooks Ashley Dixon

Jayden Melik Duncan, *With Highest Honors*

Hayden Mateo Escamilla, *With High Honors*

Kaylee Re'Nea Ford

Steven Stanley Joseph Gensler Jr., *With Honors* Aug-25

Aaron Mallette Gilden, *With Honors*

Olivia Rae Gonzales, *With Honors*

Edgar Granados Jaramillo, *With Honors*

Cale Anthony Guarino, *With Honors*

Jada Marie Handfield

Zhijun He, *With High Honors*

Lucas Roman Hervas

Zander Dale Holden

Kaylie Grace Johnson

Briana Reese Kahlich, *With High Honors* Dec-25

Moncerrath Angelly Lara-Naredo Dec-25

Marko Lashkiv, *With High Honors*

Isaiah Amir Lee-Garvin Dec-25

Miles Anthony Lett

Branden Wayne Knight Linton Dec-25

Isaiah Dennis Lutz, *With Honors*

Alyssa Marie Lynch, *With Highest Honors*

Annabella Grace Marcum

Austin John McIntosh Dec-25

Daniel James McNaughton, *With High Honors*

Wesley Iverson Mendoza

Jason Thomas Miller Dec-25

Lillian Mae Mullis

Krish Kalpeshkumar Patel, *With Honors*

Aalona Irie Perry

Emma Kate Pritchard, *With Highest Honors*

Luca Nikolai Radovanovic, *With Honors*

Andrew Joseph Ramieri, *With Honors*

Leonel Alexander Rivera

Paxton Kathleen Rohrer

Michael Denis Ryan

Santiago Soto Fernandez, *With Honors*

George James Talbot

Vinicius Oliveira Teixeira

Juan Carlos Vasquez-Jimenez

Kenzo Giorgos Leonidas Venturella, *With High Honors*

Cameron Nance Wallace

Charles Nelson Welch, *With High Honors* Aug-25

Caleb Ashton White

Makenze Brooke White, *With Honors*

Finlay Harrison Williams

Cody Phillip Wilson Aug-25

Amelia Rae Wright, *With Honors*

Peyton Elizabeth Wunderley, *With High Honors*

Alicey Yang

Associate in Science in Criminal Justice

Andrew James Brock, *With Highest Honors*

Trinity Alieyah Carper

Morgan Elaine Duley, *With Honors*

Brianna Nicole Galarza

Maria Miquelina Gary, *With Highest Honors* Dec-25

Jasmine Azaria Gutierrez, *With Honors*

Blaise Courage Keen, *With High Honors*

Lily Jack Loyet, *With Highest Honors* Dec-25

Fernanda Pacheco Loaeza

Holly Grace Penza Aug-25

Trevor Myles Ramey, *With High Honors*

John-Paul Joseph Ramieri, *With High Honors* Aug-25

Colleen Box Schwier, *With Honors*

Hope Patience Voshell, *With Highest Honors* Dec-25

Sebrina Alexandria Washington

USC Columbia College of Nursing Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Moniyah Janae Blair, *Cum Laude*

Keaveonce Ja'Anjahleer Boyd

Kara Lee Gommer, *Magna Cum Laude*

Sophia Melody Helms Graham, *Cum Laude*

Anna Kathryn Holley

Madeleine DuPree Horn

Caysen Olivia Horton, *Summa Cum Laude*

Aiden Tucker Jenkins, *Cum Laude*

Crystal Naomi Johnson

Abigail Grace Lyles

Lindi Sue McMullen, *Cum Laude*

Maddox Bryce Mobley

Faye Christine Reilly

Catherine Robles Jimenez, *Cum Laude*

Reagan Bailee Self

Brianna Marie Vincent

Olivia Beth Vincent, *Magna Cum Laude*

Theresa Grace Weber, *Cum Laude*

Mirahcle Ashonti Wilson, *Cum Laude*

Palmetto Programs, USC Columbia Bachelor of Arts

Jasmine A'Lece Anthony *Liberal Studies*

Ahzharee Veronica Atkins *Liberal Studies* Dec-25

Kaylie Elizabeth Bratton *Liberal Studies*, *Summa Cum Laude*

Yorsdamia Mercedes Cuesta Ogando *Organizational Leadership*, *Cum Laude*

Miranda Paige Deese *Liberal Studies*

Elise Marie Franchi *Organizational Leadership*, *Magna Cum Laude*

Jocelyn Furlos Beristain *Liberal Studies*

Summer Abria Gardner *Liberal Studies*, *Summa Cum Laude* Dec-25

Erica LaDawn Garris *Liberal Studies* Dec-25

Connor Rocco Guzzi *Organizational Leadership*

Jonathan Thomas Leftwich *Organizational Leadership*, *Cum Laude*

Julia Grace Little *Organizational Leadership*, *Cum Laude*

Celia Mackenzie Marshall *Liberal Studies*, *Magna Cum Laude* Dec-25

Celia Mackenzie Marshall *Organizational Leadership*, *Magna Cum Laude* Dec-25

Rebecca Madison Miller *Organizational Leadership*, *Summa Cum Laude*

Robert Ervin Miskelly *Liberal Studies* Dec-25

Amanda Carpenter Moses *Organizational Leadership*, *Summa Cum Laude* Aug-25

Andrew Jamal Simpson *Liberal Studies*

Zachary Alexander Ware *Liberal Studies*, *Summa Cum Laude*

Christian Rachel Whitaker *Liberal Studies* Dec-25

Carolina — A Historical Note

"Faithful Index to the Ambitions and Fortunes of the State"

The Palmetto State established South Carolina College on December 19, 1801, as part of an effort to unite South Carolinians in the wake of the American Revolution, promoting "the good order and harmony" of the state. The founding of South Carolina's state college was also part of the Southern public college movement spurred by Thomas Jefferson. Within 20 years of one another, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia established state-supported colleges.

In the antebellum era, the Palmetto State generously supported South Carolina College. Its faculty included noted European scholars, such as Francis Lieber and Thomas Cooper, as well as renowned American scholars John and Joseph LeConte. Offering a classical curriculum, South Carolina College became one of the South's most influential colleges, earning a reputation as the training ground for South Carolina's antebellum elite.

South Carolina's secession from the Union unleashed the devastation of the American Civil War, and the state and South Carolina College paid dearly. The institution closed for want of students, and in the ensuing decades, it struggled to regain its former status.

As Reconstruction from the Civil War proceeded, the state's General Assembly chose the first African Americans to serve on the university's Board of Trustees in 1868, and in 1873 the first Black students enrolled. While politically controversial, this development was an extraordinary opportunity at a time when opportunities for higher education were rare. The University of South Carolina became the only Southern state university to admit and grant degrees to African American students during the Reconstruction era.

Following the end of Reconstruction in 1877, South Carolina's conservative leaders closed the university. They reopened it in 1880 as an all-white agricultural college, and during the next 25 years, the institution became enmeshed in the state's political upheaval. South Carolina went through several reorganizations in which the curriculum changed and its status shifted from college to university and back again. The university also struggled to adjust to the arrival of intercollegiate athletics in 1892 and the admission of white women in 1894.

In 1906, the institution was rechartered for the final time as the University of South Carolina. In 1917, it became South Carolina's first state-supported college or university to earn regional accreditation, and the 1920s brought the introduction of new colleges and degree programs, including the doctorate.

The Great Depression temporarily stalled progress, but the outbreak of World War II launched an era that transformed the university. South Carolina hosted naval training programs during the war, and enrollment more than doubled in the postwar era as veterans took advantage of the G.I. Bill. In the 1950s, the university began recruiting national-caliber faculty members and expanded its footprint with the establishment of campuses across South Carolina.

In 1963, the University of South Carolina became desegregated. As the result of a federal court order, Henrie D. Monteith, Robert Anderson and James Solomon became the first Black students to enroll at the university in the 20th century. Minority enrollment would continue to grow in their wake and was complemented by a substantial international student population in subsequent decades.

At the same time, the university was undergoing explosive growth as the baby-boom generation entered college. Enrollment stood at 5,660 in 1960 but nearly quadrupled 20 years later. That increase in the student body was accompanied by the introduction of many new programs, including three that would prove to be momentous.

