

Transferring to USC

Founded in 1880, the University of Southern California is a top-tier, private research university located in the heart of a diverse, dynamic world center.

As a transfer student at USC, you will enjoy unparalleled opportunities in and outside the classroom. From access to world-class faculty and the ability to conduct your own original research, to acquiring real-world experience through service-learning and internship programs, the possibilities are endless.

Transfer admission to USC remains highly competitive, and we look for students with outstanding academic records, talents and leadership skills. This brochure will introduce you to our admission policies, academic requirements and the courses you will need to successfully transfer to USC. We hope you find this information helpful, and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Fight On!



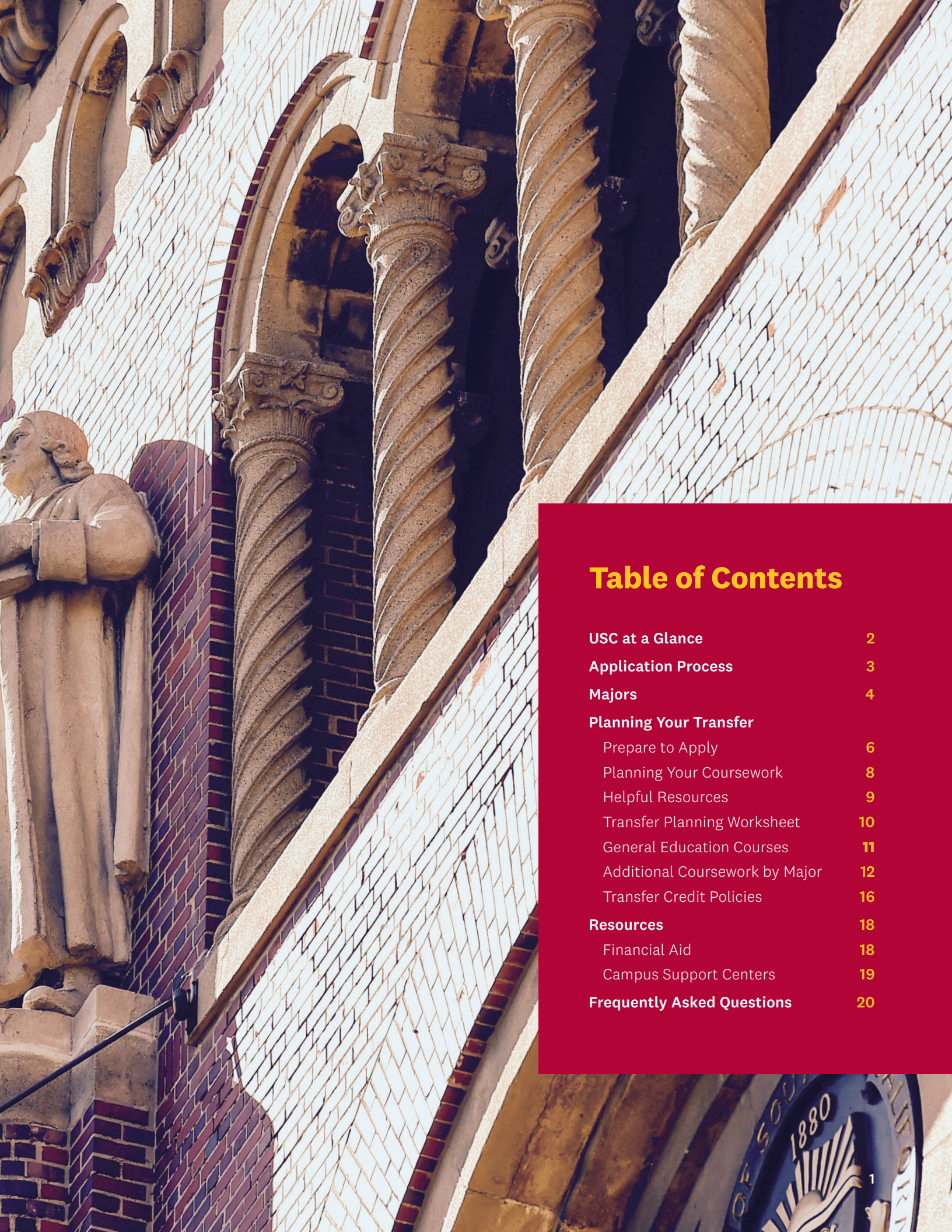


Table of Contents

USC at a Glance	2
Application Process	3
Majors	4
Planning Your Transfer	
Prepare to Apply	6
Planning Your Coursework	8
Helpful Resources	9
Transfer Planning Worksheet	10
General Education Courses	11
Additional Coursework by Major	12
Transfer Credit Policies	16
Resources	18
Financial Aid	18
Campus Support Centers	19
Frequently Asked Questions	20



USC at a Glance



1880
FOUNDED



Los Angeles
LOCATION



229
SIZE OF CAMPUS IN ACRES



21,000
UNDERGRADUATES ENROLLED



26,000
GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL
STUDENTS ENROLLED



9:1
STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO



25
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE



480,000+
ALUMNI WORLDWIDE

2024 Transfer Student Profile*



11,000
APPLICATIONS



2,375
FALL ADMISSION OFFERS



1,400
SIZE OF ENROLLED CLASS



3.79
AVERAGE COLLEGE GPA



25%
FIRST-GENERATION

**AS OF AUGUST 2024*

Our Transfer Students Come From...

55%
CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY
COLLEGES

22%
U.S. COLLEGES OUTSIDE
CALIFORNIA

12%
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

6%
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGES

5%
CALIFORNIA PRIVATE
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Application Process

The Common Application

- ❑ Submit at admission.usc.edu/commonapp. We do not require the Common Application College Report.

Additional Application Materials

- ❑ **Official College Transcripts**
Make arrangements to provide USC official transcripts from all colleges you have ever attended. The transcripts should show coursework completed through the most recent fall. (Electronic transcripts should be sent directly from the school—not from the student—to uetrans@usc.edu.) Submit ALL records. Failure to submit a transcript from any school you have attended may be viewed as a breach of academic integrity, which could result in revocation of admission and/or dismissal.
