Welcome to the University of South Carolina family!

We are proud and privileged to be a part of this exciting time in your students’ development, and we take seriously the responsibility to provide them every opportunity for success and growth and to offer you the resources to support them.

As your students are preparing for the transition to college life, so too are you. Please use this calendar as a guide to that transition, to your students’ first year of college and throughout the college experience. Inside are important university dates and timely information on ways to encourage your students’ success at Carolina. I hope the Parents Calendar will answer many of your questions and help you know what to expect during the coming year.

If you have additional questions, or if we can assist you in any way, please don’t hesitate to contact our Office of Parents Programs by calling the Parents Assistance Line at 1-800-868-6752 or sending an email to scparents@sc.edu.

Best wishes for a wonderful year,

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

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Campus Safety

- The Carolina Alert system is used to notify the university community via text message and email of any emergencies that may occur. To sign up, students should visit my.sc.edu/emergency and log in. They can add several contact numbers, including family members.

- Encourage your student to download the Rave Guardian app on their phone. This free app is available for iPhone and Android users and makes it possible for students to easily connect with the USC Police Department during an emergency.

- Make sure your student is familiar with the safety resources provided at sc.edu/safety, which includes crime bulletins and simple tips to help students stay safe.
Follow along!

facebook.com/UofSCParents
@UofSCParents

If your student is moving on campus Aug. 22, stop by the Gamecock Family Roost for information about campus and Columbia! Visit sa.sc.edu/parents for details.

- Sorority Recruitment begins
- Sorority Recruitment registration deadline at 4 p.m.
- Fee payment deadline for fall semester
- Sorority Recruitment Move-in and Orientation
- Sorority houses open at noon
- Total Solar Eclipse
- Fraternity houses open at noon
- Fall semester classes begin
- Fall AlcoholEd & Haven Part 1 due
- Part-time Job Fair
- Fraternity Recruitment Orientation
- Last day to change/drop a course without a grade of "W" being recorded
- Student Organization Fair
Parents Weekend is Oct. 6-8. Don’t forget to register by the deadline, Sept. 15 at 4 p.m.! Visit sa.sc.edu/parents to register today! Space is limited, and registration is required.

Gamecock Athletics

Fall at Carolina means it’s time for Gamecock football! For more information about student athletic tickets for all sports, visit sa.sc.edu/studenttickets. Your student can accumulate reward points, which will help them gain tickets to football, basketball and baseball games. The full schedule of Gamecock athletic events is available at gamecocksonline.com. Remind your student to have fun and be safe while tailgating and to look for activities sponsored by Student Life throughout the year.

The Leadership and Service Center, located on the second floor of the Russell House, offers a variety of opportunities for students, including service projects and trips, student organizations, leadership coaching, spirit programs, leadership development programs and so much more! Leadership coaches are available to meet individually with students to help them discover their passions, identify ways to be involved and develop their own leadership style.
Remind your student to get a flu shot at the health center. The best time to receive the vaccine is in October/November for protection during the winter months.
Encourage your student to check out Carolina-Clemson Rivalry Week events. Tiger Burn, the annual pep rally prior to the Clemson game and the Carolina-Clemson Blood Drive are favorite traditions at USC.

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Daylight saving time ends

Exploration

Career Preparation
Visiting the Career Center is your student’s first step in preparing for their goal of employment or further studies after graduation. Our team of career development coaches can help your student learn about their interests, values and personality and how that fits with the world of work. Gaining experience through job shadowing or obtaining an internship/co-op will be vital to their success. We provide opportunities for them to connect with employers or graduate schools in multiple ways. Remind your student to activate their Handshake account at sc.joinhandshake.com and schedule an appointment with their career coach during their first year on campus!

Studying Abroad
Encourage your student to consider studying abroad during their time in college! Students should attend an information session hosted by the Study Abroad Office to get started with the study abroad process as early as possible to best fit it into their academic plans. The study abroad staff recommends starting to plan 9-12 months before departure, but students may apply for programs as long as they are able to meet the advertised deadlines. Learn more at sc.edu/studyabroad.
Winter break is a great time to reflect on the fall semester. Talk with your student about what went well and what changes they would like to make for next semester. Did they utilize any campus resources? Encourage them to visit the Student Success Center early in the spring semester to learn about resources that are available to students.

