



# THE LANGUAGE GUIDE

## ACADEMICS

### A

#### Academic Common Market

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Academic Common Market (ACM) enables students from specific states to pursue eligible out-of-state programs at a reduced tuition rate. You must apply for **USC Academic Common Market Approval**. There are different eligible programs based on state.

#### Advising vs. Registration

During **advising**, the student will meet with their academic advisor and plan out the best-suited course progression for the next upcoming semester. During **registration**, the student will log onto my.sc.edu and register for the classes that were discussed between them and their advisor.

#### Alternative Sessions

**Alternative sessions** help students earn credits to graduate faster or meet scholarship requirements during the summer semester, winter session, or supplemental course offerings.

### C

#### Carolina Core

All South Carolina students share a common academic foundation: **the Carolina Core**. These first courses in the liberal arts and sciences support subsequent study in the program major and in beyond-the-classroom learning activities. Work closely with your advisor to choose Carolina Core courses that fit best with your major to ensure timely degree completion. A minimum of 31 credit hours are required to complete the Core.

### D

#### DegreeWorks

**DegreeWorks** is the University of South Carolina's degree audit system that allows students and their advisors to examine current audits, develop individualized degree plans, and explore requirements for potential majors.

#### Drop/Add

Each semester there will be a "drop/add" period, during which you can make changes to your schedule. **Drop** refers to removing a course that is no longer wanted. **Add** refers to registering for an additional course.

### F

#### FAFSA

The **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is a form completed by current and prospective college students (undergraduate and graduate) in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid.

#### FERPA

The **Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** protects the privacy of student educational records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. Any individual who is taking or has taken a course at the University of South Carolina, regardless of age is covered. In accordance with section 99.7 of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the University of South Carolina provides students with annual notification of their FERPA rights.

#### Field of Study

Select courses may only be open to certain majors, minors, or concentrations, which may appear as a **field of study** restriction when registering for courses.

### G

#### Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD)

This formal distinction honors the achievements of students engaged within and beyond the classroom



and sets them apart in ways worthy of recognition by others. Students are recognized with graduation cords and the distinction appears on graduates' transcripts and diplomas as "With Leadership Distinction in (Pathway Name)" or "With Leadership Distinction" on the diploma if multiple pathways are completed.

## H

### Holds

Registration **holds** can prevent you from making course registration changes at any point in the semester. Refer to page 23 of the Garnet Guide for a list of holds.

### Honor Code

The **Honor Code** is the university's code of academic integrity and scholarship for all students. It is intended to set a standard of honesty and integrity on campus, in addition to prohibiting academic dishonesty.

## M

### Matriculation

The formal process of entering a university as a candidate for a degree, or of becoming eligible to enter by fulfilling certain academic requirements such as a formal examination.

### Minors vs. Cognates

All single-major degree programs include a **cognate requirement**. Each student is required to pass 12 credits of upper-level coursework from areas outside of the major discipline. The cognate must have the approval of the major advisor. A student may elect to complete a **minor** rather than a cognate requirement. The minor consists of a minimum of 16-18 hours which forms a second area of competency.

## P

### Placement Testing

All students must meet the prerequisite for any math course that they take at USC. For some courses, this prerequisite is met after taking the **Math Assessment**

**of Prerequisites (MAP)**. This assessment allows students to gauge how their math skills translate into each relevant course. The **foreign language placement exam** is an assessment tool that the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures use to determine the course in our curriculum that is right for your level in a given language.

### Pre- and Co-requisites

**Prerequisites** are courses, programs, exams or other qualifications that are required to have taken, completed and typically passed to take another course. **Corequisites** are courses that must be taken at the same time as another.

## R

### Reading Day

**Reading day** is typically the day between the last day of classes and final exams. There are no classes and students are given time to study for their final exams.

### Recitation Classes

**Recitation classes** are designed to review the material covered throughout the course in an in-depth manner. You'll have the opportunity to apply what you've learned to different scenarios and discover the taught concepts in greater detail.

## S

### Self Service Carolina (SSC)

**Self Service Carolina** is the web-based program that students use to register for classes, pay fees, check grades, change personal information, see who their advisor is, apply for financial aid, etc.

### Seminar vs. Lecture Course Types

Seminar classes are meant to be interactive, with students participating in a dialogue. Lecture courses are more traditional with the professor speaking in front of the class while students proceed to listen and take notes.



## Supplemental Instruction

**Supplemental Instruction** is housed within the Student Success Center. These are peer-led study sessions that occur outside of the class meeting time. They are open to all students who are looking to enhance their understanding of the material and improve their grades.

## Synchronous vs. Asynchronous classes

**Synchronous classes** are taught 100% online in which students are required to participate in online meetings/lectures on specific days and times. **Asynchronous classes** are taught 100% online in which students complete activities and assignments on their own time to meet course deadlines.

