
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SYSTEM

The University of South Carolina is a major comprehensive public institution consisting of nine distinct campuses. Since its founding in 1801 on what is now the Horseshoe of the Columbia campus, the institution has grown into a University system of nationally recognized quality. Through its network of campuses and a rich mixture of programs, including research and public service, the University serves the entire state and provides leadership in its economic development. Recognizing the great potential that increased global interaction holds for the improvement of overall quality of life, the University of South Carolina is an emerging partner in the development of programs of national and international significance.

Because of the advancement in instructional technology and the development of multiple delivery systems, each campus is capable of drawing upon the resources of the entire University and using them to serve numerous locations and constituencies. As a result, the campuses have become University Learning Centers: centers of intellectual and cultural vitality, each with a unique mission, offering a diverse selection of educational programs of high quality accessible throughout the state.

The University System seeks to anticipate the changing needs of a growing South Carolina and to prepare informed and productive citizens, able to adapt to an increasingly complex environment.

The fundamental purpose of the University of South Carolina is to foster excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research, and service programs, accessible to citizens of the state through:

THE UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS AT ALL NINE CAMPUSES

USC Beaufort, USC Lancaster, USC Salkehatchie, USC Sumter and USC Union, as University Campuses, grant associate degrees and offer limited upper division coursework creditable toward baccalaureate degrees within the University System.

USC Aiken, USC Coastal Carolina College, and USC Spartanburg, as senior institutions, grant baccalaureate degrees and a limited number of associate degrees.

USC Columbia, the flagship campus, offers a comprehensive array of baccalaureate degree programs covering most fields of academic study, including a variety of professional areas.

THE SYSTEMWIDE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Faculty from all nine campuses participate in the Graduate School which is administered at USC Columbia, a major graduate research institution and the only campus in the system which grants masters and doctoral level degrees.

At the senior system campuses graduate level coursework is offered in various forms. These campuses continue to play an expanding role in the University's graduate mission through local faculty strengths and through advances in instructional technology, largely in response to increased community needs for particular graduate and professional programs.

University campuses complement their basic missions with Graduate Regional Studies courses made available either from within their own faculties or from the senior system campuses.

THE UNIVERSITY'S RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLIC SERVICE INITIATIVES

As part of its overall mission to discover, disseminate and apply knowledge, the University supports and develops significant research programs and scholarship.

The University's research and scholarship efforts, faculty expertise, and general resources are increasingly important to the economic growth of the state and the resolution of an array of social, political, and economic issues.

Each campus is committed to enriching the quality of life of its community through the performing and fine arts, extensive community service and continuing education programs.

THE UNIVERSITY'S DIVERSE POPULATION

The University creates a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural institutional environment by attracting administrators, faculty, and students from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds and representing different regions of the state, nation and world.

The University is actively involved with international programs and encourages the development of student and faculty scholarship and research on topics of international relevance.

The University of South Carolina is a strong and vital system with a distinctive combination of programs and services provided through a diversified network of campuses with unique missions.