



Item CS - 3.4.3

CS - 3.4.3

Educational Programs: All: Admission policies

The institution publishes admissions policies that are consistent with its mission. (**Comprehensive Standard 3.4.3**)

Judgment

Compliant Non-Compliant Not Applicable

Narrative

The University of South Carolina is a public institution offering degree programs at the associates, bachelors, certificate of graduate study, masters, specialist, and doctoral levels. In keeping with its mission, the University strives to educate graduates who are capable of excelling in their chosen fields, who are dedicated to learning throughout their lives, and who are responsible citizens in a complex society requiring difficult ethical and value-related decisions. By offering its students reasonable freedom to select from among the many experiences available in liberal arts, the natural sciences, the social sciences, the performing and creative arts, and the professions, the University encourages students to seek their full potential in the broad array of endeavors associated with our various schools and colleges.

The University maintains and publishes admissions policies for its various campuses, degree levels and colleges and schools, including Columbia Undergraduate Admissions, Graduate Admissions, the School of Medicine, the School of Law, Pharmacy, and the Regional Campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union).

Columbia Undergraduate Admissions –USC Columbia seeks to attract inquisitive students who have demonstrated academic ability, who are committed to learning, who are capable of self-discipline, and who wish to benefit from the variety of experiences provided by a major university with students, faculty, and staff drawn from throughout South Carolina, the nation, and the world. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions, under the authority and direction of the Faculty Senate through the Committee on Admissions, reviews applicants for admission to degree and non-degree programs on the Columbia Campus. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions adheres to the National Association for College Admissions Counselors (NACAC) Principles of Good Practice and regularly participates in a variety of professional organizations including NACAC, the College Board, and the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).

Applicants must demonstrate ability to succeed academically at the collegiate level. The Faculty Senate Committee on Admissions has established the following minimum freshmen admission criteria: Complete 19 required high school academic College Preparatory units as determined by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE). Students must also have a satisfactory combination of high school GPA and college admission test scores (either SAT or ACT) to be competitive for the class. More details on undergraduate admission policies and requirements can be found in the Academic Bulletin.

Admission to the University is selective, as evidenced by the profile of the freshman class. Therefore, meeting minimum requirements is no guarantee of admission to the freshman class. Students who meet the minimum GPA and test score requirements may also be evaluated holistically, with personal background, characteristics and circumstances being considered. Admission criteria are established each year by senior administrators depending on available capacity to take on new students and the overall number and quality of the applicant pool. Freshmen are admitted to the University without regard to major.

Transfers and students seeking readmission are evaluated according to the requested major. Transfer applicants with 30 hours of applicable hours earned and a minimum collegiate GPA of 2.25 are generally admissible to the University. Programs in high demand and/or limited capacity have higher requirements.

International students **must be high-school graduates or equivalent, must demonstrate they are academically prepared for study at the university level, and must be proficient in English.** Proficiency is measured through the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). A score of at least 550 on the paper based exam, 77 on the internet based TOEFL is required. Students may also demonstrate equivalent proficiency via the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam.

Columbia Graduate Admissions – The Graduate School, under the authority of the Dean of the Graduate School as charged by the Faculty Manual, coordinates the processing and review of applications for admission to graduate degree programs on the Columbia Campus. Graduate admissions practices are reviewed and assessed by the Dean of the Graduate School and the Director of Admissions for the Graduate School in accordance with best practice guidelines of the Council of Graduate Schools and National Association of Graduate Admissions (NAGAP best practices).

Applicants to graduate study are assessed for admission through a collaborative effort between the Graduate School and the University's colleges, schools, and departments. Application is made to The Graduate School and admission is granted by The Graduate School on the recommendation of colleges, schools, and departments. A faculty member who serves as the graduate director in each academic

department coordinates admissions recommendations for that department. The Graduate School on-line application process is managed by a third-party vendor, CollegeNET. Applications to the School of Business are managed by Hobsons' EMT ApplyYourself. Excluding Dual Degree and Certificate programs, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Exercise Science, and Physical Therapy which use the regular graduate school application process described above, applications to other graduate programs of the School of Public Health are submitted through the Schools of Public Health Application Service (SOPHAS), the centralized application service for schools of Public Health managed by Liaison International. Data from all of these applications systems are exported to the Student Information System and archived. Applications and supporting documents are imaged and archived in the Banner Document Management System.

For admission to the Graduate School, a baccalaureate or higher degree from a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting agency is normally required. Applicants' records should demonstrate adequate preparation in the field in which graduate work is to be undertaken. Also required are standardized admissions test scores (GRE, GMAT, or MAT), letters of recommendation, and other materials specified by the individual academic program. An applicant whose native language is not English is required to submit a satisfactory score on the TOEFL or the IELTS International Academic Course Type 2 exam. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 80 Internet-based, or 570 paper-based, but some programs have set higher standards. The minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS International Academic Course Type 2 exam is 6.5. In addition, admitted applicants whose native language is not English are required to take a diagnostic test in English when they arrive at the University. Students with deficiencies are provided an opportunity for further study in reading, writing, and speaking English.