### Giving Back

#### Carolina Cares
Carolina Cares is a university-wide holiday drive sponsored by the Leadership and Service Center and Carolina Service Council. Encourage your student to get involved during the holidays by adopting a family or filling a stocking for children who may not otherwise have gifts. Ask your student if they are planning to attend the Tree Lighting Ceremony, which is a time to celebrate the season of giving with the USC community.

#### Service Opportunities
Through the Leadership and Service Center, your student can choose to serve through a variety of programs, including:

- **Alternative break trips:** Trips are offered during fall, winter and spring breaks and are a great way to travel to new places and make friends.
- **Awareness and celebration events:** Carolina Cares, Hunger and Homelessness Week and the MLK Day of Service offer a variety of service and philanthropic opportunities focused during specific times of the year.
- **Impact Weekly:** Daily service opportunities are available for students, and transportation to area agencies is provided for students by the Leadership and Service Center.
- **Service Saturdays:** One-time service opportunities for students are held monthly on Saturdays.

### December 2017 Calendar

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**Winter break is a great time to reflect on the fall semester.** Talk with your student about what went well and what changes they would like to make for next semester. Did they utilize any campus resources? Encourage them to visit the Student Success Center early in the spring semester to learn about resources that are available to students.
Student Health

Staying Active
Encourage your student to start the year on a healthy note. Recommend they stop by the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center or the Solomon Blatt Physical Education Center. Campus Recreation offers a wide variety of programs to help your student get moving, including group exercise classes, intramural sports, sport clubs, outdoor recreation trips and lifeguarding opportunities.

Overall Health
Make sure your student knows about the Student Health Services resources, including general medicine, women’s care, optometry, sports medicine, physical therapy, an allergy and immunization clinic, a pharmacy and more. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the mental health services that are offered through Counseling and Psychiatry. Through individual appointments, group counseling and community support meetings, students can speak with trained counselors about a variety of concerns.

Campus Wellness offers programs throughout the year that focus on stress management, nutrition, physical activity, sexual health, tobacco cessation, weight management and other health-related topics.

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Celebrating Diversity

The Office of Multicultural Student Affairs offers many programs to promote social justice, awareness and student success.

Encourage your student to take advantage of diversity programs like Safe Zone workshops, cultural and heritage month celebrations, diversity dialogues, EMPOWER, the Diversity Retreat or the Social Justice Program.

FEBRUARY 2018

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Will your student be living off campus next year? Make sure they know about the resources available through Off-Campus Student Services, which can be found at sa.sc.edu/ocss.

CAROLINIAN CREED

The community of scholars at the University of South Carolina is dedicated to personal and academic excellence.

Choosing to join the community obligates each member to a code of civilized behavior.

As a Carolinian...

I will practice personal and academic integrity;
I will respect the dignity of all persons;
I will respect the rights and property of others;
I will discourage bigotry, while striving to learn from differences in people, ideas and opinions;
I will demonstrate concern for others, their feelings and their need for conditions which support their work and development.

Allegiance to these ideas requires each Carolinian to refrain from and discourage behaviors which threaten the freedom and respect every individual deserves.

Groundhog Day
Ring Week ends

Valentine’s Day

 Presidents Day
 Ring Week begins

Student Leadership and Diversity Conference
Student Safety

Spring Break Safety
If your student chooses to travel for spring break, make sure to discuss safety precautions with them before they leave for a fun-filled week. Reiterate the importance of following laws in the state or country they visit.

Discuss communication expectations with your student before they leave. Will they check in with you? If so, how often? It is important to allow your student the independence of being an adult while also knowing how to get in touch with them.

Law Enforcement and Safety
The University of South Carolina Police Department is a full-service police department that works to keep our campus safe year-round. They offer a variety of programs, including self-defense classes, property registration and more.

