



New Student Orientation
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



REGISTRATION GUIDE



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WELCOME TO SOUTH CAROLINA!



Welcome to the University of South Carolina! It's time to start the tradition and prepare for your New Student Orientation. As an incoming freshman or transfer student, you are required to attend New Student Orientation to prepare for your first semester at South Carolina.

New Student Orientation is the first step in helping you successfully transition into our Gamecock community. Our office understands that while this may be an exciting time, you may also be nervous and have a lot of questions. Our goal is to ensure that you feel as comfortable and confident as possible as a student at South Carolina. During Orientation, you will have the opportunity to connect with peers and university faculty and staff. You will also learn more about the university, our history and the wide array of campus resources available. Your journey at South Carolina will encourage you to grow and reach your goals!

Students beginning classes in Summer or Fall 2026 can register for a New Student Orientation session beginning **March 23 at noon ET**. Registration will close on **May 6**.

Continue reading to learn more about New Student and Family and Supporter Orientation, how to prepare and how to register yourself and a family member for a session.

New Student Orientation Learning Outcomes:

- Establish a connection with one or more students.
- Establish a connection with one or more faculty or staff members.
- Identify at least one opportunity to get involved on campus.
- Identify at least one resource to help students transition to USC.
- Recognize USC history, traditions and values.
- Engage in dialogue around the Carolinian Creed.
- Successfully navigate the course registration process.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION



Summer Term Orientation

If you are a freshman or transfer student beginning classes in May (Summer Term), you will attend a Summer Term Orientation session. These are in-person, one-day sessions from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You will hear from university faculty and staff, meet with an Orientation Leader and peers, attend an academic college visit, learn about university resources and more. This is when you will meet with an academic advisor and register for summer term courses. Lunch will be provided.

Registration costs are \$130 per student and \$65 per family member and/or supporter. More information regarding Summer Term Orientation will be sent via email and at sc.edu/orientation.

Transfer Orientation

If you are a transfer student beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will attend a Transfer Orientation session. These are in-person, one-day sessions from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. You will hear from university faculty and staff, meet with an Orientation Leader and peers, attend an academic college visit, learn about university resources and more. Lunch will be provided.

Registration costs are \$130 per student and \$65 per family member and/or supporter. More information regarding Transfer Orientation will be sent via email and at sc.edu/orientation.

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION



Freshman Orientation

If you are a freshman student beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will attend a Freshman Orientation session in June or July. These are in-person, two-day, overnight sessions beginning at 8:00 a.m. on day one and ending at 5:00 p.m. on day two. **Students are required to stay overnight in one of our designated residence halls on day one. This will not be the same residence hall you are living in during the academic year.**

During the two days you will hear from university faculty and staff, meet with an Orientation Leader and peers, attend an academic college visit, learn about university resources and the city of Columbia, tour campus, participate in evening socials and more. Lunch and dinner will be provided on day one of your session, and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided on day two.

Registration costs are \$260 per student (this includes overnight accommodation) and \$130 per family member and/or supporter. On-campus overnight accommodations for families and supporters are not available. More information regarding Freshman Orientation and overnight accommodations will be sent to the email address you provide during registration and can also be found at sc.edu/orientation.

FAMILY & SUPPORTER ORIENTATION



Welcome to the Family!

Our office understands this can be a time full of excitement but also unknowns for families. That's why New Student Orientation is not just for students; it's also for families and supporters!

Our Family and Supporter Orientation program runs concurrently with New Student Orientation and focuses on a wide variety of topics and subjects that families and supporters should find helpful during their student's first year. Families and supporters will have the opportunity to connect with faculty and staff to discuss their student's upcoming transition as well as experiences, opportunities and resources available at USC. They will also have an opportunity to learn more about their student's academic college and major.

The registration cost for Summer Term and Transfer Orientation is \$65 per family member and/or supporter. The registration cost for Freshman Orientation is \$130 per family member and/or supporter.