The School of Medicine (SOM) Columbia - The mission of the USC SOM Columbia is to improve the health of the people of the state of SC through the development and implementation of programs for medical education, research, and the delivery of health care. Programs will be developed in collaboration with affiliated institutions, and allocation of resources will be based upon the physician manpower and health care needs of SC, the effectiveness and efficiency of specific programs, and the accreditation requirements of all appropriate organizations. Medical education and graduate education at all levels are conducted in a highly personal atmosphere that emphasizes a balance among scientific disciplines, humanistic concerns, and societal needs.

Prospective students can learn about the admissions process and related policies through the School of Medicine's admissions website for the Columbia and Florence Regional campus. The SOM Columbia utilizes the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). Applications are submitted electronically through the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to as many medical schools as the applicant chooses. As a state-supported institution, the SOM Columbia has a primary responsibility to train future physicians for the state of South Carolina. Preference for admission to the School of Medicine is therefore given to state residents, but we do accept approximately 20% non-residents with close ties to South Carolina.

Applicants admitted to the School of Medicine are selected by an admissions committee composed of members of the basic science and clinical science faculties of the School of Medicine, University faculty, medical students, and area clinicians. In making selections from each year's group of applicants, members of the Admissions Committee recognize that they are selecting future physicians. The admissions procedures are, therefore, an effort to select applicants who possess the individual characteristics required for both the study and practice of medicine. Each applicant is evaluated on the basis of individual qualifications without regard to age, race, creed, national origin, sex, or disability. All applicants to the School of Medicine, except those offered admission through our 7-year BARSC-MD program with the South Carolina Honors College, are required to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). The Admissions Committee weighs carefully the entire application package, including GPA, MCAT, letters of recommendation, clinical experience, personal statement and the overall interview.

The School of Medicine (SOM) Greenville - The mission of the USC SOM Greenville is to educate health professionals to care compassionately, teach innovatively, and improve constantly through health services research. Programs will be developed in collaboration with affiliated institutions, and allocation of resources will be based upon the physician manpower and health care needs of SC, the effectiveness and efficiency of specific programs, and the accreditation requirements of all appropriate organizations. Medical education and graduate education at all levels are conducted in a highly personal atmosphere that emphasizes a balance among scientific disciplines, humanistic concerns, and societal needs.

Prospective students can learn about the admissions process and related policies through the School of Medicine's admissions website for the Greenville campus. The SOM Greenville utilizes the American Medical College Application Service (AMCAS). Applications are submitted electronically through the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) AMCAS service to as many medical schools as the applicant chooses. As a state-supported institution, the SOM Greenville has a primary responsibility to train future physicians for the state of South Carolina. Preference for admission to the School of Medicine is therefore given to state residents, but we do accept 25-30% non-residents with close ties to South Carolina.

Applicants admitted to the School of Medicine are selected by an admissions committee composed of members of the biomedical science and clinical science faculties of the School of Medicine, representatives from Greenville Health System Departments of Academic Services and Diversity, and senior administration of the Greenville Health System. In making selections from each year's group of applicants, members of the Admissions Committee recognize that they are selecting future physicians. The admissions procedures are, therefore, an effort to select applicants who possess the individual characteristics required for both the study and practice of medicine. Each applicant is evaluated on the basis of individual qualifications without regard to age, race, creed, national origin, sex, or disability. All applicants to the School of Medicine are required to take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). The Admissions Committee weighs carefully the entire application package, including academic background (GPA, MCAT, and undergraduate course selection); personal attributes, experiences and characteristics; letters of recommendation; clinical experience; personal statement and the overall interview.

The School of Law - The School of Law seeks to enroll qualified students who will enhance and embrace the school's rigorous educational environment and, as graduates, make positive societal contributions to South Carolina, the region, and the nation. In making admissions decisions, the Faculty Committee on Admissions employs a holistic approach, taking into account all information available about each candidate. No single factor is conclusive. While undergraduate grades and the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) are important, the committee's decision is also influenced by other factors, including the applicant's personal statement, graduate study, military service, leadership and community service, employment or other life experience, residency, letters of recommendation, and potential for contribution to a diverse educational environment.

In order to be considered for admission, a candidate must have or expect to have a bachelor's degree from a fully accredited college or university by the date of enrollment in the School of Law or be a participant in the University of South Carolina Honors College Integrated

Education Plan. All applicants are required to take the LSAT and to register with the Law School Admission Council Credential Assembly Service. The Law School Admissions Requirements are explained fully on our website.