## W

### Withdrawal, W, and WF

The **withdrawal** period lasts about two months into a course. After the Drop/Add period, you can still withdraw from a course, but with a 'W' being recorded on your transcript. A 'W' grade will not calculate into your GPA, but will remain on your academic record. Courses dropped after the withdrawal date will be recorded as a 'WF' or 'withdrawal fail' grade on your academic record. This date typically begins about one month prior to final exams. A 'WF' grade is treated as an 'F' and calculates into your GPA.

## #

### 7-point vs. 10-point scales

Scales are up to the program and/or professor.

	7-Point Grading Scale	10-Point Grading Scale
<b>A</b>	93-100	90-100
<b>B</b>	85-92	80-89
<b>C</b>	77-84	70-79
<b>D</b>	70-76	60-69
<b>F</b>	0-69	0-59

# SERVICES

## B

### Bursar vs. Financial Aid

The **Bursar's Office** releases a fee schedule and handles all forms of payment for student billing. The **Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships** helps evaluate costs to find out what type of financial aid support they can provide for you.

## C

### Carolina Alert

USC has a variety of systems in place to communicate messages in the event of an emergency. Together, these systems make up the **Carolina Alert notification system**. These include text messages, emails, an outdoor public address system and social media (@CarolinaAlert).

### CarolinaCard

The **CarolinaCard** is your permanent USC I.D. It serves a wide variety of functions both on- and off-campus, including access to tickets for select athletic events, meal plans, residence halls and more.

### Counseling and Psychiatry

**Counseling and Psychiatry** services at USC provide students with a safe space to speak privately and confidentially with a trained counselor or psychiatrist about a variety of concerns such as stress, anxiety, loneliness, depression, relationship difficulties, questions about identity, eating concerns, substance use, sexuality, managing an existing mental health condition and much more.

## G

### Gamecock CommUnity Shop

The goal of the **Gamecock CommUnity Shop** is to provide food aid and resources to enhance our community's well-being. Any current student with a valid CarolinaCard can utilize it's services.



## R

### Registrar

The Office of the **University Registrar** maintains stewardship and integrity of student academic records and manages the policies and practices regarding registration, the academic progress and graduation.

## S

### Wellness and Fitness Centers

We have two fitness centers, the **S. T. Wellness and Fitness Center** and **Blatt P.E. Center**.

### Student Employment/Federal Work Study

The Career Center provides resources for part-time job and internship searches, including a list of available on- and off-campus part-time jobs for students. In addition, the **Federal Work-Study Program**, a form of federal financial aid, provides funds for part-time jobs for students to pay for educational expenses.

### Sunday Night Email

Each Sunday evening you will receive a weekly email from USC. Be sure to read it so that you stay up-to-date on the news and events happening in and around campus!

## T

### Thomas Copper Library (T-Coop)

**Thomas Cooper Library** is the university's main on-campus library.

### Transfer Student Success

The Carolina Experience Office advocates for the needs of students through all academic years, provides support resources for a seamless transfer into USC and provides consultation services that help transfer students monitor their academic progress and adjustment to university life.

## U

### USCID vs. VIPID vs. Network Usernames

Your **VIPID** is an eight-digit number assigned to you when you apply to the university or for financial aid. The **USCID** is a unique combination of letters and numbers used by faculty and staff to securely manage your student information and records. You may be asked to provide your USCID to verify your identity. The USCID is on the back of your CarolinaCard and available in myaccount.sc.edu. Your **network username** is used to log in to Self Service Carolina (SSC) and it the first part of your USC email address, unless you have an alias.

## TRADITIONS

## A

### Alma Mater

Adopted in 1912, our university's official **alma mater**, "We Hail Thee Carolina," can be heard at commencement exercises, athletic events and more. It is tradition to raise your right hand with fingers cupped as if offering a toast during the phrase "Here's a Health, Carolina."

### Athletics

At our numerous sporting events, you will have the opportunity to see some of the SEC's finest athletes in action. We are also home to a few national championship titles, including our Women's Basketball team led by Dawn Staley!

## C

### Carolinian Creed

The **Carolinian Creed** is our set of core values at South Carolina. It encourages us to uphold the ideals of integrity, compassion, respect, leadership and acceptance, both inside and outside the South Carolina community.

### Chicken Finger Wednesday

Each Wednesday, select dining halls and retail locations on campus serve a classic combination of chicken fingers and curly fries!



### Clapping Circle

Between Thomas Cooper Library and the Russell House, you will find a circle of bricks located along the sidewalk. If you stand in the middle and start clapping, you are in for a surprise, but you will have to experience it for yourself to really understand what it's all about!

### Cocky

**Cocky** is our official mascot! Introduced in 1980 as his father Sir Big Spur's replacement, the garnet and black plumed Gamecock brings national recognition to the university. Cocky captured national championship titles as the #1 college mascot in 1986, 1994 and 2003.