We highly encourage families and supporters to sign up for the Gamecock Family Hub. [The Gamecock Family Hub](#) is the best way to be in-the-know on all things USC. When you make an account, you will receive access to important campus news and deadlines, personalized newsletters and email announcements.

Family and Supporter Orientation Learning Outcomes:

- Recognize common trends and transitional needs of students at USC.
- Distinguish campus resources to support student success and sense of belonging.
- Implement effective and appropriate family support strategies.
- Recognize USC history, traditions and values.
- Establish a connection with one or more fellow USC family members.

PRE-ORIENTATION ACADEMIC ADVISING

New this year, Pre-Orientation Academic Advising is designed to help students get a head start on their academic journey before attending New Student Orientation. Through a 45-minute virtual appointment held via Teams, students will meet one-on-one with their assigned academic advisor to build connection, explore degree requirements and review their projected coursework. During this session, students will also receive guidance on course selection and register for their fall classes, allowing them to arrive at Orientation better prepared and more confident in their academic plan. **Attendance at Orientation is still required.**

What to Expect



STEP 1:
Register for
New Student
Orientation



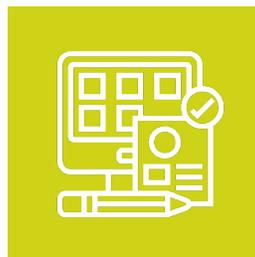
STEP 2:
Complete
Cocky Transitions,
Part 1



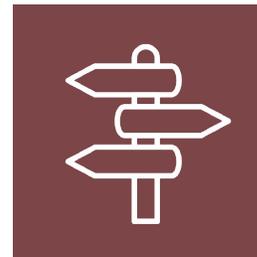
STEP 3:
Schedule your
Advising
Appointment



STEP 4:
Attend
Advising
Appointment



STEP 5:
Complete
Cocky Transitions,
Part 2



STEP 6:
Attend
New Student
Orientation

Important Dates

March 23 | New Student Orientation registration opens

May 1 | Deadline to pay enrollment deposit through your USC Admissions Portal

May 6 | Registration for New Student Orientation closes

May 7 | Students in sessions 1-3 gain access to Cocky Transitions, Part 1 to schedule academic advising

May 21 | Students in sessions 4-6 gain access to Cocky Transitions, Part 1 to schedule academic advising

June 4 | Students in remaining sessions gain access to Cocky Transitions, Part 1 to schedule academic advising

COCKY TRANSITIONS



The University of South Carolina has a variety of resources, opportunities and experiences waiting for you, so why wait until New Student Orientation to start learning about your new home?

Incoming students are required to complete Cocky Transitions, a set of online, pre-orientation modules that cover essential programs and services at USC. Throughout Cocky Transitions, you will learn general information about academics, student life, finances, resources, safety and wellness and more. These topics, paired with information you receive and connections you make at New Student Orientation, will help you have a successful transition and first semester at USC!

There are two parts to Cocky Transitions. Make sure to regularly check your USC email address for instructions to complete both parts. Generally speaking, Part 1 will be sent out in mid-May / early June based on your Orientation session date and will include a link to sign up for your pre-orientation academic advising appointment. Part 2 will be sent out two weeks prior to your Orientation session date.

These required modules should take approximately 90 minutes to complete. You do not have to complete the modules in one sitting. Cocky Transitions will pick back up where you left off. Instructions for accessing the modules will be sent to your USC email address. If you are unable to complete the modules prior to your New Student Orientation session, you will need to reschedule your session for a later date.

For specific questions regarding Cocky Transitions, please email orientation@sc.edu or call 803-777-2780.