An applicant who has successfully completed at least one year of law study at an American Bar Association-accredited law school may apply as a transfer student to the USC School of Law. In considering transfer applications, the Committee on Admissions takes into account criteria similar to those considered for admission to the first-year class (i.e., leadership, work-experience, diversity, etc.). In addition, the committee heavily weighs the transfer applicant's law school GPA and class rank.

The School of Pharmacy - The South Carolina College of Pharmacy (SCCP) was formed in 2004 through the integration of the Colleges of Pharmacy at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, and the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston.

The integrated College combines the nationally recognized faculty, staff, and resources of the Medical University of South Carolina, a major academic medical center, and the University of South Carolina, a large comprehensive university, to create a statewide approach to pharmacy education. The South Carolina College of Pharmacy offers the full four-year Pharm.D. and graduate programs on both the USC and MUSC campuses. The SCCP has a simplified Pharm.D. admission process for both campuses. Admission to the Graduate programs on the USC campus are administered through the USC Graduate School Application.

Admission to the South Carolina College of Pharmacy four-year Pharm.D. program is competitive and is based on the applicant's completion of pre-pharmacy requirements, GPA, academic record, letters of recommendation, interview evaluations, PCAT scores, honors/awards, extracurricular activities, work experience, and student personal statement concerning their goals for a career in pharmacy. Applicants must take the PCAT and have official scores reported prior to the end of the application period, on or before January 1st of the year of anticipated admission. Prospective students have the opportunity of choosing either campus to attend for the four-year program, depending on space availability.

A graduate admissions committee of the college reviews all applications to the M.S. and Ph.D. programs. Preference will be given to applicants with a minimum overall grade point average equivalent of B and minimum GRE scores of 1050 (verbal and quantitative sections) and 4 (analytical section). Applicants whose native language is not English are also required to submit a satisfactory score on the TOEFL. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 80 (internet-based). The applicants are required to have three letters of recommendation sent.

As part of the application process, the applicant will need to provide a brief statement of purpose outlining their past academic course work, research experiences and/or relevant job experience. They will also give their reasons for pursuing the graduate degree, career goals, and how this degree will help achieve those goals. The applicant will be asked to provide supplemental information regarding academic accomplishments such as publications, presentations, or other significant academic awards.

For advanced degrees in pharmaceutical and health outcomes sciences, an undergraduate or professional degree in a health or business-related discipline is recommended. For advanced degrees in the disciplines of medicinal chemistry, pharmaceuticals, or pharmacology, an undergraduate degree in pharmacy or in related physical sciences, such as chemistry, biochemistry, or biology, is recommended.

Regional Palmetto College Campuses

The four regional campuses of USC (USC Lancaster, USC Union, USC Sumter, and USC Salkehatchie) fall under the authority of the Columbia campus and reside in a central administrative unit known as Palmetto College, headed by a Chancellor and Associate Provost/Dean. Resultantly, these campuses are referred to as regional Palmetto College campuses. The administrative unit also houses USC's Extended University, which offers undergraduate credit programs and courses at Ft. Jackson and provides guidance and support for the delivery of the University's undergraduate online degree completion programs.

The four regional Palmetto College campuses of the University include USC-Salkehatchie, located in Allendale (with a site in Walterboro), USC-Lancaster, USC-Sumter and USC-Union (with a site in Laurens) principally provide the first two years of undergraduate education, as well as selected associate degree programs. The regional Palmetto College campuses also provide support for the completion of a bachelor's degree by offering selected upper-division course work leading to baccalaureate degrees in conjunction with the Aiken, Beaufort, Columbia, and Upstate campuses. Admission to the two-year system (links contained in each campus' narrative) campuses is less selective, but applicants are subject to the same state Commission on Higher Education (CHE) course requirements as USC-Columbia undergraduates.

USC's Extended University, housed in Palmetto College, offers undergraduate credit programs designed at convenient sites and times compatible with family and occupational schedules. Students desiring these offerings apply for admission through the Columbia Campus Admissions Office, and are subject to the same admission requirements as other students.

The Palmetto College unit, headed by a Chancellor and an Associate Provost and Dean, was established to enable place-bound students to complete selected baccalaureate degree completion programs without leaving the regional Palmetto College campuses service areas. The use of distance learning provides baccalaureate-level courses to students whose family or employment obligations prevent them from relocating to complete a degree. Students are admitted to Palmetto College degree from a regional Palmetto College campus (to which they were initially admitted) as change of campus internal transfers once requisite hours and GPA are verified. This is the same procedure that is followed by students who desire to physically transfer from one system campus to another (i.e., there are no separate online admission requirements. Students seeking admission as external transfers (i.e., those not currently enrolled on a regional campus) must meet the transfer admission requirements of the campus offering the desired program. Appropriate information about the Palmetto College baccalaureate degree programs is provided both locally by the Palmetto College Coordinator at each campus and by the Palmetto College central office.

