The 2006 freshman class is the largest in Carolina history

USC received a record number of applications for the fall freshman class.

The average SAT score is record-high

At 1171, the mean SAT of this fall’s freshman class is at an all-time high. The mean SAT has risen 70 points in just five years.

First-year students’ mean high school GPA is 3.73, a score that’s also steadily been climbing. The mean high school GPA of freshmen in 2001 was 3.38.

The 2006 freshman class includes:

- 32 National Merit, National Achievement, and National Hispanic Scholars
- 73 Valedictorians
- 335 Palmetto Fellows
- 1,655 Life Scholars
- 313 Honors College students
- 551 Capstone Scholars
- 16 sets of twins!

Note: This report is based on preliminary data.

Most freshmen are South Carolinians

The majority of freshmen call the Palmetto State home, but students in the class of 2010 also hail from 40 U.S. states and the District of Columbia and from 14 foreign countries.

Top 5 states represented (other than S.C.)

- North Carolina
- Georgia
- Virginia
- Maryland
- New Jersey

The freshman class represents the diversity of South Carolina

At nearly 15 percent, USC has the highest percentage of African-American enrollment among U.S. flagship universities. USC also ranks among the top ten for percentage of African-American faculty.

First-year students select challenging and exciting programs of study

Hospitality, Retail & Sports Mgmt. 5.05%
Nursing 5.13%
Journalism & Mass Comm. 7.09%
Engineering & Info. Technology 8.63%
Other 14.12%
Arts & Sciences 34.22%
Business 25.72%

Freshmen continue family traditions

- 574 freshmen — 16 percent of the first-year class — have a parent or grandparent who also attended USC.
- 50 freshmen have a parent who works for the university.
The Academic Success Web site at www.sc.edu/academicsuccess allows students to plan their next four years at USC and make the most of their college experience. The Web site helps make sense of everything from the class requirements for specific majors, to financial aid and expenses, to personal learning styles and time management skills. Students also can find information about available academic resources on campus through the Tutoring, FAQ, and Campus Offices links.

To find out more, visit www.sc.edu/academicsuccess.

Academic Centers for Excellence

At the Academic Centers for Excellence (ACE), peer and graduate student tutors help students improve their academic success by offering four major services: academic skills consultations, writing consultations, math tutoring and online learning inventories. The centers are conveniently located for students in Bates House, Columbia Hall and Sims residence halls. A new ACE will open this fall in the Student Success Center in the Thomas Cooper Library.

To find out more or to schedule an appointment, visit www.housing.sc.edu/ace.

Early Intervention Initiative

Based on recent research showing the positive effect of class attendance on student academic success, the Early Intervention Initiative relies on faculty in the focus to improve students’ academic success by tracking and reporting excessive absences from class. Once a student has missed two classes, a series of early interventions will take place with campus professionals to address the student’s academic and personal issues.

For more information or to refer a student to the program, visit www.sa.sc.edu/ssc/eii.htm.

Supplemental Instruction

An academic success program designed to support students in historically difficult classes, SI helps students through peer instruction and mentorship and collaborative learning strategies. SI leaders offer three weekly sessions that integrate what to learn with how to learn.

For details, visit www.sa.sc.edu/supplementalinstruction.

Class Absence Reflection Group

The Class Absence Reflection (CAR) group assists students who are missing an excessive number of classes due to time management difficulties, study skills problems or other concerns. CAR allows students to discuss their issues in a group setting and then define their academic goals and strategies to improve their performance. Many times students are referred to CAR by professors after missing a specific number of classes, but students are also invited to attend the sessions voluntarily.

For more information on group sessions, please contact Dr. Jan Ziegler at zieglerj@sc.edu or 803-777-5223.

Student Organizations

Organizations provide new students with a chance for involvement and leadership on campus. At USC there are more than 270 organizations to meet students’ social needs and allow them to explore their academic interests. These groups include Greek fraternities and sororities, religious associations, political clubs and many more. If students are unable to find an organization that they want to become involved in, they even have the opportunity to start a new organization of their own.

For more information on campus organizations, visit web.sa.sc.edu or stop by the Student Government office in Russell House room 227.

Counseling Center Workshops

The first year of college is a time of transition and growth. However, it can also be a time associated with adjustment and stress. When change becomes difficult, a support network is very important. The Counseling and Human Development Center offers a variety of workshops and groups for students throughout the year. Two that may be particularly beneficial to freshman issues include “Choices,” focusing on relationships with drugs and alcohol, as well as “De-stress for Success” workshops held during exam week.

For more information or to register for a group, please contact Trina Isaac at IsaacTR@gwm.sc.edu or 803-777-5223.

Resources

These resources, provided by various Student Affairs departments, may be particularly useful to you and your first-year students. Please consider referring students to these programs and don’t hesitate to contact us for more information.