### Cocky's Magic Box

Cocky's Magic Box can be seen at every home football game when the Gamecocks take the field. As the theme song from 2001: A Space Odyssey plays, **Cocky's Magic Box** is brought onto the field for an astounding trick that will definitely get you excited to cheer for the Gamecocks.

### Cola

While you might think this refers to a carbonated beverage, **Cola** is also a nickname for the city of Columbia.

### Colonial Life Arena

With 18,000 seats, the **Colonial Life Arena** is the largest arena in South Carolina and 10th largest on-campus basketball facility in the nation. This one-of-a-kind facility hosts South Carolina basketball games, world-class concerts and much more.

### Commencement

**Commencement**, or graduation, exercises are held for degree candidates in both the fall and the spring. The president of the University of South Carolina, presides over commencement. To honor their commitment, each degree candidate is recognized by name and congratulated by the dean of the graduate's college or school.

### Convocation

Every August, the University of South Carolina invites the new academic class to attend **New Student Convocation**, a ceremony commemorating your inclusion as a new student at the university. Along

with new students and family members, additional participants include the president, university administrators and academic officers of their respective schools or colleges.

## F

### Fight Song

The **Fight Song** can be heard at the top of major sporting events to cheer on our Gamecock athletes!

### First Night Carolina

Following New Student Orientation, move-in and Convocation, **First Night Carolina** is the next big tradition that welcomes new students to campus. This event kicks off the start of the fall semester with great food, music, fireworks and entertainment on Greene Street.

### Founders Park

**Founders Park** is the crown jewel among college baseball stadiums across the nation. When attending a game, make sure to have your picture taken with the back-to-back National Championship trophies from 2010 and 2011, which are on display just beyond the center field wall.

## G

### Greene Street

Located just outside the Russell House, **Greene Street** is closed to traffic, allowing it to host a variety of great events throughout the year. Whether it's the Student Organization Fair, Hip Hop Wednesday or the Farmer's Market, Greene Street is a great place to visit to see what's going on at USC.

## H

### Homecoming

Homecoming occurs every fall semester to welcome members of the Gamecock community back to campus. Several student organizations host events leading up to the big football game that Saturday.



## Horseshoe

Evolving from a single building, the historic **Horseshoe** is a living, breathing and ever-changing blueprint of the university's rich and unique history. The U-shaped formation of the original campus has seen more than two centuries of history unfold. On any beautiful Columbia day, the Horseshoe will be filled with students studying, relaxing and playing games.

## O

### Official Ring

The **Official Ring** is a significant part of the South Carolina tradition, as it is the most widely recognized symbol of having attended the university. Each semester, juniors and seniors become eligible to wear the ring, displaying pride in their alma mater.

## R

### Rally Towel/Sandstorm

Right before a football game, the student section in Williams-Brice is covered in white towels for students to use to cheer on the Gamecocks. Swing your rally towel in the air whenever you hear Sandstorm begin to play, but be careful not to hit anyone cheering nearby!

### Rushing

**Rushing** refers to the membership intake processes of professional and social greek-lettered organizations.

## S

### Shag

The **Carolina Shag** is the official state dance of South Carolina and is a form of swing dancing.

### Sir Bug Spur

Sir Big Spur is our official live gamecock mascot. Be sure to get a picture with him at a variety of athletic events!

### Southeastern Conference (SEC)

South Carolina competes in the **Southeastern Conference (SEC)**, which features some of the nation's toughest athletic programs. Other schools in the SEC include Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Florida, Georgia,

Kentucky, Louisiana State, Mississippi, Mississippi State, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Texas A&M and Vanderbilt.

### Spurs Up (Hand Signal)

You will often see and hear '**spurs up**,' our university hand signal. It represents the spur found on the foot of the Fighting Gamecock!

### Student Athletic Tickets

Students must request tickets for football, basketball and baseball games. Football tickets are awarded through a reward point system. The more athletic events you attend...the more points you earn! You will use your CarolinaCard to get into all other athletic events, so make sure to have it on hand!

## T

### Thursdays After Dark

If class is in session, so are **Thursdays After Dark!** These free, off-campus events are hosted each week by Gamecock Entertainment and include a range of events such as escape rooms, trips to the zoo, axe-throwing and more.

### Tiger Burn

**Tiger Burn** is a part of our rivalry week. This tradition dates back to 1902 when, after the Carolina-Clemson football game, South Carolina students paraded through the streets of Columbia carrying a drawing of a Gamecock standing over-top a fallen tiger. This nearly led to a riot between our students and Clemson cadets until a committee with representatives from both schools agreed to burn the drawing. Today, we gather to watch as a large tiger built by engineering students is set ablaze, signifying that the Gamecocks will beat Clemson once again!

## W

### Williams-Brice Stadium

**Williams-Brice Stadium** is home to our football team and is filled with cheering students, alumni, and fans each fall!