Fall freshmen at a glance

- **4,640** freshmen
- **1201** average SAT score
- **3.95** average high school GPA
- **125** Gamecock Guarantee students
- **23** sets of twins

Record number of applicants for fall freshman class

The university continues to attract increasing numbers of highly qualified applicants—**23,100** for this year’s freshman class. That’s a 10% increase over last year. Applications and acceptances by African-American students increased nearly 4%.

Average SAT score highest in history

The average SAT score of incoming freshmen has climbed nearly 80 points in just ten years.

The average SAT scores of incoming South Carolina Honors College students and Capstone Scholars, 1428 and 1324 respectively, are also all-time highs.

Most freshmen are South Carolinians

Palmetto State residents comprise 53% of the class of 2015. There are **2,460** South Carolinians in this year’s freshman class, and 97% of them receive state-funded scholarships and grants.

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

Males account for 44% of freshmen

‘First-year students’ refers to more than just freshmen

- **1,350** transfer students
- **165** Gamecock Gateway students (potential future transfers)

Note: Data is preliminary. Official data will be available in October.
Happy 40th birthday, University 101

Ian Steen did not take University 101 when he started as a freshman at the University of South Carolina. He made up for it during his junior year, when he became a peer leader for the class that introduces first-year students to life on the Carolina campus.

“I learned things about the campus as a peer leader that I hadn’t learned in the two years I had been here. I fell in love with the University 101 program,” said Steen, of Dartmouth, Mass.

“Without that course, you can’t get everything out of USC that you should get out of USC.”

Steen walked across the stage at the Colonial Life Arena at the Aug. 4 commencement ceremony, earning his degree in management from the Darla Moore School of Business. He also heard the words of commencement speaker John Gardner, the former director of University 101 and founder of the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. It was Gardner who made USC an international leader in improving students’ freshman-year experience.

The course Gardner helped create 40 years ago, now known as University 101, is a three-credit, first-year seminar that offers resources in areas such as time management, study skills and career exploration. It not only eases students’ transition to college life, but also improves their grades, self-esteem, retention and graduation rates. University 101 became the model for first-year seminars around the world, with most colleges and universities now implementing some variation of the program he started in Columbia. The program is consistently named by U.S. News and World Report as a “program to look for.”

“There are very few innovations in higher education that are long-lasting, widespread and that become universally acknowledged best practices. This program is one of them,” said Dennis Pruitt, USC’s vice president for student affairs.

By the Numbers

3.20
The average first-year GPA of students enrolled in UNIV 101 in fall 2010. This is significantly higher than those who did not take the course (3.14; p=.02).

86.3%
The one-year persistence rate of students who took UNIV 101 in fall 2009. This is compared with 85.1% for those that did not take the course (p=.03).

70.8%
The five-year graduation rate for students who took UNIV 101 in fall 2006. This is significantly higher than those who did not take the course (65.2%; p<.001).