USC System Degrees - Palmetto College

Students in the regional Palmetto College campuses services areas desiring to begin college or continue as transfers from other institutions apply to the campus in that service area with standards to set by the campus. Below are the requirements of each campus.

Lancaster

According to its mission statement, the University of South Carolina Lancaster recruits students "prepared to succeed in completing a baccalaureate-level education." Requirements for admission are published in the USC Lancaster Bulletin. Additionally, the campus follows state Commission on Higher Education (CHE) guidelines for dual enrollment students (Section II).

Salkehatchie

Providing access to a quality university education is of paramount importance to the University of South Carolina Salkehatchie. Part of that commitment is making sure that all prospective students know how to apply for admission, how their admissions application will be evaluated, and what is expected of them once they matriculate at the campus. The admissions policies align with those of the larger university, while adhering to the expectation that regional Palmetto College campuses provide alternate points of entry into the USC system.

The USC Salkehatchie's Admissions Policy is published in the USC Salkehatchie Bulletin. Consistent with its mission "to provide higher education and intellectual leadership for its service areas," USC Salkehatchie has two alternate mechanisms for freshman admission. One of the mechanisms is identical to that used in the flagship campus and involves the requirement of previous completion of several high-school courses and the evaluation of high-school grades, class rank, and entrance examination scores. The other mechanism ("Branch Student Program") provides probationary admission to students who cannot be admitted through the first mechanism. Students in this program must normally complete 30 semester hours at the Salkehatchie campus with a 2.00 GPA as well as meet the GPA requirements of the particular college in order to move to the flagship campus. In addition to freshman admission, USC Salkehatchie offers potential students the possibility of admission as a non-degree candidate, admission as a transfer student, and readmission as a former student.

Additionally, the campus follows state Commission on Higher Education (CHE) guidelines for dual enrollment students (Section II).

Sumter

The USC Sumter's Admissions Policy is published in the USC Sumter Academic Bulletin Consistent with its mission, USC Sumter has two alternate mechanisms for freshman admission. One of the mechanisms is identical to that used in the flagship campus and involves the requirement of previous completion of several high-school courses and the evaluation of high-school grades, class rank, and entrance examination scores. The other mechanism ("Branch Student Program") provides probationary admission to students who cannot be admitted through the first mechanism. Students in this program must normally complete 30 semester hours at the Sumter campus with a 2.00 GPA as well as meet the GPA requirements of the particular college in order to move to the flagship campus. In addition to freshman admission, USC Sumter offers potential students the possibility of admission as a non-degree candidate, admission as a transfer student, and readmission as a former student.

Additionally, the campus follows state Commission on Higher Education (CHE) guidelines for dual enrollment students (Section II).














Union





The mission of USC Union is to provide higher education and intellectual leadership to students in its service area. In keeping with its mission to provide accessible higher education to students in a seven-county service area (Cherokee, Chester, Fairfield, Laurens, Newberry, Union, and York counties), USC Union is committed to an admissions policy which ensures access while only admitting students who have a reasonable chance of academic success. As a means to this end, we have developed specific policies to govern admission. The admissions policies align with those of USC System and Palmetto College.

USC Union admissions policies are clearly outlined, and their relation to the mission defined, in the Admissions Policy section of the USC Union Academic Bulletin.

Additionally, the campus follows state Commission on Higher Education (CHE) guidelines for dual enrollment students (Section II).

Sources

-  Admissions - Lancaster Campus - Acalog ACMS™
-  Admissions - Salkehatchie Campus - Acalog ACMS™
-  Admissions - Sumter Campus - Acalog ACMS™
-  Admissions - Union Campus - Acalog ACMS™
-  Admissions Manual 2014-2015
-  Admissions Manual 2015-2016 draft
-  Admissions Policies and Procedures - Columbia Campus - Acalog ACMS™
-  CollegePrepCourse_Prereqs101106
-  Committee On Undergraduate Admissions 2013-2014 Annual Report of Activities
-  Faculty_Manual_Columbia
-  Graduate Admissions - Columbia Campus - Acalog ACMS™
-  LAW SCHOOL BYLAWS
-  SC CHE dual enrollment guidelines

-  USC Lancaster Mission Statement BOT approved 24 June 2016
-  USC Salkehatchie Mission Statement BOT approved 24 June 2016
-  USC Sumter Mission Statement BOT approved 24 June 2016
-  USC Union Mission Statement BOT approved 24 June 2016