

2018

**FAMILY  
CALENDAR  
AND HANDBOOK**

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA





UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**

## **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](mailto:scparents@sc.edu).

Best wishes for a wonderful year,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis A. Pruitt".

**Dr. Dennis A. Pruitt**

Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Provost



**#1  
INTERNATIONAL  
BUSINESS  
PROGRAMS**

Undergraduate and M.B.A.

**NATION'S  
BEST  
HONORS  
COLLEGE**

**47  
NATIONALLY  
RANKED  
PROGRAMS**

U.S. News & World Report

**#3  
COLLEGE  
TOWN IN  
AMERICA**

## Get Ready, Gamecocks!

- Purchase student parking permit** from Parking & Transportation Services at [sc.edu/parking](http://sc.edu/parking).
- Order fall semester textbooks** through the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at [sc.bncollege.com](http://sc.bncollege.com).
- Review and pay fall semester bill** or establish a payment plan with the Bursar's Office at [sc.edu/bursar](http://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](http://sc.edu/safety).
- Develop a plan** to get involved on campus by reviewing the list of student organizations at [garnetgate.sa.sc.edu](http://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](http://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](http://sc.edu/stopsexualassault). As members of the Carolina family, we all can better understand our responsibilities to help care for our community.

# AUGUST 2018

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**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.

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6

Sorority houses open at noon

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11

12

13

14

15

Fee payment deadline for fall semester

Sorority Recruitment Move-in and Orientation

16

17

18

19

20

Move-In

Fraternity houses open at noon

21

22

23

Fall semester classes begin

Fall AlcoholEdu & Haven Part 1 due

24

25

26

Sorority Recruitment ends (Bid Day)

Fraternity Recruitment Orientation

27

28

29

Last day to change/drop a course without a grade of "W" being recorded

Student Organization Fair

30

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**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 [gamecocksonline.com](http://gamecocksonline.com). For more information about student athletic tickets for all sports, visit [sa.sc.edu/studenttickets](http://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.

# SEPTEMBER 2018

**Family Weekend is Oct. 5-7.**

Don't forget to register by the deadline, Sept. 17 at 4 p.m.!

Visit [sc.edu/familyweekend](http://sc.edu/familyweekend) to register today! Space is limited and registration is required.

1

South Carolina vs. Coastal Carolina

2

3

Fraternity Recruitment begins

Labor Day — no classes

4

Ring Week begins

5

Freshman Council applications due by 4 p.m.

6

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8

South Carolina vs. Georgia

Ring Week ends

9

Fraternity Recruitment ends (Bid Day)

Grandparents Day

Rosh Hashanah begins

10

11

Rosh Hashanah ends

12

13

14

Last day to apply for December graduation

15

South Carolina vs. Marshall

16

17

Last day to register for Family Weekend (4 p.m. EST)

18

Yom Kippur begins

19

Yom Kippur ends

20

21

22

South Carolina @ Vanderbilt

23

24

25

Career Fair: STEM majors

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Career Fair: all majors

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South Carolina @ Kentucky

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# 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](http://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](http://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.



# OCTOBER 2018

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1 University Housing signups and interest form dates begin	2 Graduation Fair	3 Graduation Fair	4	5 Family Weekend	6 Family Weekend South Carolina vs. Missouri
7 Family Weekend	8	9	10	11	12	13 South Carolina vs. Texas A&M
14	15 Last day to drop a course or withdraw without a grade of "WF" being recorded Midpoint in semester	16	17 Greek Village closes for fall break at 6 p.m.	18 Fall break — no classes	19 Fall break — no classes	20
21 Greek Village opens at noon	22 Homecoming Week begins	23 Fall AlcoholEdu & Haven Part 2 due	24	25	26 Cockstock	27 Homecoming Week ends South Carolina vs. Tennessee
28 Ring Ceremony	29	30	31 Halloween University Housing signups and interest form dates end	<p><b>Encourage your student to get a flu shot at the Center for Health and Well-Being.</b> 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.</p>		

# 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](http://sc.edu/usconnect). Encourage your student to consider beginning work toward this honor early in their undergraduate career.



# NOVEMBER 2018

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**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.

4

Daylight saving time ends

5

6

General Election Day — no classes

7

8

9

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South Carolina @ Ole Miss

South Carolina @ Florida

11

Veteran's Day

12

International Education Week begins

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16

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South Carolina vs. UT-Chattanooga

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19

Tiger Burn

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Greek Village closes for Thanksgiving at 6 p.m.

21

Thanksgiving break — no classes

Residence halls close for Thanksgiving at 10 a.m.

22

Thanksgiving break — no classes

23

Thanksgiving break — no classes

Residence halls open after Thanksgiving at 8 p.m.

24

Thanksgiving break — no classes

South Carolina @ Clemson

25

Greek Village opens at noon

26

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**Did you know?** Student Government offers a free shuttle service to students flying out of Columbia for Thanksgiving break.



## Student Health Services

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.

# DECEMBER 2018

**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.

1

2

Hanukkah begins

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University Tree Lighting

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Last day of classes

8

Reading Day — no classes

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Hanukkah ends  
Final exams begin  
(includes Saturday)

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17

Final exams end  
Commencement

18

Greek Village closes for  
winter break at noon  
Residence halls close for  
winter break at 10 a.m.

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Christmas Eve

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New Year's Eve

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](http://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](http://sc.edu/studyabroad)



# JANUARY 2019

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**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.

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New Year's Day

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Residence halls open for spring semester at 8 a.m.