University 101 became a national model for cultivating freshman-year success; the accompanying National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition is based at the university. The international Master of Business Administration program, also launched in the 1970s, has consistently ranked among the country's top three such programs. The honors program blossomed into the South Carolina Honors College and is hailed among the nation's finest.

As the result of concerted efforts to expand its research capabilities, the university in 2006 was designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as a research institution of "very high research activity," the foundation's highest classification. The university is one of a select number of public universities to receive both the Carnegie Foundation's top-tier research designation and community engagement designation.

South Carolina's Bicentennial Campaign helped usher in the 21st century as the university celebrated a 200-year legacy of educating leaders for the state, the nation and the world. In recent years, the University of South Carolina system has launched an online degree-completion program through Palmetto College. Together with the college's four campuses across the state, the online program offers students greater flexibility to complete coursework and speeds bachelor's degree completion. These comprehensive programs have helped the university secure its place as a first-choice destination for students seeking the lifelong value of a quality higher education experience.

This fall, we will commemorate 225 years of resilience, spirit and success, celebrating our continued leadership as the University FOR South Carolina and our enduring community, including each new graduate presented today.

USC Lancaster — A Historical Note

"Formed in Partnership, Forged in Service"

Established in 1959 as the Lancaster Extension Center — a partnership between the Lancaster County Commission for higher education and the University of South Carolina to bring higher education to the area — USC Lancaster is the oldest of the University of South Carolina's four Palmetto College campuses. Since then, the campus and student body have grown, but our mission remains the same. USC Lancaster is devoted to preparing students to continue their education in the university and throughout life.

The new extension began by offering six courses taught by four commuting professors, and 50 students enrolled for the first semester. Over the course of the next decade, a proper campus began to take shape as Hubbard Hall officially opened in 1965 and Starr Hall opened in 1969. Growth continued throughout the 1970s: the Medford Library was completed in 1974, student enrollment continued to increase steadily, and a major fundraising campaign was started and led to the opening of the Gregory Health and Wellness Center in 1981. By 1984, enrollment topped 800.

USC Lancaster's largest expansion period occurred during the 1990s and 2000s. In 1990, the John Morrison White Clinic, a cardiopulmonary rehabilitation center, was established through community funding. Plans for a new arts and sciences building began in 1992 with the awarding of $2.7 million in state-appropriated funds for a new classroom/auditorium facility. In 1996, Lancaster began its "Building on a Tradition of Excellence" campaign, which raised more than $8 million — the largest amount ever raised by a USC system regional campus — and it culminated in the opening of the James Bradley Arts and Sciences Building in May 2000. In 2003, the campus completed another major building project with the expansion and renovation of Medford Library. In 2005, the buildings and grounds of the former University Baptist Church were donated to USC Lancaster and renovated using funds donated by the Carole Ray Dowling Foundation.

In late 2012, the Native American Studies Program moved to Main Street in Lancaster, South Carolina. The extensive Native American Archives and Pottery Collection provides educational programming for students, faculty members, visiting scholars and the general public. A campus location in Indian Land, South Carolina, was added in August 2018 and began full-day operations in renovated space soon thereafter. The current campus is approximately 150 acres and includes nearly 300,000 square feet of classroom and office space.

Since its beginning more than 65 years ago, the University of South Carolina Lancaster has been purposefully positioned to be the choice for higher education in the community. The campus has become a comprehensive learning center that enrolls more than 2,000 full- and part-time students from the region. Through a broad commitment to equity, an extensive scholarship and financial aid program, and a variety of weekday and evening course offerings, USC Lancaster strives to provide an accessible and affordable student-centered educational opportunity and to enrich the regional community through a strong commitment to public service.

University of South Carolina Alumni Association

Founded in 1846, the University of South Carolina Alumni Association connects students and alumni to advance their careers, their passions and this great university that we call home.

Commencement is the most exciting time of the year as we welcome thousands of Gamecocks to the ever-growing alumni family. We have a network of more than 40 global alumni clubs that are eager to connect you to life as an alumnus, no matter where your career may lead. Our affinity groups, such as the Black Alumni and Veterans Alumni Councils, can help you connect with Gamecocks who have shared experiences.

We want new graduates to stay connected to our programs and the hundreds of events we host each year. Membership with the association is what makes these connections possible. Without the support of our members, we could not facilitate a global network of alumni clubs or award hundreds of student scholarships each year.