ORIENTATION DATES



Freshman Sessions

June 1-2

Session 1

June 3-4

Session 2

June 8-9

Session 3

June 10-11

Session 4

June 15-16

Session 5

June 17-18

Session 6

June 22-23

Session 7

June 24-25

Session 8

June 29-30

Session 9

July 1-2

Session 10

July 6-7

Session 11

July 8-9

Session 12

July 13-14

Session 13

July 15-16

Session 14

July 20-21

Session 15

July 22-23

Session 16

July 27-28

Session 17

July 29-30

Session 18

Summer Term Sessions

May 8

Summer Term I

May 29

Summer Term II

Transfer Sessions

June 19

Transfer I

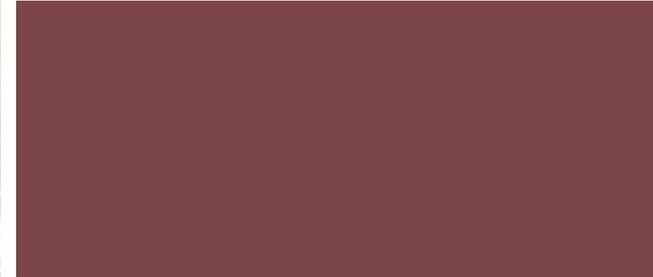
July 10

Transfer II

July 24

Transfer III

SPECIAL POPULATIONS



Our team offers a variety of specialized academic programs during New Student Orientation. Find your program below to learn more about what to expect.

South Carolina Honors College

Freshmen enrolled in the South Carolina Honors College will be advised and registered for classes prior to attending Orientation. **Attendance at New Student Orientation is still required, as you will meet with staff members in the Honors College, as well as with those from your academic college.** There will also be a meeting for families. Students will need to attend one of nine sessions:

- June 1-2
- June 3-4
- June 8-9
- June 17-18
- June 24-25
- June 29-30
- July 8-9
- July 22-23
- July 27-28

If you cannot attend any of the above dates, contact Cami Reid at reidce2@email.sc.edu.

Accelerated Undergraduate to MD Program (BARSC-MD)

Freshmen participating in BARSC-MD will need to attend New Student Orientation on **June 17-18**. If you cannot attend on this date, contact Elizabeth Leverette at leverec@mailbox.sc.edu.

Capstone Scholars

Freshmen participating in the Capstone Scholars Program will meet with their program on day one of New Student Orientation. Students can attend any of the advertised New Student Orientation dates. Please check your email frequently for updates from the Capstone Scholars office.

TRIO Opportunity Scholars

Freshmen participating in the TRIO Opportunity Scholars Program will meet with their program on day one of New Student Orientation. Students can attend any of the advertised New Student Orientation dates.

Palmetto Pathway

Freshmen in Palmetto Pathway will meet on day one and two of New Student Orientation. These students will need to attend one of four sessions specified for this program:

- July 13-14
- July 15-16
- July 20-21
- July 22-23

If you cannot attend any of the above dates, contact Laura Faile at humphrlb@email.sc.edu.

Gamecock Gateway

Freshmen in Gamecock Gateway will meet on day one and two during New Student Orientation. These students will need to attend one of four sessions specified for this program:

- June 15-16
- June 17-18
- June 22-23
- July 6-7

If you cannot attend any of the above dates, contact Morgan Ruebusch at ruebusch@mailbox.sc.edu.

CarolinaLIFE

Freshmen participating in CarolinaLIFE will need to attend New Student Orientation on **June 17-18**. These students will meet with staff members from the program on day one and two. If you cannot attend on this date, contact Erica Milliron at emilliron@sc.edu.

Student-Athletes

Freshmen student-athletes will meet with their program on day one of New Student Orientation. Students will need to attend one of six sessions:

- June 1-2
- June 3-4
- June 17-18
- June 29-30
- July 8-9
- July 22-23

Transfer student-athletes will meet with their program over lunch during New Student Orientation. Students will need to attend one of three sessions:

- May 29 (Summer Term)
- June 19
- July 24

If you are beginning classes in May (Summer Term), you will need to attend a one-day session in May. **Registration is \$130 per student and \$65 per family member and/or supporter.**

Sample Student Summer Term Schedule

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Morning:

- Check-in
- Welcome
- Campus partner presentations
- Small groups

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Resource fair/Open houses/Campus tours
- Academic college visits
- Academic advisement*
- Campus business checklist

Sample Family Summer Term Schedule

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Morning:

- Check-in
- Welcome
- Campus partner presentations
- Family programming

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Resource fair/Open houses/Campus tours
- Academic college visits
- Student point of view panel
- Campus business checklist

*Academic advisement is a student-only component of New Student Orientation.

If you arrive past 8:30 a.m. on the day of your session, you will need to call our office and reschedule. We cannot guarantee accommodations for travel arrangements, so please plan accordingly around the duration of the program (see times listed above).

SAMPLE SCHEDULE: SUMMER TERM



SAMPLE SCHEDULE: FRESHMEN



If you are a freshman beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will need to attend a two-day, overnight session in June or July. Students are required to stay overnight in our designated residence hall. More details regarding overnight accommodations will be shared via email.

Registration is \$260 per student and \$130 per family member and/or supporter.

Sample Freshman Student Schedule

Day One (8:00 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.)

Morning:

- Check-in
- Resource fair
- Welcome
- Campus partner presentations
- Small group

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Breakout sessions/Special population meetings
- Academic success skills
- Small group
- Campus community building

Evening:

- Dinner
- Small group
- Gamecocks After Dark (evening social)

Day Two (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Morning:

- Breakfast
- Campus partner presentations
- Academic college visits

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Small group
- Next steps
- Campus business checklist

If you arrive past 10:30 a.m. on day one of your session, you will need to call our office to reschedule. We cannot guarantee accommodations for travel arrangements, so please plan accordingly around the duration of the program (see times listed above).

SAMPLE SCHEDULE: FRESHMEN

Sample Freshman Family Schedule*

Day One (8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.)

Morning:

- Check-in
- Resource fair
- Welcome
- Campus resource presentations

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Breakout sessions/Special population meetings
- Family and supporter breakout sessions

Evening:

- Dinner
- Family and supporter social

Day Two (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

Morning:

- Breakfast
- Campus partner presentations
- Academic college visits

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Student point of view panel
- Family and supporter breakout sessions
- Campus business checklist



*While students are required to stay overnight in our designated residence hall, families and supporter accommodations are not provided. More details regarding local hotel accommodations can be found at sc.edu/orientation and will also be shared via email.

If you are a Transfer student beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will need to attend a one-day session in June-July. **Registration is \$130 per student and \$65 per family member and/or supporter.**

Sample Transfer Student Schedule

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Morning:

- Check-in
- Welcome
- Campus partner presentations
- Small groups

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Resource fair/Open houses/Campus tours
- Academic college visits
- Next steps
- Campus business checklist

Sample Transfer Family Schedule

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Morning:

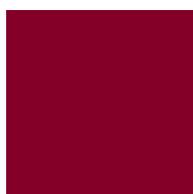
- Breakfast
- Campus partner presentations
- Academic college visits

Afternoon:

- Lunch
- Resource fair/Open houses/Campus tours
- Academic college visits
- Student point of view panel
- Campus business checklist

If you arrive past 8:30 a.m. on the day of your session, you will need to call our office and reschedule. We cannot guarantee accommodations for travel arrangements, so please plan accordingly around the duration of the program (see times listed above).

SAMPLE SCHEDULE: TRANSFER



HOW TO REGISTER FOR ORIENTATION



Your next step is simple: Register for your session! You can do so beginning on **March 23 at noon ET**. Registration will close on May 6. In order to begin your Orientation experience, you will need to:

1 Pay your enrollment deposit (Freshmen only).

Incoming freshmen are required to pay a nonrefundable \$200 enrollment deposit through their [USC Admissions Portal](#) before gaining access to New Student Orientation registration. Please note that electronic check payments will be held for six business days while they clear.

2 Identify your session.

If you are beginning classes in May (Summer Term), you will need to attend a one-day session in May. If you are beginning classes in August (Fall Term), you will need to attend a two-day, overnight session in June or July.