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Greek Village opens at noon

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Spring semester classes begin

Spring AlcoholEDU & Haven Part 1 due

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MLK Day of Service

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21

MLK Jr. Day — no classes

22

Last day to change/drop a course without a grade of "W" being recorded

23

Career Fair: all majors

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Career Fair: STEM majors

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**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.

# FEBRUARY 2019

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**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](http://sc.edu/offcampusliving).

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Groundhog Day  
Student Leadership and Diversity Conference

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Valentine's Day

Last day to apply for May graduation

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Presidents Day

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Student Government elections

Student Government elections

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.



# MARCH 2019

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**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.

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Dance Marathon

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4

Last day to drop a course or withdraw without a grade of "WF" being recorded

Midpoint in semester

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8

Greek Village closes for spring break at 6 p.m.

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Residence halls close for spring break at 10 a.m.

10

Spring break begins  
Daylight saving time begins

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17

Spring break ends  
Greek Village opens at noon  
Residence halls open at 8 a.m.

18

19

Graduation Fair

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Spring AlcoholEdu & Haven Part 2 due  
Graduation Fair

21

Graduation Fair

22

23

24

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## 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](http://gamecocksonline.com).

### Follow along on social media!

 @uofscparents

 @uofscparents

 "UofSC Parent & Family Programs"

**Mobile App:** [guidebook.com/app/uofscparents](http://guidebook.com/app/uofscparents)

# APRIL 2019

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				University Awards Day	Good Friday	Passover begins
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Easter					Discover USC	Passover ends
28	29	30	<p><b>Your student may be tempted to skip class to enjoy being outside in the warm weather.</b> Encourage them to continue going to class as there is still time to make or break their grades.</p>			
	Last day of classes	Reading Day - no classes				



## 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](http://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](http://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.

# MAY 2019

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### 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.

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Final exams begin  
(includes Saturday)

2

3

4

5

Ramadan begins

6

7

8

Final exams end

9

Greek Village closes  
at noon

Residence halls close  
at 10 a.m.

10

Commencement

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Commencement

12

Mother's Day

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Memorial Day

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

# JUNE 2019

## 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](http://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](mailto: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/UofSCPParents](https://facebook.com/UofSCPParents)), the Parent & Family Programs Instagram page ([@UofSCPParents](https://@UofSCPParents)), and the Parent & Family Programs mobile app ([guidebook.com/app/uofscparents](http://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!

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4 Ramadan ends	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

# JULY 2019



## 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.

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	3	4 Independence Day — no classes	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	<b>As the summer progresses, your student may express some loneliness for friends made at college.</b> 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

Arts and Sciences	803-777-2993
	803-777-7161
Business	803-777-3176
Education	803-777-3828
Engineering and Computing	803-777-4177
Graduate School	803-777-4243
Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management	803-777-3374
Information and Communications	
Journalism and Mass Communications	803-777-8528
Library and Information Sciences	803-777-4028
Law	803-777-6617
Medicine (Columbia)	803-216-3300
Medicine (Greenville)	864-455-7992
Music	803-777-4280
Nursing	803-777-7412
Pharmacy	803-777-6635
Public Health	803-777-1263
Social Work	803-777-5291
South Carolina Honors College	803-777-0610

### Office of Parent & Family Programs

sc.edu/parents

Parents Assistance Line: 1-800-868-6752

Email: [scparents@sc.edu](mailto:scparents@sc.edu)

 @UofSCParents

 @UofSCParents



## University Offices

Admissions (undergraduate)	803-777-7700	Multicultural Student Affairs	803-777-7716
Alumni Association	803-777-4111	National Student Exchange	803-777-1000
Athletic Ticket Office	803-777-4274	New Student Orientation	803-777-2780
Bookstore (University Bookstore at the Russell House)	803-777-4160	Off-Campus Living & Neighborhood Relations	803-777-3366
Bursar (fee payment)	803-777-4233	Parents Assistance Line	800-868-6752
Capstone Scholars Program	803-777-3912	Police Department	803-777-4215
CarolinaCard	803-777-1708		emergency 911
Carolina Productions	803-777-3950	Post Office (Student Mail Center)	803-777-4109
Carolina Shuttle	803-777-1080	Registrar	803-777-5555
Campus Recreation	803-576-9375	Russell House University Union	803-777-8182
Campus Wellness	803-576-9393	Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention	803-777-8248
Career Center	803-777-7280	Student Affairs and Academic Support	803-777-4172
Colonial Life Arena	803-576-9200	Student Athletic Tickets	803-777-6102
Counseling and Psychiatry	803-777-5223	Student Conduct	803-777-4333
Crime Prevention Programs	803-777-0855	Student Government	803-777-2654
Dining Services	803-777-4161	Student Health Center	803-777-3175
Disability Resource Center 803-777-6142 or TDD	803-777-6744	Student Life	803-777-5782
Fellowships and Scholar Programs	803-777-0958	Student Media	803-777-3888
Financial Aid and Scholarships	803-777-8134	Student Success Center	803-777-1000
Fraternity and Sorority Life	803-777-3506	Study Abroad	803-777-7557
Housing	803-777-4283	Substance Abuse Prevention and Education	803-777-3933
Housing Maintenance Requests	803-777-3499	Technology Services Help Desk	803-777-1800
International Student Services	803-777-7461	University 101	803-777-6029
Koger Center for the Arts	803-777-7500	University Advising Center	803-777-1222
Law Enforcement and Safety	803-777-8400	Vehicle Management and Parking Services	803-777-5160
Leadership and Service Center	803-777-7130	Victim/Witness Program	803-777-4215
		Visitor Center	803-777-0169

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