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**Division of
Student Affairs and
Academic Support**

Dennis A. Pruitt
Vice President
for Student Affairs,
Vice Provost and
Dean of Students

Maegan Gudridge
Communications
Director

Contact us at:
www.sa.sc.edu
p 803.777.4172
f 803.777.9354
saas@mailbox.sc.edu

Fall 2011 | Class of 2015: increased quality, size, diversity

The University of South Carolina is welcoming its biggest and brightest freshman class, one with more South Carolinians, more African Americans and the highest SAT score ever. About 4,550 freshmen are expected, and all will live on campus. Together, with the undergraduate and graduate student body, they will form a student population of 30,000 on the Columbia campus, including 345 in the South Carolina Honors College, and more than 45,000 students across the eight-campus system.

Fall freshmen at a glance

- 4,550** freshmen
- 1198** average SAT score
- 3.83** high school GPA
- 129** Gamecock Guarantee students
- 19** sets of twins
- 1** set of triplets

Record number of applicants for fall freshman class

The University continues to attract increasing numbers of highly qualified applicants—21,000 for this year's freshman class.

The average SAT score has climbed 80 points in just 10 years

At 1198, the average SAT score of incoming freshmen is the highest in university history. Also at an all-time high are the average SAT scores of incoming South Carolina Honors College students, 1427, and incoming Capstone Scholars, 1323.



The mean high school (weighted core) GPA increased to 3.83 from 3.72 in fall 2010.

Most freshmen are South Carolinians

Palmetto State residents comprise 58% of the class of 2015. There are 2,600 South Carolinians in this year's freshman class—3% more than last year.



The top five states represented—other than South Carolina—are North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Georgia and New Jersey.

Males account for 45% of freshmen



African-American enrollment up

The number of African-American students in the freshman class increased 8% compared to last year.

'First-year students' refers to more than just freshmen

Among the 5,900 new students who will arrive on campus this fall are 1,350 transfer students, 110 of whom participated in the university's technical college Bridge Program.

Source: Undergraduate Admissions. These are **preliminary** figures (08.03.11) and are subject to change. Official data, compiled by Institutional Assessment and Compliance, will be available in late fall.

First-rate programs for first-year students

As the home of the **National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition**, the leading authority on the education and development of first-year students, it's only natural that the University of South Carolina offers an abundance of high quality programs for new students.

But why the focus on first-years? So they're more likely to succeed later, said Dennis Pruitt, vice president for student affairs, vice provost and dean of students.

"A student's performance in his or her first semester of college is the most important predictor of future academic success. If we can help these students get off to a good start, we can increase their chances of personal and academic achievement and enhance our effectiveness as a premier place of learning."

Assessment data show that a key to getting that good start is **University 101**, the award-winning and internationally recognized first-year seminar. Students who enroll in U101 are significantly more likely to be retained to the sophomore year and to graduate within 5 years than are students who don't take the course.

U101, a kind of extended-orientation course, originated here on the Columbia campus more than 25 years ago and has since been replicated around the world. This fall, about 3,700 students—80% of the first-year class—will enroll in 178 sections taught by faculty and staff who've participated in U101's NASPA Excellence Award-winning instructor development process.

Though it's open to all students, the **Student Success Center** can be particularly helpful to those who are new to the university. Located on the mezzanine level of the Thomas Cooper Library, the Student Success Center is the central hub for academic-support services at the University of South Carolina. The center offers peer coaching and tutoring, Supplemental Instruction, scholarship-retention programs, cross-campus advising and early-intervention programs.

To learn more about University 101, visit the website, www.sc.edu/univ101. Check out www.sa.sc.edu/ssc for information about the Student Success Center, or refer a student to the center by visiting your class roster in VIP and selecting the designated button next to the student's name.

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University of South Carolina

Osborne 110

Columbia, SC 29208