- ❑ **Official High School Transcripts**
Submit official, final high school transcripts that show your date of graduation or leaving status. Students who did not earn a diploma should also submit a copy of a completion certificate, such as a GED or CAHSEE, and may include a note of explanation if they wish. Students who completed secondary school outside the U.S. may submit a copy of a diploma or leaving certificate instead.
- ❑ **Major-Related Requirements**
Some majors also require an audition, portfolio, professional résumé, letters of recommendation or additional writing samples. Details can be found on the website for your program of interest.
- ❑ **SAT or ACT Scores (Optional)**
Transfer applicants for the 2025-2026 academic year may choose to submit SAT or ACT scores if they have completed fewer than 30 semester units of college coursework through the end of the spring term. SAT or ACT scores are not considered for students applying with more than 30 transferable semester units.

International students*

- ❑ **Financial Statement of Personal or Family Support**
- ❑ **English Language Proficiency Test**
International students whose native language is not English must submit an English proficiency exam. A full list of acceptable scores and exams can be found in the Expectations for English Proficiency section at admission.usc.edu/international.

DACA and undocumented students are **not considered international applicants.*

Learn more: admission.usc.edu/international

Transfer Information Sessions

Led by an admission counselor, these one-hour sessions are intended for students interested in learning about the process of transferring to USC.



Dates and Deadlines

December 1, 2024

Transfer deadline for all:

- BFA Cinematic Arts programs
- BFA Dramatic Arts programs
- All programs in the Kaufman School of Dance and the Thornton School of Music

February 15, 2025

Final transfer deadline for all other programs.

Students who apply for admission by December 1 or February 15 will be considered for USC Merit Scholarships.

Admission Notification Timeline

We will release either an admission decision or a request for spring-term grades by **May 30, 2025**, to applicants who submitted complete applications by the appropriate deadline. Students who receive requests for spring grades will receive an admission decision by mid-July.

Choose From 150+ Majors

USC offers undergraduates a wide array of majors and encourages students to customize their own programs of study through double majors or unique combinations of majors and minors. Students are challenged across a broad range of disciplines, within the curriculum and outside the classroom. The following majors apply to prospective transfer students only.

Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

American Popular Culture
American Studies and Ethnicity
African American Studies
American Studies
Asian American Studies
Chicano/Latino Studies
Anthropology
Applied and Computational
Mathematics
Archaeology
Art History
Astronomy
Behavioral Economics and Psychology
Biochemistry
Biological Sciences
Biophysics
Central European Studies
Chemistry
Classics
Cognitive Science
Comparative Literature
Computational Neuroscience
Contemporary Latino and Latin American
Studies
Creative Writing
Earth Sciences
East Asian Area Studies
East Asian Languages and Cultures
(Chinese, Japanese, Korean)
Economics
Economics/Mathematics
English
Environmental Science and Health
Environmental Studies
French
Gender and Sexuality Studies
GeoDesign

Geological Sciences
Global Geodesign
Global Studies
Health and Human Sciences
History
Human Biology
Human Security and Geospatial Intelligence
Intelligence and Cyber Operations
International Relations
International Relations (Global Business)
International Relations and the Global
Economy
Italian
Jewish Studies
Latin American and Iberian Cultures,
Media and Politics
Law, History and Culture
Linguistics
Mathematics
Middle East Studies
Narrative Studies
Neuroscience
Non-Governmental Organizations
and Social Change
Philosophy
Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Philosophy, Politics and Law
Physics
Physics/Computer Science
Political Economy
Political Science
Psychology
Quantitative Biology
Religion
Russian
Sociology
Spanish

USC School of Architecture

Architecture, B.ARCH

D'Amico School of Business

Arts, Technology and the Business of
Innovation, B.S.
Business of Innovation, B.S.

Roski School of Art & Design

Art, B.A.
Design, BFA
Fine Arts, BFA

Marshall School of Business

Accounting
Business Administration

USC School of Cinematic Arts

Animation + Digital Arts, BFA
Cinema and Media Studies, B.A.
Film and Television Production, B.A.
Game Art, BFA
Game Development and Interactive Design,
BFA
Media Arts + Practice, B.A.
Themed Entertainment, BFA
Writing for Screen & Television, BFA

Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

Communication
Journalism
Public Relations and Advertising

Kaufman School of Dance

Dance, BFA



USC School of Dramatic Arts

Acting, Stage and Screen, BFA
Dramatic Arts, B.A.
Musical Theatre, BFA
Sound Design, BFA
Stage Management, BFA
Technical Direction, BFA
Theatrical Design, BFA

Viterbi School of Engineering

Aerospace Engineering
Astronautical Engineering
Biomedical Engineering
Biomedical (Electrical)
Biomedical (Mechanical)
Biomedical (Molecular-Cellular)
Chemical Engineering
Chemical (Biological and Pharmaceutical)
Chemical (Biochemical)
Chemical (Environmental)
Chemical (Nanotechnology)
Chemical (Petroleum)
Chemical (Polymer/Materials Science)
Chemical (Sustainable Energy)
Civil Engineering
Civil (Building Science)
Civil (Construction Engineering and Management)
Civil (Environmental)
Civil (Structural)
Civil (Water Resources)
Computer Engineering and Computer Science
Computer Science
Computer Science Games
Computer Science/Business Administration
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Environmental Engineering
Industrial and Systems Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

Davis School of Gerontology

Human Development and Aging
Lifespan Health

Gould School of Law

Legal Studies

Keck School of Medicine

Global Health
Health Promotion and Disease
Prevention Studies

Thornton School of Music

Bachelor of Music degrees:

Choral Music
Composition, Classical
Jazz Studies (instrumental and vocal)
Music Production
Popular Music Performance
Classical Performance
Bassoon Percussion
Cello Piano
Clarinet Saxophone
Double Bass Trombone
Flute Trumpet
French Horn Tuba
Guitar Viola
Harp Violin
Oboe Vocal Arts
Organ

Bachelor of Science degree:

Music Industry

Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Biopharmaceutical Sciences
Pharmacology and Drug Development

Price School of Public Policy

Public Policy
Real Estate Development
Urban Studies and Planning

Professional Emphases

These represent advisement tracks only.
They cannot be declared as majors.

