USC focuses on sophomore student retention

Of the first-year students who return to USC for their sophomore year, 9% do not return to USC for their junior year. However, only 4% of juniors do not return for their senior year.

A growing number of transfer students enroll at USC

USC is welcoming an increasing number of transfer students to campus each year. In Fall 2006, more than 1,200 students enrolled at USC after attending other institutions.

USC students come from a variety of educational backgrounds

Many USC students have attended another institution before enrolling at the University. Nearly 27% of those students attended local branches of Midlands Technical College. Other students have previously enrolled at in-state technical colleges, USC system campuses and other two- and four-year institutions.

Minority students benefit from programs providing transitional support

Minority students who participate in USC support programs, such as the Minority Assistance Peer Program (M.A.P.P.), have greater satisfaction with their social involvement on campus. More than 84% of M.A.P.P. students participate in at least one student organization on campus, compared to only 66.7% of non-M.A.P.P. students.

Out-of-state students identify transitional challenges at USC

Accounting for nearly 25% of the student body, out-of-state students have identified some of the particular adjustments they face at the University. The most common challenges include finding social networks and managing homesickness.

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Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs (OMSA) offers a variety of support services for students at USC.

The African-American Male Institute (AAMI) seeks to motivate African-American males to assume leadership roles within the Carolina community.

The Minority Assistance Peer Program (M.A.P.P.) assists freshmen of color in their transition to USC by providing each new student with a trained peer counselor during his or her first year.

For more information, visit the OMSA Web site at www.sa.sc.edu/omsa/

TRiO Programs

TRiO is a federally funded educational support program dedicated to providing accessible education to low-income, first-generation college students. TRiO offers a variety of programs to support students of all ages in their collegiate success. At USC, the Opportunity Scholars Program and the Ronald E. McNair program are two ways eligible students can get the financial, academic and emotional support they need to become a success at USC.

For more information on TRiO programs and services, visit www.sc.edu/trio/

The Sophomore Initiative

The Sophomore Initiative (TSI) has established several new programs and services to meet the needs of sophomore students at USC. TSI program components include an interactive planner, a retreat and seminars.

For more information, contact Jimmie Gahagan at jsgahag1@gwm.sc.edu

Initiatives for Special Student Populations

Through the Student Success Center, USC offers a range of programs and events for students who identify themselves as part of a special student population. Services are provided for transfer students, out-of-state students, students of color, sophomores and students who have lost their scholarships. Programs include Blackboard communities, student mixers, mentoring programs, field trips and student seminars.

For more information on these programs and services, contact Angela Street at StreetA@gwm.sc.edu

Collaborative Offices

USC takes a collaborative approach in providing programs and services that promote the success of specific student populations. Some of the contributing departments include:

- University Housing
- TRiO Programs
- Student Success Center
- Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship
- Office of Retention and Planning
- Office of Greek Life
- USC Career Center
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- Office of Undergraduate Research
- Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
- National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition