



# **DIRECT TRANSFER SUMMIT 2025**

Monday, May 12, 2025  
University Conference Center  
University of South Carolina



UNIVERSITY OF  
**South Carolina**

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## **8:00 AM - 8:30 AM: Registration & Breakfast**

Networking Breakfast for attendees to introduce themselves to make new connections.

## **8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Amanda Shores | Gina Polizzi

Provost Donna Arnett

Provost Barrie Kirk | President Gregory Little

The University of South Carolina (USC) is excited to host the third annual Direct Transfer Summit in partnership with Midlands Technical College (MTC) where faculty, advisors, and administrators from MTC and USC will meet for a day to engage in the challenging and rewarding work surrounding the transfer student experience.

## **9:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Keynote Presentations**

### **State of the Midlands Technical College and University of South Carolina Transfer Partnership**

#### **Progress and Innovation in Our Partnership**

The Transfer Partnership Team will provide a comprehensive update on the evolving partnership between USC and MTC, highlighting key initiatives and future directions aimed at enhancing transfer student success. An integral part of this keynote will include data analysis of transfer students navigating the partnership between USC and MTC. By examining trends and outcomes from the data, we uncovered insights into student progression, success rates, and the impact of our partnership. Faculty and Staff will provide testimonials to demonstrate how the partnership not only addresses academic needs, but also the evolving workforce demands of South Carolina. As the partnership continues to grow, new and emerging degree programs from both USC and MTC will be featured. Finally, the keynote will include an in-depth look at admissions updates from both MTC and USC, outlining ongoing efforts to streamline transfer processes and enhance collaboration. The keynote will serve as a testament to the strength of our partnership and provide actionable insights for faculty, staff, and administrators looking to further support transfer students in their academic journeys.

- Dr. Donna Zeek & Amanda Shores will provide an overview of our partnership with a focus on the insights from data analysis.
- Gina Polizzi & Katie Elledge will announce a USC Transfer Focus Event in September.
- Lisa Corning will share a testimony on the Education Partnership.
- Eric Goff & Rebecca Boyd will share a testimony on the Information Science Partnership.
- Allyson Porter will inform the audience of the student profile at MTC, the application process, and how students are informed about our Direct Transfer Tracks.

- Mike Wade & Alison Scheide will inform the audience of the student profile at USC, the application process, and transfer student recruitment opportunities.

## **10:30 – 10:40 AM: Break**

## **10:40 AM - 12:20 PM: Working Group Session**

### **Review of Existing Programs (Success Stories & Challenges)**

Group 1: MTC/USC Advisors and MTC/USC Faculty (Biology, Exercise Science, Public Health & Pre-Professional)

Group 2: MTC/USC Advisors and MTC/USC Faculty (Education)

Group 3: MTC/USC Advisors and MTC/USC Faculty (Engineering)

Group 4: MTC/USC Advisors and MTC/USC Faculty (Criminal Justice & Political Science)

### **Breakout Session Prompts**

#### **Partner Topics:**

- Reflect on your current programs, focusing on both success stories and challenges encountered along the way. What lessons have we learned that can help shape future initiatives between MTC and USC?
- How can faculty and advisors collaborate to address these challenges and replicate success in other areas?
- Looking ahead, what curriculum changes are anticipated for 2026 and beyond? How can we prepare students for these changes, and what role do advisors and faculty play in ensuring a smooth transition?
- Discuss course sequencing (e.g. math, science, etc.) challenges in specific programs, and brainstorm ways to improve course alignment across institutions.
- Analyzing Transfer Credit Loss: We will examine real student transcripts to identify any potential transfer credit loss. What patterns or trends can you identify in these examples, and how might faculty and advisors collaborate to minimize transfer credit loss? What strategies can be implemented to improve transfer student success based on these case study examples?
- Reflect on the key takeaways from the breakout discussions. What actionable insights can we implement to improve the transfer student experience, and how can we strengthen our partnership moving forward?

### **New Programs (Future Directions)**

Group 1: MTC/USC Advisors and MTC/USC Faculty (Computer Technology, Writing, Information Science & Mass Communications)

Group 2: MTC/USC Advisors and MTC/USC Faculty (Psychology & Sociology)

Group 3: MTC/USC Advisors and MTC/USC Faculty (Retailing)

Group 4: MTC/USC Advisors and MTC/USC Faculty (Human Services & Social Work)

### **Breakout Session Prompts**

#### **Partner Topics:**

- Review case studies of students who have transitioned between MTC and USC. In what ways are students well-prepared, and where might there be gaps in their readiness?

- What opportunities exist for faculty and advisors to collaborate on curriculum development to create more seamless transitions for students?
- Looking ahead, what curriculum changes are anticipated for 2026 and beyond? How can we prepare students for these changes, and what role do advisors and faculty play in ensuring a smooth transition?
- What challenges do you face in course sequencing for courses like math or science that directly impact students' progression? How can we work together across institutions to address these sequencing issues?
- Are there specific strategies or collaborations between MTC and USC that can help resolve sequencing issues and improve transfer student success?
- Reflect on the key takeaways from the breakout discussions. What actionable insights can we implement to improve the transfer student experience, and how can we strengthen our partnership moving forward?

### **Admissions Teams**

Midlands Technical College Admissions Team & University of South Carolina Admissions Team

### **Breakout Session Prompts**

Partner Topics: Upcoming Transfer Event, Data Share Processes, and New MTC Interest Form.