Pre-Dentistry
Pre-Law
Pre-Medicine
Pre-Occupational Therapy
Pre-Pharmacy
Pre-Physical Therapy
Pre-Physician Assistant Practice
Pre-Teaching

Please refer to the *USC Catalogue* at catalogue.usc.edu for a full list of undergraduate degrees, including additional majors (such as Data Science) and emphases to which you can apply once at USC.



Prepare to Apply

We seek successful students who will make positive contributions to the USC community. The next few pages will help you plan your coursework to stay on track and maximize your chances of admission.

The key to a successful transfer is good planning. Students who achieve at a high level and make good progress toward their intended degree will have the best chance of a successful application and on-time graduation. We offer this planning guide to help you realize your goal of transferring to USC.

All students must complete General Education requirements to earn a bachelor's degree, so we expect transfer students to satisfy several of these before admission. Although we do not require a specific number, a good rule of thumb is one or two GE courses per term.

The pages that follow describe the requirements and provide tools to help you identify courses at your institution that are likely to count toward USC's General Education program.

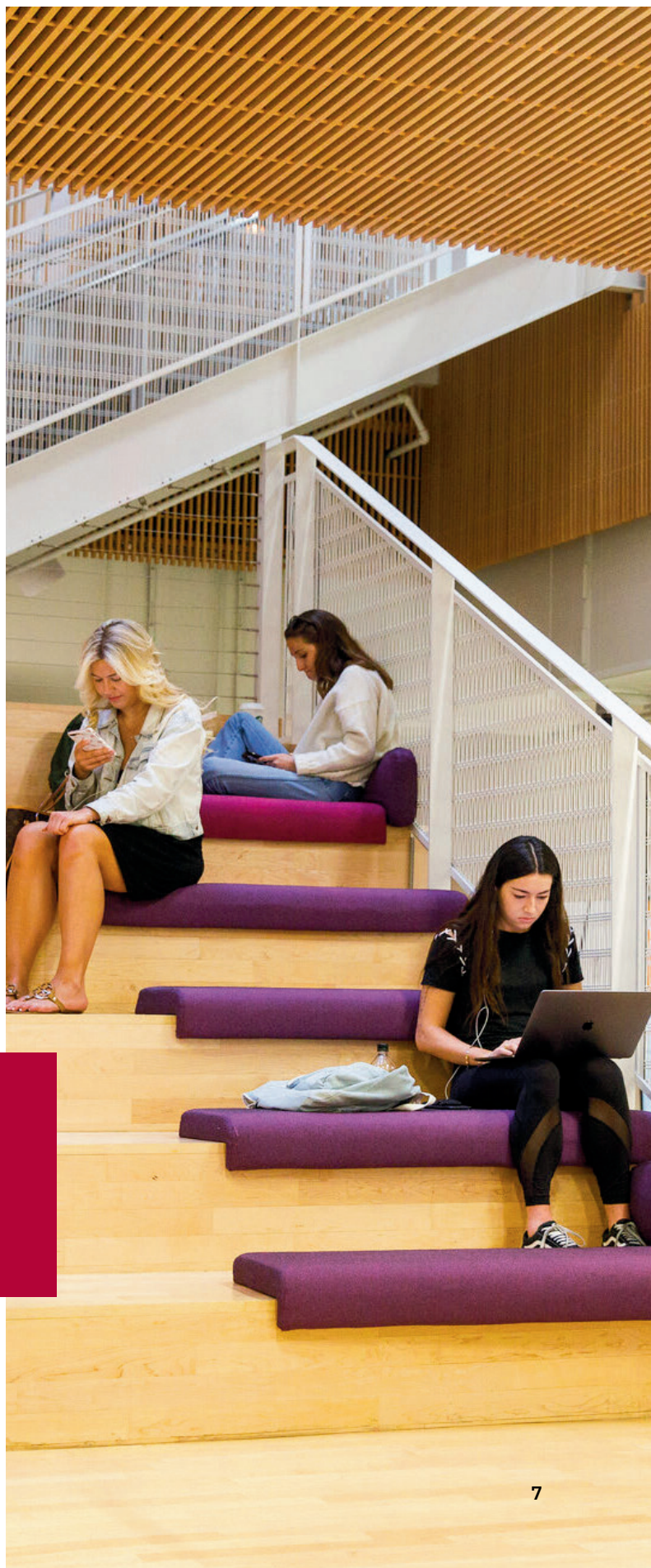
You should also familiarize yourself with the requirements for your intended degree and make good progress toward fulfilling them. Foreign language is a graduation requirement for many programs, including all Dornsife majors and several majors in other schools. Additionally, many programs—especially those in science and engineering—strongly recommend completing introductory, lower-division courses before transferring.

