

# DEGREE-SEEKING ADMISSIONS

## Admission Process for Degree-Seeking Students

### Submission of Application

Degree-seeking students applying to the University of South Carolina for the first time must complete the online application process. Applicants should visit to the homepage of The Graduate School, select the Prospective Students Tab, and then click on “Apply Now,” or may directly access the application. An account must be created in order to begin the degree application process.

All supporting documents must be sent to The Graduate School unless applying to the Moore School of Business or the Arnold School of Public Health. An application will not be given final consideration until all required documents have been received and the application fee is paid. Therefore, applicants are advised to arrange for the transmittal of all documents well ahead of the application deadline.

### International Students and Credentials

Graduates of international universities or colleges who have completed academic programs equivalent to an American baccalaureate degree may apply to any of the graduate degree programs and be fully admitted if they meet admission standards. International applicants must submit with their application an official certified transcript indicating the nature and scope of their academic training. Only international students who are interested in seeking a degree and pursuing a full course of study are considered for admission.

An applicant whose native language is not English is required to submit a satisfactory score on the TOEFL or the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 80 Internet-based, or 570 paper-based, but many programs have set higher standards. The minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS Intl. 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.

U.S. government regulations require that international applicants provide evidence of financial resources sufficient to cover the expense of one year of study, including tuition and room and board. Applicants may contact the Office of International Programs for Students ([https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/global\\_carolina/](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/global_carolina/)) to determine how much financial support must be indicated. Evidence of financial support may include graduate assistantships, scholarships, or fellowships as well as support from sponsoring agencies and personal funds. Evidence of financial support must be received in the Office of International Programs for Students before an I-20 or a DS-2019 document can be issued.

### Application Requirements

- Application- A completed application with all requested information and supporting documents supplied.
- Transcripts- Official transcripts showing all college-level course work attempted and the award of the baccalaureate or higher degree by an accredited college or university. Official transcripts verifying all

previous college-level course work are required for the University's records. To be considered official, transcripts must be sent directly from the institution to The Graduate School or delivered in a sealed envelope bearing a registrar's stamp. Please send transcripts to:

The Graduate School  
901 Sumter St. #304  
Columbia, SC 29208

- Letters of Recommendation- At least two letters of recommendation. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit letters of recommendation through the electronic application process. Please consider carefully the waiver of right to view letters of recommendation because this decision cannot be altered after submission.
- Test Scores- Most programs require an admissions test such as the GRE, GMAT or MAT. Please consult the of the Graduate Studies Bulletin appropriate program for the test requirements for admission. Applications for the GRE and the GMAT can be obtained from the Educational Testing Service, Box 955, Princeton, NJ 08540 or by visiting the website [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org). Applicants from western states should contact the Educational Testing Service, 1947 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94704 or visit the website.

Note: GRE, GMAT, and MAT test scores are valid for five years.

- International Applicants- International applicants whose native language is not English are also required to submit a satisfactory score on the TOEFL or the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL is 80 Internet-based or 570 paper-based. The minimum acceptable overall band score on the IELTS Intl. Academic Course Type 2 exam is 6.5. Programs may set higher score requirements. See International Students and Credentials for more information.

Note: TOEFL and IELTS scores are valid for two years.

### Change of Status Request

The Change of Status (COS) form should only be used to request an update or to make a change in an existing application or admission. It must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$15 fee (unless otherwise indicated on the application), payable online. Applicants may access The Change of Status form by visiting The Graduate School's application webpage ([https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/graduate\\_school/](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/)) and selecting on Change of Status.

Program transfers and reconsideration of previously declined applications require departmental action recommendations before a change of status can be approved by The Graduate School.

If your request for a change of status requires supporting documents (ie, revised test scores, resume, or transcripts) please send those documents to:

The Graduate School  
901 Sumter St. #304  
Columbia, SC 29208  
Fax: 803-777-2972

If it has been more than three years since your last Graduate School enrollment at USC, you must submit a new application and be readmitted before continuing in your academic program. You cannot use the Change of Status (COS) form to re-apply to a degree program.

## Application Fees

A nonrefundable application fee of \$50 is required of all first-time applicants to The Graduate School and for applicants reapplying after a three-year period of non-enrollment. A Change of Status fee of \$15 is charged when requesting a change in program or degree intent with submission of a Change of Status (COS) form.

## Application Deadlines

General application deadlines are listed below. Some programs have established earlier deadlines or admit students only in specified terms. Consult the Graduate Studies Bulletin for the appropriate program for these exceptions. Applications received after the announced program or Graduate School deadline may not be reviewed in time for admission for the desired term.

Fall semester: July 1  
 Spring semester: November 15  
 May session: April 1  
 First summer session: May 1  
 Second summer session: June 1

Note: Applicants seeking financial aid for the fall term should apply no later than March 1.

## Admissions Decisions

### Conditional Admissions Recommendation

Academic units have the option of recommending the applicant for admission with conditions. This indicates that an admissions committee has met and determined that it is not yet ready to recommend full admission for the applicant. This conditional recommendation is appropriate for applicants who:

- need to take undergraduate courses or other prerequisites;
- need to prove themselves capable of graduate course work in the program by making grades of B or higher in two or three required courses;
- need to satisfy any other valid conditions that a committee sets before full admission can be recommended; and
- reside in a foreign country that does not offer the GRE. Students in this last category may be granted, on the basis of a hardship, a one-semester postponement of the GRE but not of the TOEFL or IELTS. Permission to register for subsequent semesters will require the submission of acceptable GRE scores, as defined by the academic unit.

Applicants wishing to discuss the conditions of the admission should contact the academic unit.

Up to 12 graduate hours that are successfully completed by students admitted with conditions may be used in their programs of study, subject to approval by the academic unit. The academic unit must monitor the progress of such students and send a new action sheet to The Graduate School recommending full admission once conditions have been met. Failure to meet said conditions may result in the cancellation of the student's admission or enrollment privileges.

Graduate students admitted with conditions may receive financial aid, including assistantships and fellowships, but only if they meet all other requirements for such aid.

### Cancellation

Applicants may cancel their application for admission at any time by submitting a written request to:

The Graduate School  
 901 Sumter St. #304  
 Columbia, SC 29208  
 Fax: 803-777-2972

Departments have the option to cancel an application if the application or required supporting documents are received after the announced deadlines and will not be reviewed in time for admission for the desired term. In this instance the applicant has 30 days to submit a written request for a term change, to avoid incurring additional fees.

### Declination

The academic unit may recommend that an applicant be declined for admission. Applicants wishing to discuss the declination of admission decision should contact the academic unit. Upon receipt of the admission decision, the applicant has the option to seek reconsideration, reapply, or transfer the application to another program. The applicant should complete the respective application or Change of Status form that corresponds with such action. Information on the reapplication or change of status process can be found by visiting The Graduate School's application webpage ([https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/graduate\\_school/](https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/graduate_school/)).

### Valid Period of Admission

Students are admitted to the Graduate School for the study specific degree granting program indicated on the application and defined in the letter of acceptance from The Graduate School. An offer of admission to The Graduate School is effective for the term applied. Admission may be deferred for up to four successive terms without reapplication, but a student who fails to enroll within four successive terms must submit a new application and pay a \$50 application fee. In order to defer enrollment, a Change of Status (COS) form must be submitted and approved by the program. In addition, the student becomes subject to the regulations of the Graduate Studies Bulletin in effect when the student begins course work.

After enrollment, students are expected to make satisfactory and timely progress toward degree. Following three years of nonenrollment (less in some programs), the graduate admission of students admitted to degree programs becomes invalid. Degree-seeking students must reapply and meet current admission requirements. Upon readmission, students are subject to regulations of the Graduate Studies Bulletin in effect at the time of reenrollment.

The University reserves the right to decline admission to applicants, to suspend students, or to require the withdrawal of students when, for any reason, such action is deemed to be in the interest of the University.

### Additional Coursework

Students are admitted to the Graduate School for the specific degree granting program indicated on the application. If a student wishes to pursue additional coursework or degrees once the degree has been completed a new application and required fees must be submitted. For example, a student completing a master's degree program must submit a new application, associated fee, and be admitted in order to take additional courses whether without a degree objective, to pursue a second master's degree, or to work toward a more advanced degree (specialist or doctorate).

Students may not use admission and enrollment privileges in one degree program to enroll in courses in another program without the explicit permission of the other program.