Welcome to the University of South Carolina family!

We are proud and privileged to be a part of this exciting time in your students’ development, and we take seriously the responsibility to provide them every opportunity for success and growth and to offer you the resources to support them.

As your students are preparing for the transition to college life, so too are you. Please use this calendar as a guide to that transition, to your students’ first year of college and throughout the college experience. Inside are important university dates and timely information on ways to encourage your students’ success at Carolina. I hope the Family Calendar will answer many of your questions and help you know what to expect during the coming year.

If you have additional questions, or if we can assist you in any way, please don’t hesitate to contact our Office of Parent & Family Programs by calling the Parents Assistance Line at 1-800-868-6752 or sending an email to scparents@sc.edu.

Best wishes for a wonderful year,

Dr. Dennis A. Pruitt
Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost
Get Ready, Gamecocks!

- Purchase student parking permit from Parking & Transportation Services at sc.edu/parking.

- Order fall semester textbooks through the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at sc.bncollege.com.

- Review and pay fall semester bill or establish a payment plan with the Bursar’s Office at sc.edu/bursar.

- Learn about safety resources provided on campus, including crime bulletins and simple tips to help students stay safe at sc.edu/safety.

- Develop a plan to get involved on campus by reviewing the list of student organizations at garnetgate.sa.sc.edu.
Student Safety

Carolina Alert
- The Carolina Alert system is used to notify the university community via text message and email of any emergencies that may occur. To sign up, students should visit my.sc.edu/emergency and log in. They can add several contact numbers, including family members.

Rave Guardian App
- Encourage your student to download the Rave Guardian app on their phone. This free app makes it possible for students to easily connect with the USC Police Department during an emergency.

USC PD
- The university has a full-service police department that works to keep our campus safe year-round. The department offers a variety of programs, including self-defense classes, property registration and more.
- Interpersonal violence (sexual assault, intimate partner violence or stalking/harassment) is never the survivor’s fault, and it’s never tolerated at the University of South Carolina. The university urges survivors to seek help from resources available at sc.edu/stopsexualassault. As members of the Carolina family, we all can better understand our responsibilities to help care for our community.
Talk with your student about communication expectations while they’re away at Carolina.
How often will you talk? Will you speak on the phone or text? Who will initiate the conversations? Setting these expectations now will help prevent communication breakdowns during the semester.

- **5**: Sorority houses open at noon
- **6**: Fee payment deadline for fall semester
  - Sorority Recruitment
  - Move-in and Orientation
- **7**: Sorority Recruitment ends (Bid Day)
  - Fraternity houses open at noon
- **8**: Move-In
  - Fraternity houses open at noon
- **9**: Fall semester classes begin
  - Fall AlcoholEdu & Haven Part 1 due
- **10**: Student Organization Fair
- **11**: Is your student moving on campus Aug. 20? Stop by the Gamecock Family Roost for info about campus and Columbia!
Live Your Student Life

Student Ticketing
Fall at Carolina means it’s time for Gamecock football! Your student can accumulate reward points, which will help them gain tickets to football, basketball and baseball games. Remind your student to have fun and be safe while tailgating and to look for activities sponsored by Student Life throughout the year. The full schedule of Gamecock athletic events is available at gamecockonline.com. For more information about student athletic tickets for all sports, visit sa.sc.edu/studenttickets.

Campus Recreation
Encourage your student to stay healthy throughout their time in college by taking advantage of all that Campus Recreation has to offer. Students can take part in group exercise classes, intramural sports, sport clubs, and outdoor recreation trips to the mountains and the beach. The Strom Thurmond Wellness & Fitness Center and the Blatt PE Center offer a variety of programs to keep your student active.
**Family Weekend is Oct. 5-7.**
Don’t forget to register by the deadline, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m.!
Visit sc.edu/familyweekend to register today! Space is limited and registration is required.
### Student Success

**Student Success Center**
The Student Success Center is a comprehensive one-stop shop for academic support services on campus. Initiatives include one-on-one success consultations, academic success workshops, financial education, as well as peer writing and tutoring assistance. The Student Success Center also oversees the National Student Exchange, sophomore initiatives, veteran and transfer services and much more! All programs and initiatives are included in tuition. Visit sc.edu/success to learn more.

**Academic Advising**
It often takes a semester for students to find a balance between their major and goals for the future. The University Advising Center is available to help students create an academic engagement plan to help reach those goals or help them redirect and change to a major better suited for their skills and interests. Questions? Visit sc.edu/advising for more information.

**Off-Campus Living**
Navigating the off-campus housing search can be difficult for students on campus and their parents back home. The Office of Off-Campus Living & Neighborhood Relations provides many resources to assist in this process. Off-campus housing fairs are held each semester and one-on-one student meetings with Off-Campus Community Ambassadors are offered. Student Legal Services is another resource available by appointment to review students’ leases, apartment agreements, and meet with them about off-campus housing concerns. There is no cost for USC students to utilize this service.
Encourage your student to get a flu shot at the Center for Health and Well-Being. The best time to receive the vaccine is in October/November for protection during the winter months. It is free to students who bring their CarolinaCard.
Get Connected

Pre-Professional Advising
If your student is considering an eventual career in law, medicine, or another area of health care, they should take advantage of the resources offered by the Office of Pre-Professional Advising. Many programs are available to help your student prepare for professional school, including advisement appointments, career observations, application preparation resources and mock interviews. Students can learn more by visiting the Office of Pre-Professional Advising in Sumwalt College, Room 208.

Graduation with Leadership Distinction
Students have the ability to graduate with leadership distinction in five pathways: community service, diversity and social advocacy, global learning, professional and civic engagement, and research. Those who earn this recognition receive unique graduation cords and designation on their transcripts and diplomas. General requirements include a combination of extensive beyond-the-classroom experiences, enhancement activities, six credits of related course work, a presentation or publication and an e-portfolio. To learn more about the requirements, visit sc.edu/usconnect. Encourage your student to consider beginning work toward this honor early in their undergraduate career.
Encourage your student to check out Carolina-Clemson Rivalry Week events. Tiger Burn, the annual pep rally prior to the Clemson game, and the Carolina-Clemson Blood Drive are favorite traditions at USC.

- **Tiger Burn**

- **International Education Week begins**

- **Veteran’s Day**

- **Daylight saving time ends**

- **General Election Day — no classes**

- **Greek Village closes for Thanksgiving at 6 p.m.**

- **Thanksgiving break — no classes**

- **Residence halls close for Thanksgiving at 10 a.m.**

- **Residence halls open after Thanksgiving at 8 p.m.**

- **South Carolina @ Ole Miss**

- **South Carolina @ Florida**

- **South Carolina vs. UT-Chattanooga**

- **South Carolina vs. Ole Miss**

- **South Carolina @ Clemson**

**Did you know?**

Student Government offers a free shuttle service to students flying out of Columbia for Thanksgiving break.
As exams begin, remind your student to take care of their mind, body, and spirit to support a successful end of the semester.

Within the Center for Health and Well-Being, students have access to health resources, including general medicine, women’s care, optometry, sports medicine, physical therapy, an allergy and immunization clinic, a pharmacy and more. Students can also take advantage of campus wellness programs offered throughout the year that focus on stress management, nutrition, sexual health and other health-related topics.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the mental health services that are offered through Counseling and Psychiatry. Individual appointments, group counseling and community support meetings are available for students to speak with trained counselors.

Tip: Remind your student to get a flu shot at the Center for Health and Well-Being. It is free with their CarolinaCard.
**Winter break is a great time to reflect on the fall semester.**
Talk with your student about what went well and what changes they would like to make for next semester. Encourage them to visit any of the campus resources shown throughout this handbook to plan for a strong spring semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hanukkah begins</td>
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</table>
| 9    | Hanukkah ends   
  Final exams begin  
 (includes Saturday) |
| 16   | Final exams end  
  Commencement |
| 23   | Christmas Eve   |
| 30   | New Year’s Eve  |
| 2    | Greek Village closes for winter break at noon |
| 3    | Residence halls close for winter break at 10 a.m. |
| 4    | University Tree Lighting |
| 5    | Last day of classes |
| 6    | Reading Day — no classes |
| 7    | Christmas Eve   |
| 8    | Christmas Day   |
Exploration

Career Preparation
Visiting the Career Center is your student’s first step in preparing for their goal of employment or further studies after graduation. Our team of career development coaches can help your student learn about their interests, values, and personality and how they fit with the world of work. Gaining experience through job shadowing or obtaining an internship/co-op will be vital to their success. We provide opportunities for them to connect with employers or graduate schools in multiple ways. Remind your student to activate their handshake account at sc.joinhandshake.com and schedule an appointment with a career coach during their first year on campus!

Studying Abroad
Encourage your student to consider studying abroad! Students can attend information sessions hosted by the Study Abroad Office to get started with the process as early as possible to best fit it into their academic plans. The study abroad staff recommends starting to plan 9-12 months before departure, but students may apply for programs as long as they are able to meet the advertised deadlines.

Learn more at sc.edu/studyabroad
The MLK Day of Service provides USC students the opportunity to give back to Columbia-area communities. Students can sign up to participate with the Leadership & Service Center, located in the Russell House.

Encourage your student to look over their bill closely before paying. Are the meal plan selection and insurance listed correctly? Have they taken another look at their class schedule?
Celebrating Diversity

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs offers many programs to promote diversity education, social justice, cultural awareness and student success to develop the next generation of global citizens here at Carolina.

Encourage your student to learn about various identities and cultures by participating in cross-cultural programming. Students can take advantage of programs like Diversity Dialogues, the Safe Zone program, the Civil Rights Alternative Spring Break Tour, the Social Justice Program, Diversity Retreat and other cultural awareness programs that engage the Carolina community.

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.

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.

Allegiance to these ideas requires each Carolinian to refrain from and discourage behaviors which threaten the freedom and respect every individual deserves.
Will your student be living off campus next year?
Make sure they know about the resources available through Off-Campus Living & Neighborhood Relations which can be found at sc.edu/offcampusliving.

As the semester becomes busier, encourage your student to take advantage of Healthy Carolina’s monthly workshops and events to help reduce stress.
Serving the Carolina Community

Through the Leadership and Service Center, your student can choose to serve the Carolina and Columbia communities in a variety of ways, including Service Saturdays, Impact Weekly and awareness and celebration events such as Hunger and Homelessness Week and the MLK Day of Service.

Alternative break trips are offered during fall, winter and spring breaks as a way for USC students to serve communities outside South Carolina. These trips are a great way for students to see new places while continuing to make an impact on the world.

Students can join over 500 student organizations to make their time at Carolina more enriching. If a student isn’t sure where to start, the Leadership and Service Center offers leadership coaching to determine what areas of campus involvement align with specific interests and goals.
Spring semester midterms are held this month.
Check in with your student to see how they are feeling about their grades and any midterm tests or projects. Encourage your student to speak with their professor if they are struggling in a class.
Gamecock Families

• **Join the dues-free Parents Association** to receive monthly e-newsletters and other important email communication from the University of South Carolina. You will receive regular updates from the university and in the event of an emergency situation, Parents Association members will stay informed via email messages.

• **Help recruit future generations of Gamecock families** by attending Admitted Student Receptions and Summer Send-Offs held across the country with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. These events give you the opportunity to connect with fellow Gamecock fans and share your experience as a member of the Carolina family.

• **Cheer on the Gamecocks** as they compete across the country. Whether we are home or away, grab your garnet jersey, a foam finger and prepare for a sandstorm. Families can find team schedules and ticket information at gamecocksonline.com.

Follow along on social media!

@uofscparents
@uofscparents
“UofSC Parent & Family Programs”

Mobile App: guidebook.com/app/uofscparents

APRIL 2019
Your student may be tempted to skip class to enjoy being outside in the warm weather. Encourage them to continue going to class as there is still time to make or break their grades.
New Beginnings

**My Carolina Alumni Association**
If your student is preparing for graduation, encourage them to connect with My Carolina Alumni Association. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, each member of the graduating class will receive a complimentary one-year membership into My Carolina Alumni Association. Your student should visit MyCarolina.org/NewGrad and update their contact information to confirm the membership.

**USC Ring**
The official USC ring is available for purchase to students who have earned 60 credit hours or more. Once a student reaches the credit requirement, they will be sent an invitation to learn more about the ring. Rings can be purchased at MyCarolina.org or during Ring Week in the fall and spring. They are presented each semester by President Pastides at the Ring Ceremony on the Horseshoe.
**Summer Plans**

Your student should stay active during the summer with an internship, online classes or other activities. In some cases, many high school friends will have moved away. Encourage your student to find ways to make new friends during this break from school.

- **May 31**: Final exams begin (includes Saturday)
- **June 2**: Final exams end
- **June 5**: Ramadan begins
- **June 6**: Greek Village closes at noon
- **June 10**: Commencement
- **June 13**: Mother’s Day
- **June 15**: Residence halls close at 10 a.m.

**To prepare for moving out,** encourage your student to ask their resident mentor or facility manager for proper checkout procedures early.
Welcome new families!

Do you have friends who are joining the Gamecock family this fall? Encourage any new USC parents to get connected with the resources offered through the Office of Parent & Family Programs.

- Share the Parents & Families Gateway (sc.edu/parents) so they can sign up for the Parents Association to receive monthly e-newsletters and other university updates.
- New Gamecock families likely have a lot of questions. Families are always welcome to ask questions through the scparents@sc.edu email account and the Parents Assistance Line (1-800-868-6752).
- New families can learn valuable information through the Parent & Family Programs Facebook page (facebook.com/UofSCParents), the Parent & Family Programs Instagram page (@UofSCParents), and the Parent & Family Programs mobile app (guidebook.com/app/uofscparents).

Encourage new parents and family members to register and plan their stay for Family Weekend early.

You have learned a lot during your time as a parent of a USC student, so share your positive experiences and advice with your friends!

Talk to your student about the past school year.
What was successful? What will they change for the fall? Help your student reflect on their experience.
Preparing for the fall

Talk with your student about their financial needs for the upcoming academic year. Evaluate changes that may be needed for money management and work together to establish a tentative budget. The Student Success Center offers financial workshops to assist students with determining a financial budget for the semester.

Discuss how new living arrangements will affect the next school year. Encourage your student to have conversations with their roommate about who is responsible for bringing certain items.

Helpful Reminders:
- Suggest that your student begin organizing the things they need to take back to school so that packing in August is not overwhelming.
- Review safety tips with your student prior to the new school year to make sure they are prepared to make good decisions when it comes to navigating campus.

As the summer progresses, your student may express some loneliness for friends made at college. Discuss the value of your student’s positive sense of campus life and plans for involvement in the coming year.
# IMPORTANT CONTACTS

## Colleges and Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College / Program</th>
<th>Phone 1</th>
<th>Phone 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>803-777-2993</td>
<td>803-777-7161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>803-777-3176</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>803-777-3828</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering and Computing</td>
<td>803-777-4177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate School</td>
<td>803-777-4243</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management</td>
<td>803-777-3374</td>
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<td>Information and Communications</td>
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<td>Journalism and Mass Communications</td>
<td>803-777-8528</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library and Information Sciences</td>
<td>803-777-4028</td>
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<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>803-777-6617</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicine (Columbia)</td>
<td>803-216-3300</td>
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<td>Medicine (Greenville)</td>
<td>864-455-7992</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>803-777-4280</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>803-777-7412</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>803-777-6635</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>803-777-1263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>803-777-5291</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Carolina Honors College</td>
<td>803-777-0610</td>
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**Office of Parent & Family Programs**  
sc.edu/parents  
Parents Assistance Line: 1-800-868-6752  
Email: scparents@sc.edu  
@UofSCParents  
@UofSCParents
University Offices

Admissions (undergraduate) 803-777-7700  National Student Exchange 803-777-1000
Alumni Association 803-777-4111  New Student Orientation 803-777-2780
Athletic Ticket Office 803-777-4274  Off-Campus Living & Neighborhood Relations 803-777-3366
Bookstore (University Bookstore at the Russell House) 803-777-4160  Parents Assistance Line 800-868-6752
Bursar (fee payment) 803-777-4233  Police Department 803-777-4215
Capstone Scholars Program 803-777-3912  Post Office (Student Mail Center) 803-777-4109
CarolinaCard 803-777-1708  Registrar 803-777-5555
Carolina Productions 803-777-3950  Russell House University Union 803-777-8182
Carolina Shuttle 803-777-1080  Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention 803-777-8248
Campus Recreation 803-576-9375  Student Affairs and Academic Support 803-777-4172
Campus Wellness 803-576-9393  Student Athletic Tickets 803-777-6102
Career Center 803-777-7280  Student Conduct 803-777-4333
Colonial Life Arena 803-576-9200  Student Government 803-777-2654
Counseling and Psychiatry 803-777-5223  Student Health Center 803-777-3175
Crime Prevention Programs 803-777-0855  Student Life 803-777-5782
Dining Services 803-777-4161  Student Media 803-777-3888
Disability Resource Center 803-777-6142 or TDD 803-777-6744  Student Success Center 803-777-1000
Fellowships and Scholar Programs 803-777-0958  Study Abroad 803-777-7557
Financial Aid and Scholarships 803-777-8134  Substance Abuse Prevention and Education 803-777-3933
Fraternity and Sorority Life 803-777-3506  Technology Services Help Desk 803-777-1800
Housing 803-777-4283  University 101 803-777-6029
Housing Maintenance Requests 803-777-3499  University Advising Center 803-777-1222
International Student Services 803-777-7461  Vehicle Management and Parking Services 803-777-5160
Koger Center for the Arts 803-777-7500  Victim/Witness Program 803-777-4215
Law Enforcement and Safety 803-777-8400  Visitor Center 803-777-0169
Leadership and Service Center 803-777-7130  Multicultural Student Affairs 803-777-7716