If you are still in high school, you should remain so and consider applying as a first-year candidate. Competitive transfer applicants complete high school graduation requirements and earn a high school diploma. USC discourages students from leaving high school merely with the intention of starting college early.

Successful Transfer Applicants Typically:

- Present strong academic performance. In 2024, the average college GPA of admitted transfer students was 3.79.
- Show consistent progress toward a degree with at least one year of rigorous, full-time academic coursework. Competitive candidates typically take 14-16 units per term.
- Complete the equivalent of USC's writing/ composition requirement, Writing 130.
- Meet our minimum math requirement by demonstrating a mastery of Algebra II in high school or Intermediate Algebra in college with a grade of C or better. Many majors require more math. See pages 12-15 for details.
- Make satisfactory progress toward meeting USC General Education requirements.
- Complete additional lower-division courses required by their intended major, if applicable. Refer to pages 12-15 to see if your intended major requires or recommends lower-division courses that should be completed before you transfer. This is especially important for students pursuing degrees in science, engineering, architecture or business.

Due to the competitive nature of our admission process, meeting these typical academic expectations does not guarantee admission.



Planning Your Coursework

When to Transfer

USC accepts both sophomore and junior transfer students.

By transferring as early as your sophomore year, you can take more of your General Education and elective courses at USC. You will be part of the USC community for a longer time and have more opportunities to get involved with campus life and make the connections that can help you after graduation.

If your academic record in high school fell short of USC expectations, however, you may be able to position yourself as a stronger candidate if you complete two years of solid undergraduate coursework at another institution before applying to transfer. Additionally, if you complete most of your General Education requirements before transferring, you will have more time to pursue a double major, a major-minor combination or a unit-heavy major while you are enrolled at USC.

Still in High School?

If you are still in high school, USC considers you a first-year applicant, regardless of the number of college units completed prior to high school graduation.

If you have questions about your class standing, please call the USC Office of Admission at (213) 740-1111.

Transfer Units

USC does not require a minimum number of transfer units. However, if you will have earned fewer than 30 transferable semester units by the end of the spring term, we will base our decision in part on your high school record and SAT or ACT scores (if you submit them).

Remedial Coursework

Placement exams offered at your current college will determine your need for any remedial coursework in writing and mathematics prior to your admission to USC. Remedial courses are not transferable.

Pass/No Pass Courses

In general, competitive applicants will take the vast majority of their courses for a letter grade, if offered by their institution. As many as 24 semester units may be taken on a Pass/No Pass basis for USC graduation. Only one GE Core Literacy course may be taken on a Pass/No Pass basis. Both GE Global Perspectives Courses (Categories G-H) may be taken on a Pass/No Pass basis. Please note that writing courses taken on a Pass/No Pass basis will not fulfill USC's lower-division writing/composition requirement.



Helpful Resources

Several resources are available to help you determine which courses and credits will transfer to USC. As a general rule, most courses that transfer to the University of California system will transfer to USC, although not all will fulfill the same requirements or offer the same equivalency.

Feel free to contact your USC admission counselor if you have any questions or concerns. To find your counselor, please visit admission.usc.edu/find-your-counselor.

Transfer Planning Worksheet

Beginning on the next page, the Transfer Planning Worksheet lays out USC's General Education requirements, and provides an overview of what writing/composition and math courses are required for admission.

You may also use this worksheet to help you keep track of the transferable GE courses you have completed and what courses are still in progress. Following the worksheet, you will find any lower-division, introductory coursework that may be recommended or required for your intended major.