Sexual Assault
Interpersonal violence (sexual assault, intimate partner violence or stalking/harassment) is never the survivor’s fault, and it’s never tolerated at the University of South Carolina. The university urges survivors to seek help from the resources at sc.edu/stopsexualassault. As members of the Carolina family, we all can better understand our responsibilities to help care for our community.

Spring semester midterms are held this month. Check in with your student to see how they are feeling about their grades and any midterm tests or projects. Encourage your student to speak with professors if they are struggling in a class.

Spring break begins
Daylight saving time begins

Spring break ends
Greek Village opens at noon
Residence halls open at 8 a.m.

Spring Break Safety
Spring AlcoholEdu & Have Fun Part 2:Bar
Graduation Fair

Student Government Inauguration
Graduation Fair

Graduation Fair
Winter Break

Graduation Fair

St. Patrick’s Day

Good Friday
Passover begins
Pre-Professional Advising

If your student is considering an eventual career in law, medicine or another area of health care, they should take advantage of the resources offered by the Office of Pre-Professional Advising.

Many programs are available to help your student prepare for professional school, including advisement appointments, career observations, application preparation resources, personal statement help and mock interviews.

Students can learn more by visiting the Office of Pre-Professional Advising in Sumwalt College, Room 208.

GRADUATION WITH LEADERSHIP DISTINCTION

Students have the ability to graduate with leadership distinction in five pathways: community service, diversity and social advocacy, global learning, professional and civic engagement, and research.

General requirements include a combination of extensive beyond-the-classroom experiences, enhancement activities, six credits of related coursework, a presentation or publication and an e-portofolio.

Students who earn this recognition receive graduation cords and designation on their transcripts and diplomas.

To learn more about the requirements, visit sc.edu/usconnect. Encourage your student to consider beginning to work toward this honor early in their undergraduate career.

APRIL 2018

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As the weather gets warmer, your student may be tempted to skip class to enjoy being outside. Encourage them to continue going to class as there is still time left to make or break their grades.

Hill Ceremony

Last day of classes

Easter

Passover ends

University Awards Day

Discovery Day

Pre-Professional Advising

If your student is considering an eventual career in law, medicine or another area of health care, they should take advantage of the resources offered by the Office of Pre-Professional Advising.

Many programs are available to help your student prepare for professional school, including advisement appointments, career observations, application preparation resources, personal statement help and mock interviews.

Students can learn more by visiting the Office of Pre-Professional Advising in Sumwalt College, Room 208.
**New Beginnings**

**My Carolina Alumni Association**

If your student is preparing for graduation, encourage them to connect with My Carolina Alumni Association. **Thanks to the generosity of our alumni, each member of the graduating class of 2018 will receive a complimentary one-year membership into My Carolina Alumni Association.** Your student should visit MyCarolina.org/NewGrad and update their contact information to confirm the membership.

**USC Ring**

The official USC ring is available for purchase to students who have earned 60 credit hours or more. Once a student reaches the credit requirement, they will be sent an invitation to learn more about the ring. Rings can be purchased at MyCarolina.org or during Ring Week in the fall and spring. They will be presented at the Ring Ceremony on the Horseshoe.

**Summer Plans**

Encourage your student to stay active during the summer with a summer job, internship, summer school or other activities.

If your student is coming home for the summer, help them make connections in your hometown. In some cases, many childhood and high school friends will have moved away. Encourage your student to find ways to make new friends during this break from school.

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**MAY 2018**

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**Reading Day — no classes**

**Final exams begin (includes Saturday)**

**Greek Village closes at noon**

**Final exams end**

**Ramadan begins**

**Mother’s Day**

**Ramadan begins**

**Greek Village closes at noon for graduating seniors**

**Mother’s Day**

**Greek Village closes at noon**

**Memorial Day**

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To prepare for moving out, encourage your student to ask their resident mentor or facility manager for proper checkout procedures.
Welcome new families!

Do you have friends who are joining the Gamecock family this fall? Encourage any new USC parents to get connected with the resources offered through the Office of Parents Programs.

- Share the Parents Programs website (sa.sc.edu/parents) so they can sign up for the Parents Association and receive monthly e-newsletters.
- New Gamecock families likely have a lot of questions. Parents are always welcome to ask questions through the scparents@sc.edu email account and the Parents Assistance Line (1-800-868-6752).
- New parents can learn valuable information through the Parents Programs Facebook page (facebook.com/UofSCParents) or the Parents Programs Instagram account (@UofSCParents).

Encourage new parents to register for Parents Weekend when the registration process opens this month.

Talk to your student about the past school year. What was successful? What will they change for the fall? Help your student reflect on their experience.

As the summer progresses, your student may express some loneliness for friends made at college. Discuss the value of your student’s positive sense of campus life and plans for involvement in the coming year.

Preparing for the fall

Talk with your student about their financial needs for the upcoming academic year. Evaluate changes that may be needed for money management, and work together to establish a tentative budget.

Discuss how new living arrangements will affect the next school year. Encourage your student to have conversations with their roommate about who is responsible for bringing certain items.

Having a conversation about communication expectations with your student is important as you both head into a new year. How often will you talk? What method of communication will you use? Who will initiate the conversations? Setting these expectations now will help prevent communication breakdowns during the school year.

Helpful Reminders

- Suggest that your student begin organizing the things they need to take back to school so that packing in August is not overwhelming.
- Review safety tips with your student prior to the new school year to make sure they are prepared to make good decisions when it comes to navigating campus.
Colleges and Schools

Arts and Sciences 803-777-2993
Business 803-777-3176
Education 803-777-3828
Engineering and Computing 803-777-2706
Graduate School 803-777-4243
Hospitality, Retail and Sport Management 803-777-4290
Information and Communications
  Journalism and Mass Communications 803-777-3244
  Library and Information Sciences 803-777-3858
Law 803-777-4155
Medicine (Columbia) 803-216-3300
Medicine (Greenville) 864-455-7992
Music 803-777-4280
Nursing 803-777-7412
Pharmacy 803-777-4151
Public Health 803-777-5030
Social Work 803-777-5291
South Carolina Honors College 803-777-8102

University Offices

Admissions (undergraduate) 803-777-7700
Alumni Association 803-777-4111
Athletic Ticket Office 803-777-4274
Bookstore (University Bookstore at the Russell House) 803-777-4160
Bursar (fee payment) 803-777-4233
Capstone Scholars Program 803-777-4412
CarolinaCard 803-777-1708
Carolina Productions 803-777-3950
Carolina Shuttle 803-777-1080
Campus Recreation 803-576-9375
Campus Wellness 803-576-9393
Career Center 803-777-7280
Colonial Life Arena 803-576-9200
Counseling and Psychiatry 803-777-5223
Crime Prevention Programs 803-777-0855
Dining Services 803-777-4161
Disability Resource Center 803-777-6142 or TDD 803-777-6744
Fellowships and Scholar Programs 803-777-0958
Financial Aid and Scholarships 803-777-8134
Fraternity and Sorority Life 803-777-3506
Housing 803-777-4283
Housing Maintenance Requests 803-777-FIXX
International Student Services 803-777-7461
Koger Center for the Arts 803-777-7500
Law Enforcement and Safety 803-777-8400
Leadership and Service Center 803-777-7130
Multicultural Student Affairs 803-777-7716
National Student Exchange 803-777-1000
New Student Orientation 803-777-2780
Off-Campus Student Services 803-777-3366
Parents Assistance Line 800-868-6752
Police Department 803-777-4215
emergency 911
Post Office (Student Mail Center) 803-777-4109
Registrar 803-777-5555
Russell House University Union 803-777-8182
Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention and Prevention 803-777-8248
Student Affairs and Academic Support 803-777-4172
Student Athletic Tickets 803-777-6102
Student Conduct 803-777-4333
Student Government 803-777-2654
Student Health Center 803-777-3175
Student Life 803-777-5782
Student Media 803-777-3888
Student Success Center 803-777-1000
Study Abroad 803-777-7557
Substance Abuse Prevention and Education 803-777-3933
Technology Services Help Desk 803-777-1800
University 101 803-777-6029
University Advising Center 803-777-1222
Vehicle Management and Parking Services 803-777-5160
Victim/Witness Program 803-777-6472
Visitor Center 803-777-0169