## **12:20 – 1:30 PM: Network Lunch, Discussions & Closing**

University Advising Center/Lumpkin Auditorium

### **12:20 – 12:50: Networking Lunch & Informal Table Conversations**

Enjoy lunch and connect with colleagues across institutions. Share highlights from the morning and spark ideas for continued collaboration.

### **12:50 – 12:55: Transition to Lumpkin Auditorium**

Please begin making your way to the auditorium for our final guided activity and closing remarks.

### **12:55 – 1:10: Guided Reflection with “One Small Step” Commitment Cards**

As we wrap up the summit, we invite each participant to reflect on the insights gained and commit to taking one small step toward strengthening transfer collaboration. To help guide this process, we'll be providing “One Small Step” Commitment Cards, where participants can jot down their thoughts and pledges. These cards will include three key prompts:

1. **One thing you learned today** – What is one insight or takeaway from today's sessions that resonated with you? How can this new knowledge inform your work moving forward?
2. **One action you will take to improve transfer collaboration or one person they will follow up with post summit** – Reflecting on today's discussions, what is one specific action or change you will implement in your role to improve transfer student success and institutional collaboration? Or identify one colleague, faculty member, or advisor with whom you will connect after the summit to continue the conversation and strengthen cross-institutional relationships.

### **1:10 – 1:22: Action Items, Next Steps, Closing Remarks & Future Collaboration Opportunities**

Partners will reflect on their commitments and share plans for continued collaboration.

Partners will discuss how the conversations and ideas generated today can serve as a foundation for future initiatives, encouraging everyone to continue working together to improve transfer pathways for students.

### 1:22 – 1:30: Event Survey, Give Away & Adjournment

Bill Brown | Mal Reeder

### THANK YOU:

Thank you to the following individuals for all the hard work, dedication, attention to detail, and creative vision that made this event a possibility.

*Amanda Shores, Director of Transfer Student Advising, Academic Success, and Retention, University of South Carolina*

*Bill Brown, Coordinator of Direct Transfer Tracks and Transfer Advising, University of South Carolina*

*Claire Robinson, Assistant Provost of Undergraduate Advisement, University of South Carolina*

*Donna Zeek, Director of Curriculum and Dean of Interdisciplinary Studies, Midlands Technical College*

*Gina Polizzi, Director of Academic and Career Advising, Midlands Technical College*

*Katie Elledge, Associate Director of Academic and Career Advising, Midlands Technical College*

*Mal Reeder, Transfer and Articulation Coordinator, Midlands Technical College*

*Trena Houpp, Executive Director of Academic Program Planning and Decision Support, University of South Carolina*

Thank you to the following offices for assistance in making today's event possible.

*Office of the Provost, University of South Carolina*

*University Advising Center, University of South Carolina*

*Office of Undergraduate Admissions, University of South Carolina*

*Admissions Office, Midlands Technical College*

*Office of the Provost, Midlands Technical College*

*All of our additional presenters and facilitators.*

### 2024-2025 Transfer Tracks

The University of South Carolina (USC) and Midlands Technical College (MTC) have established [23 direct transfer tracks](#) within specific majors, allowing MTC students to earn an associate degree prior to transferring to USC. MTC students who apply by the published application deadline, and who meet the admissions requirements of both USC and their intended academic major are guaranteed admissions to USC.

### Carolina Core Information:

The Carolina Core curriculum has 10 learning outcomes each with specific credit hour requirements.

1. **CMW 6 Credits | Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written**  
Students will be able to identify and analyze issues, develop logical and persuasive arguments, and communicate ideas clearly for a variety of audiences and purposes through writing and speaking.

2. **ARP 6 Credits** | Analytical Reasoning and Problem Solving:  
Students will be able to apply the methods of mathematical, statistical, or analytical reasoning to critically evaluate data, solve problems, and effectively communicate findings verbally and graphically.
3. **SCI 7 Credits** | Scientific Literacy:  
Students will be able to apply the principles and languages of the natural sciences and associated technologies to historical and contemporary issues.
4. **GFL TBD** | Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language  
Students will be able to communicate effectively in more than one language. Between 0 and 6 credit hours required, depending upon the placement test.
5. **GHS 3 Credits** | Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Historical Thinking  
Students will be able to use the principles of historical thinking to understand past human societies.  
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6. **GSS 3 Credits** | Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Social Sciences  
Students will be able to use the principles of the social sciences to explore diverse cultural identities and to analyze political and environmental issues.
7. **AIU 3 Credits** | Aesthetic and Interpretive Learning  
Students will be able to create and interpret literary, visual or performing arts.
8. **CMS 3 Credits** | Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Speech  
Students will be able to identify and analyze issues, develop logical and persuasive arguments, and communicate ideas clearly for a variety of audiences and purposes through writing and speaking.
9. **IMF 3 Credits** | Information Literacy  
Students will be able to collect, manage, and evaluate information using technology and communicate findings.
10. **VSR 3 Credits** | Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility  
Students will be able to examine different kinds of social and personal values, analyzing the ways in which these are manifested in communities as well as individual lives.  
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**Online Transfer Track Resources:**

[USC/MTC Partnership website](#)

[South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Transfer Excellence Center](#)

**Looking forward to Midlands Technical College hosting the annual summit in 2026!**