Articulation Agreements

Transferring from a California community college:

USC works with many of California's community colleges to develop lists of courses that will be accepted for transfer credit. Known as articulation agreements, these lists indicate the courses that fulfill General Education and other

requirements, as well as equivalents to lower-division courses at USC. Articulation agreements are available online at arr.usc.edu/transfercredit.

Transferring from out-of-state community colleges:

Although USC does not have articulation agreements with out-of-state community colleges, most courses that will transfer to the flagship four-year public institutions in your state will transfer to USC.

Articulation Histories

Transferring from a four-year university:

Although USC does not maintain articulation agreements with four-year universities, detailed articulation histories are available through Transfer Information Sessions and other prospective student events. You may also contact the Office of Admission or visit arr.usc.edu/articulationhistories to learn what courses have transferred in the past and may transfer for credit.

Transfer Planning Guide

Intended primarily for students at California community colleges, this online resource will help you determine which undergraduate courses at other institutions will satisfy USC's General Education requirements, as well as the lower-division coursework required for your intended major.

Visit usc.edu/tpg, then select your college and major to generate a course list for the current academic year.



Scan the QR code to access our articulation histories and agreements





Transfer Planning Worksheet

General Education

USC's General Education program is designed to introduce you to a breadth of knowledge that will help you succeed in the 21st century. We require eight courses within the six Core Literacies: one course each in The Arts, Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Quantitative Reasoning; and two courses each in Humanistic Inquiry and Social Analysis.

Graduation Requirements

- Transfer students must complete at least two GE courses is residence at USC Dornsife College from among the six Core Literacy categories.
- Once enrolled at USC, students must complete all remaining GE Core Literacy requirements at USC.
- We require two courses in Global Perspectives: one in Equity in a Diverse World and one in Traditions and Historical Foundations.
- Some Global Perspectives courses will satisfy requirements in the Core Literacies as well. A single course can satisfy one Global Perspectives and one Core Literacy requirement at most.
- Transfer students are not required to complete the General Education Seminar (GESM) required of first-year students.
- A course taken at another institution must be at least 3 semester units or 4 quarter units to be eligible for GE credit.

Students who began college prior to fall 2015 should review General Education requirements at dornsife.usc.edu/ge/prefall2015ge and dornsife.usc.edu/ge/prefall2015diversity.

Courses Required for Admission

Writing and math are required for all transfer students. Students intending to study science, business, engineering, real estate development or architecture are required to complete additional courses before transferring. Refer to pages 12-15 for details.

Strong transfer candidates will enroll full time and complete 14-16 units, typically comprising four transferable courses, per term.

Writing/Composition

Strong writing skills are essential for success at USC. All undergraduates are required to take two writing courses: one lower-division course and one upper-division course.

The upper-division course must be taken at USC. However, successful transfer applicants will complete a course equivalent to the lower-division requirement, WRIT 130, before transferring to USC. Typically the second course in a college composition sequence satisfies this requirement. If your school does not offer a course equivalent to WRIT 130, you should take the strongest composition course available. This course may not be taken on a Pass/No Pass basis. Professional, technical, creative and remedial writing courses will not satisfy this requirement. If you are unsure whether your writing course is equivalent to WRIT 130 and it does not appear in our articulation agreements or histories, please keep the syllabus and papers for later review by USC.

Course _____ ☐ Completed ☐ In progress

Minimum Math

You are expected to have earned strong grades in at least three years of high school mathematics, including Advanced Algebra (Algebra II) or Intermediate Algebra at the college level with a grade of C or better. Majors in the natural and social sciences, business, real estate development, engineering, and architecture at USC require specific mathematics courses and achievement beyond this level. If lower-division mathematics courses are required by your major, we advise you to complete them early in your college studies, prior to applying to USC.

Please refer to "Additional Coursework by Major" on pages 12-15 to find out if your intended program of study requires additional coursework.

Course _____ ☐ Completed ☐ In progress

General Education Courses

CORE LITERACIES

GE-A	The Arts	GE-B	Humanistic Inquiry (2 Courses)	GE-C	Social Analysis (2 Courses)	GE-D	The Life Sciences	GE-E	The Physical Sciences	GE-F	Quantitative Reasoning
<p>Courses that meet this requirement enable students to engage with the arts by teaching them to analyze and engage with works of art, understanding the context of their creations and their connections to cultural issues.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable courses: Art History (must include cultural context), Intro to Film, Art Appreciation (Great Works), History of Architecture (must include cultural context), History of Music, History of Dance, History of Photography, Intro to Theatre, Modern Art, Contemporary Art, Music Appreciation, History of Jazz, History of Rock and Roll, Dramatic Literature (plays from all eras)</p> <p>Not acceptable: Studio, performance, theory or pre-professional courses</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement cultivate a critical appreciation for various forms of human expression by teaching students to evaluate works of literature, philosophy and the arts, and to think critically and formulate informed opinions about ideas and values.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable courses: Western Civilization, World Civilization, Intro to Philosophy, American Literature or English Literature, U.S. History, Intro to Religions, Eastern Religion, Western Religion, World Religions, Old Testament, New Testament, Mythology (Greek/Roman/World)</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement explore the causes and consequences of social phenomena by teaching students to apply the quantitative and qualitative methods of the social sciences to understand how people behave and influence the world through institutions and other cultural forms.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable courses: Cultural Anthropology, Intro to Environmental Studies (people and policy focused), Intro to Sociology, Intro to Political Science, Intro to American Government, Intro to International Relations, Intro to Peace and Conflict Studies, Language and Society</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement provide a scientific understanding of a full range of living systems, from molecules to ecosystems, by teaching students to understand how data is generated, presented and interpreted, and how scientific discovery spurs technological growth and impacts society.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable courses: General Biology, Physical Anthropology, Environmental Biology, Marine Biology</p> <p><i>Beginning fall 2022, courses must include an in-person lab component. Online or hybrid labs are not acceptable. Exceptions MAY be made for courses taken before fall 2022 if they were intended to be completed in person but moved online due to COVID-19.</i></p> <p>Not acceptable: Anatomy, Botany, Environmental Science, Intro to Psychology, Zoology</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement analyze natural phenomena through quantitative description and synthesis, teaching students to solve scientific problems and to understand the processes by which scientific knowledge is obtained, evaluated and placed in the context of societal relevance.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable courses: General Chemistry, Chemistry for Allied Health, General Physics, Oceanography, Elementary Astronomy, Physical Geography, Historical Geology, Physical Geology</p> <p><i>Beginning in fall 2022, courses must include an in-person lab component. Online or hybrid labs are not acceptable. Exceptions MAY be made for courses taken before fall 2022 if they were intended to be completed in person but moved online due to COVID-19.</i></p> <p>Not acceptable: Preparatory Chemistry</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement teach students to use a set of formal tools, such as logical or statistical inference, probability, or mathematical analysis to pose and evaluate hypotheses, claims, questions, or problems within a formal mode of thought.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable courses: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Pre-Calculus, College Algebra, Statistics, Finite Math, Calculus, Math for Liberal Arts, Calculus for Business</p> <p>Meeting this requirement with math placement test scores: Students may meet this requirement by earning a score of 22 on the USC Mathematics Placement Exam under certain conditions. Visit dornsife.usc.edu/ge/policies for more information.</p>	
<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To be completed at USC</p>		<p>Course</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To be completed at USC</p>		<p>Course</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To be completed at USC</p>		<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To be completed at USC</p>		<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To be completed at USC</p>		<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To be completed at USC</p>	