3 Set up your account.

Use your IDs to claim your account at [myaccount.sc.edu](#). Select “Account Claiming” on the Manage User Account page and then complete the following steps:

- Enter your VIP ID, legal last name and birth date
- Add security questions for account verification
- Access your USC email address and set up your email preferences
- Add emergency contact information
- Set up [Multi-factor Authentication \(MFA\)](#)

4 Make your reservation.

Using a laptop or desktop device, go to [my.sc.edu](#) and log in with your USC ID and password. Click the “Admissions” tab and then the “Orientation Services” link. Select your campus from the drop-down menu and follow the instructions on the screen. Only available session dates will appear on your screen. **Please note: Registration is only accessible through Google Chrome or Firefox browsers.**

5 Pay for your session.

Your reservation will not be complete until you have paid for your New Student Orientation session. The registration cost for Summer Term and Transfer Orientation is \$130 per student and \$65 per family member and/or supporter. The registration cost for Freshman Orientation is \$260 per student and \$130 per family member and/or supporter.

6 Prepare for your session.

Once you have registered, read through all of your session information and stay connected to your email for updates from the Office of New Student Orientation. You will receive an email confirmation for your registration. If you do not receive one upon registering for a session, please contact our office to ensure you have completed all steps.

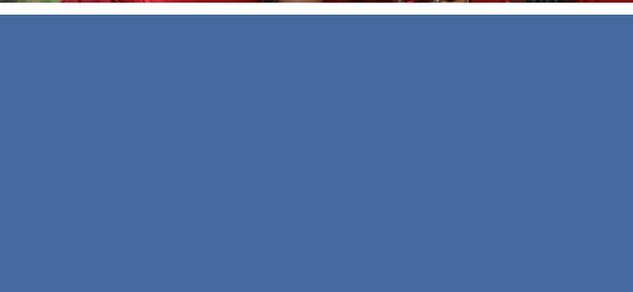
Refund Policy

Sessions remain open until filled. If the session does not fill, it will close two business days prior to its start. You are able to change your New Student Orientation reservation at any time, as long as the new desired date is still open. If you need to cancel your reservation, you will need to do so **at least two weeks prior to your session** in order to request a refund. To request a refund, please email our office at orientation@sc.edu. In your email, please include the following student information:

- First name
- USC ID
- Contact information
- Reason for refund

There is a \$35 administrative fee associated with all refunds. You will receive an email confirmation when your request is approved. Refunds will not be considered unless the request is received in writing via email.

Please contact the Office of New Student Orientation with questions regarding your reservation. For more information regarding Orientation, please visit [our website](#).



PREPARING FOR ORIENTATION

To prepare for your New Student Orientation, it is important that you complete the items on the checklist below. **Failure to complete any of these items may impact your ability to register for classes during your session.** Student-athletes, CarolinaLIFE, Gamecock Gateway and Palmetto Pathway students will receive separate communication regarding their specific checklist.

Complete all items in your USC Admissions Portal

Your [USC Admissions Portal](#) contains information that must be completed before you attend your New Student Orientation and enroll for classes at South Carolina. It is essential you complete all items in the portal.

Submit your Citizenship Verification

Log on to your [USC Admissions Portal](#) to check if your citizenship status was previously verified based on information provided on your FAFSA. If you have not submitted a FAFSA, you will be required to complete the Citizenship Verification Form.

If your citizenship has not been verified, complete the **Citizenship Verification Form**. Visit sc.edu/registrar for more information on the Citizenship Verification Form.

Submit your Residency Certification (for SC residents only)

Log on to your [USC Admissions Portal](#) and check your Enrollment Checklist for the Residency Certification Form. If the Residency Certification Form has a RED “x,” please complete the form and upload all requested documents.

Once your residency form has been received, you will see a “Residency” link in your USC Admissions Portal. If additional documentation is needed, it will be listed in this section. You will also be notified by email of any outstanding residency documentation. You can upload any outstanding items through the “Residency” section of your portal.

Note: This does not mean your residency status has been confirmed.

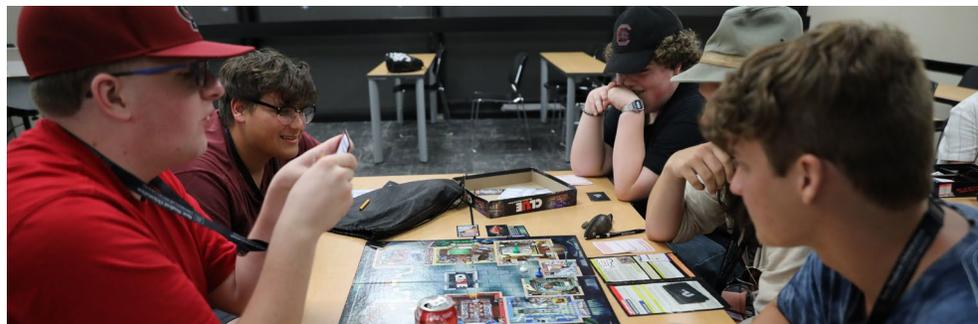
Submit your Immunization Records

All students must complete immunization forms on MyHealthSpace and attach supporting documentation signed by a medical provider before attending New Student Orientation. Students not complying with immunization requirements will not be allowed to register for classes or move into the residence halls.

Required immunizations include:

- MMR (two doses): Mumps, Measles, Rubella
- Meningococcal vaccine (Menevo or Menactra)
- Tuberculosis risk screening

Visit the Student Health and Well-Being website for more information on [required and recommended immunizations](#) for new students.



Confirm your Major

If you are considering a major change prior to attending Orientation, and you know what you would like to change it to, you can do so in your [USC Admissions Portal](#). If you would like to explore potential options, please make a “New Student Major Change Interest” appointment to speak with an Exploratory Advisor in the University Advising Center. Your Exploratory Advisor will make sure you have the correct information. Make an appointment by visiting sc.edu/advising. You may also contact the University Advising Center at 803-777-1222 or advising@sc.edu. It is critical that you attend Orientation with the correct major.

Take the ALEKS Math Placement Test

The ALEKS Math Placement Test is required for all students. The placement test can be taken online or in person with prior registration. Please plan to take the test **at least a week prior to your pre-orientation academic advising appointment**. For more information, please visit sc.edu/math-placement.

Register for your Foreign Language Placement Exam

Students must register to take the Foreign Language Placement Exam online. Please plan to take this exam **at least a week prior to your pre-orientation academic advising appointment**. For more information regarding online testing and to register for your exam, please visit our [Placement Testing website](#).

Complete your Cocky Transitions Modules

In order to prepare for your New Student Orientation experience, you need to complete your Cocky Transitions modules. You will receive email communication to your USC email address with next steps. These modules are required.

Plan your Orientation Visit

Visit the Office of New Student Orientation website to explore accommodations, campus resources, area businesses, discounts and more! sc.edu/orientation

Request your CarolinaCard Online

All meals during New Student Orientation will be accessed using your official CarolinaCard, so be sure to visit my.carolinacard.sc.edu to complete the Cardholder Agreement and Account Access Information and upload an approved photo at least two weeks before your session. Don't forget to bring a valid driver's license, military ID or passport to pick up your CarolinaCard during New Student Orientation.

To Do List



STAY CONNECTED



Office of New Student Orientation

University of South Carolina
1400 Greene Street, Suite 005
Russell House University Union
Columbia, SC 29208

sc.edu/orientation

803-777-2780

orientation@sc.edu

 /UofSCOrientation

 @UofSC_ONSO

Upcoming Q&A Webinars

How to Register for Orientation

March 19 | 5:00 p.m. ET

Freshman Orientation Q&A

April 9 | 5:00 p.m. ET

Transfer Orientation Q&A

April 23 | 5:00 p.m. ET

Undergraduate Admissions will email
webinar access to all admitted students.



For more information,
visit our website: