

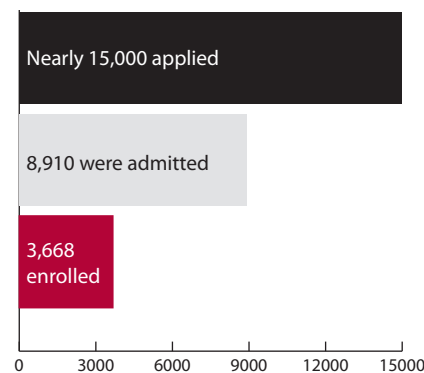


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**Division of
Student Affairs and
Department of
Academic Support**

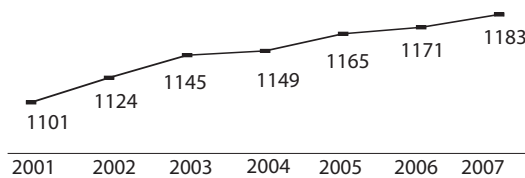
September 2007 In this month's issue, we introduce you to the class of 2011, the brightest class ever to attend the University of South Carolina. We'll also provide you with information to share with your students on resources offered by Student Affairs and Academic Support.

A record number of students applied for the fall freshman class



The average SAT score is record-high

At 1183, the mean SAT of this fall's freshman class is at an all-time high. The mean SAT has risen 80 points in just six years.



First-year students' mean high school GPA is 3.79, a score that's also steadily been climbing. The mean high school GPA of freshmen in 2001 was 3.38.

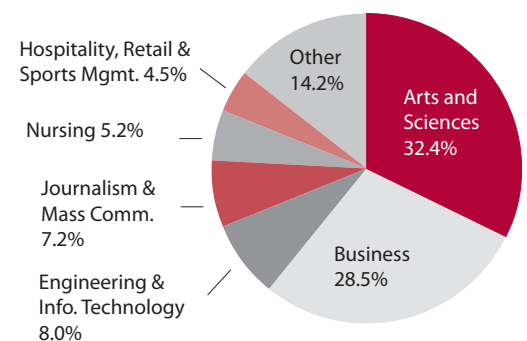
The 2007 freshman class includes:

- 50 National Merit, National Achievement and National Hispanic Scholars
- 73 Valedictorians
- 354 Palmetto Fellows
- 1,594 Life Scholars
- 290 Honors College Students
- 597 Capstone Scholars
- 14 sets of twins!

Most freshmen are South Carolinians

The majority of freshmen call the Palmetto State home, but students in the class of 2011 also hail from 39 U.S. states and the District of Columbia and from 9 foreign countries. The top five states represented—other than South Carolina—are North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

First-year students select challenging and exciting programs of study



Freshmen continue family traditions

- 525 freshmen—14 percent of the first-year class—have a parent or grandparent who also attended the University.
- 37 freshmen have a parent who works for the University.

Note: This report is based on preliminary data.

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Resources to help make our students *better* students.

University 101

www.sc.edu/univ101

University 101 is the award-winning program for first-year students designed to help them succeed in academic and life transitions at the University.

The elective course offers:

- tips on studying, note-taking and time management
- introduction to more than 200 student clubs and organizations
- methods for sharpening critical-thinking and decision-making skills

Studies have found that students who enroll in University 101 tend to excel academically and to achieve higher retention and graduation rates than students who don't enroll in the course.

Academic Centers for Excellence

www.housing.sc.edu/ace

The Academic Centers for Excellence (ACE), located in residence halls and at the Student Success Center, offer students an opportunity to improve their academic success.

ACE offers four major services:

- academic skills consultations
- writing consultations
- math tutoring
- online learning inventories

Last year, more than 3,500 students benefited from ACE's programs and services.

Student Success Center

www.sa.sc.edu/ssc

The Student Success Center, housed in the Thomas Cooper Library, is the central campus location for academic support services.

The center's offerings include:

- peer tutoring
- Supplemental Instruction (SI)
- scholarship retention programs

On average, students who attend SI regularly earn a third of a letter-grade higher than those who don't.

Counseling center workshops

www.sa.sc.edu/chdc

In addition to individual and group counseling, the Counseling and Human Development Center offers an array of workshops focused on helping students with common issues faced in college.

The workshops are offered throughout the year and cover topics such as:

- making healthy food choices
- drug and alcohol use
- relaxation techniques

Last year, more than 250 people enrolled in workshops offered at the center, the self-hypnosis/relaxation training being the most popular.

For your reference file

For additional copies, call 777.4172 or e-mail gduridge@sc.edu.

Comments

Your comments and suggestions for future issues of "Causerie" are welcome. Please e-mail studentaffairs@gwm.sc.edu.



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n. **1.** An informal discussion or chat. **2.** A publication of the Division of Student Affairs and Department of Academic Support describing timely topics of interest at the University of South Carolina.

The University of South Carolina is an equal opportunity institution.