As a new graduate, you have access to a limited-time discount on a life membership and personalized Horseshoe brick bundle. Beyond helping us create a stronger Gamecock family, you'll also receive great benefits like access to Career Services, Thomas Cooper Library and hundreds of discounts.

You are a student for a short time but a Gamecock for a lifetime. Join the USC Alumni Association today and stay connected for life: uofscalumni.org/newgradlife.

The Carolinian Creed

The community of scholars at the University of South Carolina is dedicated to personal and academic excellence. Choosing to join the community obligates each member to a code of civilized behavior. Allegiance to these ideals requires each Carolinian to refrain from and discourage behaviors which threaten the freedom and respect every individual deserves.

As a Carolinian...
I will practice
personal and academic integrity;

I will respect
the dignity of all persons;

I will respect
the rights and property of others;

I will discourage
bigotry, while striving to learn from
differences in people, ideas, and opinions;

I will demonstrate
concern for others, their feelings, and their need for
conditions which support their work and development.

Academic Costumes

The academic costumes worn in today's procession and at other formal university occasions trace their origins to those worn by faculty members and students at medieval European universities. With only minor modifications, these costumes have remained largely unchanged since the 16th century. Standards for colleges and universities in the United States were established in 1895 with the adoption of an intercollegiate code that specifies design and color appropriate for various degrees. As in medieval times, the costumes worn on formal academic occasions denote the wearer's academic heritage.

The modern academic costume consists of three parts: the gown or robe, a headpiece and a hood. The gown denotes the wearer's level of education.

The baccalaureate gown is the simplest in design. Usually black, it is distinguished by a wide yoke with shirring in front and back and by open, flowing sleeves that end in a point. The baccalaureate gown is worn closed.

The master's gown is similar to the baccalaureate gown except that it has a closed or glove sleeve that is open at the wrist. The master's gown has no other trim and may be worn either open or closed.

The doctoral gown is full-flowing and has large, bell-shaped sleeves. It is trimmed with velvet panels down the front and has velvet bars on the sleeves. While black is still the predominant color for doctoral gowns, the trim may be in a color that denotes the wearer's discipline, or the color of the gown may denote the wearer's university. The University of South Carolina's doctoral gown is garnet with black velvet panels and bars. The university seal is embroidered on the panels. In today's procession, this gown is worn by the members of the Board of Trustees and university officers, chancellors, deans, faculty members and administrators.

The mortar board is the headpiece most often worn at American universities for formal occasions. It is appropriately worn with the board flat on the top of the head and with the tassel falling from the left quarter of the board. Tassel colors denote the field or discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned. Doctoral tassels are often gold. The soft velvet Tudor cap is also worn by many who hold the doctorate.

While the gown and headpiece denote the wearer's level of education, it is the hood that adds meaning and dimension to the academic costume. Changed little since medieval times, the hood is worn falling from the shoulders, down the back of the gown in a display of vivid color. It is edged in velvet, which by its color denotes the field or discipline in which the wearer's degree was earned, and it is lined in two colors of silk that represent the college or university from which the degree was earned. Hence, the University of South Carolina hood is lined in garnet and black and edged with the appropriate discipline color.

The USC president's ceremonial gown is black with four garnet velvet bars on the sleeves and garnet velvet panels down the front, all trimmed with antique-gold cording. The university seal is embroidered on the panels. Presidents are the only academics entitled to wear the fourth bar on their sleeves. The president's regalia is completed by a black velvet doctoral tam with an antique-gold tassel. The ceremonial hood is edged in garnet velvet and lined with garnet-and-black silk, representative of the University of South Carolina.

A partial listing from the Intercollegiate Code for colors signifying disciplines follows:

- Arts, Letters, Humanities: white
- Accountancy, Business, Commerce: drab
- Education: light blue
- Engineering: orange
- Fine Arts: brown
- Journalism: crimson
- Law: purple
- Library Science: lemon
- Medicine: green
- Music: pink
- Nursing: apricot
- Pharmacy: olive green
- Philosophy: dark blue
- Physical Education: sage green
- Physical Therapy: teal
- Public Health: salmon pink
- Public Service: peacock blue
- Science: golden yellow
- Social Science: cream
- Social Work: citron

The University Mace and Presidential Medallion

The University Mace was designed and fashioned by Leslie Durbin, distinguished silversmith of London, England. Academic maces are historically regarded as manifestations of the "immortal dignity" of universities and thus represent the past, present and future. Officially adopted in 1967, the mace was presented to the university as a memorial to Susan Richardson Guignard by an alumnus, Dr. George Curry.

The brilliantly gleaming silver-and-gilt mace is nearly four feet long. Mounted on the head are the seal of the university, the seal of the State of South Carolina and the Great Seal of the United States. From the middle of these arises a stylistic representation of the State Tree, the palmetto, the fronds of which are formed by a group of 13 stars representing the founding colonies, which include South Carolina. The shaft is decorated with eight stars, reminding us that South Carolina was the eighth state to enter the Union.

The University Mace is carried in procession on occasions of outstanding importance, such as commencements, convocations and formal dedications. The placement of the mace on its stand signals that the proceedings are about to come to order; its retirement indicates the conclusion of the exercises. The mace is carried in procession by the president of Student Government and escorted by the university chaplain and representatives of the faculty, emeriti, alumni, the Board of Trustees and the university community at large.

The significance of the mace is mirrored in the Presidential Medallion and Chain of Office, which designate the wearer as the temporary embodiment of the institution's power and authority. The gift of the medallion accompanied the gift of the mace, and the linked silver Chain of Office was commissioned in 1991 by the Presidential Candidate Search Committee.

Palmetto College Mace

Officially adopted in 2025, the Palmetto College Mace was designed and fashioned by Bob Doster, an award-winning, nationally acclaimed artist based in Lancaster, South Carolina.

The steel mace is nearly four feet long. Its head features four gold medallions that display the University of South Carolina Palmetto College logo, the USC seal surrounded by a laurel wreath, the seal of the State of South Carolina and a list of the Palmetto College campuses.

The mace is topped by a palmetto tree (a Sabal palmetto), which holds great significance in South Carolina history as the official state tree and which symbolizes the state's resilience and victory during the Revolutionary War. Three of the medallions include the palmetto tree in their design, and the fourth features an outline of South Carolina, the Palmetto State. Like the palmetto logs that absorbed cannon fire at Fort Moultrie in 1776, Palmetto College students are resilient, and the mace design honors their academic accomplishments.

The Palmetto College Mace is carried in procession during formal academic occasions, such as commencements and convocations, signifying the authority of the university. The placement of the mace on its stand signals that the proceedings are about to come to order. The retirement of the mace indicates the conclusion of the exercises. When the University of South Carolina president is present at a formal Palmetto College academic event, the University Mace will take the place of the Palmetto College Mace.

About the Alma Mater

As the ceremonies close following the awarding of all degrees, the audience is asked to rise for the singing of the alma mater, after which the platform party will recess. The words of the song were penned by Professor G.A. Wauchope of the English department in 1911 and were adopted in 1912. The tune is that of "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton." The phrase "Here's a health, Carolina!" is repeated in Carolina's alma mater. Over the years, the custom has arisen of raising the right hand, with the fingers cupped, when the phrase "Here's a health, Carolina!" occurs, as if offering a toast. The alma mater is always sung with heads uncovered.

Long Version

We hail thee, Carolina, and sing thy high praise;
With loyal devotion, rememb'ring the days,
When proudly we sought thee, thy children to be;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

Since pilgrims of learning, we entered thy walls,
And found dearest comrades in thy classic halls;
We've honored and loved thee, as sons faithfully;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

Generations of sons have rejoiced to proclaim
Thy watchword of service, thy beauty and fame
For ages to come shall their rallying cry be;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

Fair shrine of high honor and truth, thou shalt still
Blaze forth as a beacon, thy mission fulfill;
And be crowned by all hearts in a new jubilee;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

— G.A. *Wauchope*

Short Version

We hail thee, Carolina, and sing thy high praise;
With loyal devotion, rememb'ring the days,
When proudly we sought thee, thy children to be;
Here's a health, Carolina, forever to thee!

— G.A. *Wauchope*