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

GE-G	Equity in a Diverse World	GE-H	Traditions and Historical Foundations
<p>Courses that meet this requirement enhance understanding of citizenship and moral agency in today's increasingly global society by teaching students to identify social, political, economic and cultural forces that bear on human experience in the U.S. and around the world.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable courses: Intro to International Relations, Intro to Peace and Conflict Studies, Contemporary Moral Issues</p> <p>Not acceptable: Courses that consider these issues in the context of a single country, such as the U.S.</p>		<p>Courses that meet this requirement examine the historical and cultural foundations of contemporary societies over a substantial period of time by teaching students to understand the enduring influence of literary, political, economic, philosophical, legal, ethical and religious traditions.</p> <p>Examples of acceptable courses: Art History (must include cultural context), History of Architecture (must include cultural context), Music History, History of Religion, History of [a particular region], History of Theatre, Western Civilization, World Civilization, U.S. History, Old Testament, New Testament, Mythology (Greek/Roman/World)</p> <p>Not acceptable: Intro to Religion (general); modern or contemporary history courses focused on the 20th century or later</p>	
<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> To be completed at USC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p>		<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> To be completed at USC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p>	

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

<p>Many degree programs require the third-level course of a foreign language. See the "Foreign Lang." column next to your intended major on pages 12-15. Students are encouraged to begin, if not finish, this requirement before transferring.</p> <p>Once at USC, transfers needing additional studies in foreign language must complete a placement exam before being allowed to register for courses.</p> <p>Students attending schools on the quarter system must complete the fifth-level course of a foreign language to satisfy this requirement. At some semester schools, a fourth-level course is equivalent to the third level at USC.</p> <p>A score of 4 or higher on an AP foreign language exam (other than Latin) can fulfill this requirement.</p> <p>Language courses taken fully or partially online do not satisfy this requirement.</p> <p><i>Exceptions MAY be made for courses taken before fall 2022 if they were intended to be completed in person but moved online due to COVID-19.</i></p>
<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> To be completed at USC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p>

MAJOR-RELATED COURSES

<p>Use this space to record courses for your intended major listed on pages 12-15.</p>
<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p>
<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p>
<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p>
<p>Course or Exam</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed <input type="checkbox"/> In progress</p>

Additional Coursework by Major

A strong application for admission will show solid progress toward your intended degree. The curricula of many undergraduate majors require lower-division, introductory coursework often available at other institutions. Students wishing to be more competitive in the applicant pool should consider completing the suggested courses listed for their major. For majors in business, engineering, real estate development, and architecture, completion of these courses is required for admission. Science majors can become stronger candidates for admission by completing the additional coursework listed.

The course numbers listed below are USC course numbers. Please visit arr.usc.edu/transfercredit to find an equivalent course at the college you attend.

Majors that require a third-level foreign language for graduation are indicated with a checkmark in the “FOREIGN LANG.” column.

Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences / dornsife.usc.edu		
MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Astronomy	✓	MATH 125 (Calculus I); MATH 126 (Calculus II); MATH 226 (Calculus III); MATH 245 (Mathematics of Physics and Engineering I); PHYS 151 (Fundamentals of Physics I: Mechanics and Thermodynamics); PHYS 152 (Fundamentals of Physics II: Electricity and Magnetism); PHYS 153 (Fundamentals of Physics III: Optics and Modern Physics)
Biological Sciences, Biochemistry	✓	BISC 120 (General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution); BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105ab (General Chemistry I and II); PHYS 135a (Physics for the Life Sciences I) or PHYS 151 (Fundamentals of Physics I: Mechanics and Thermodynamics); PHYS 135b (Physics for the Life Sciences II) or PHYS 152 (Fundamentals of Physics II: Electricity and Magnetism); MATH 125 (Calculus I). Biochemistry also recommends: MATH 126 (Calculus II)
Biophysics, Chemistry, Physics	✓	MATH 125 (Calculus I); MATH 126 (Calculus II); MATH 226 (Calculus III); CHEM 105ab (General Chemistry I and II); PHYS 151 (Fundamentals of Physics I: Mechanics and Thermodynamics); PHYS 152 (Fundamentals of Physics II: Electricity and Magnetism); PHYS 153 (Fundamentals of Physics III: Optics and Modern Physics) Additional recommendations per major: Biophysics also recommends: BISC 120 (General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution); BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); MATH 245 (Mathematics of Physics and Engineering I) Physics also recommends: MATH 245 (Mathematics of Physics and Engineering I)
Computational Neuroscience	✓	BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105a (General Chemistry I); PSYC 100 (Introduction to Psychology); MATH 125 (Calculus I); MATH 126 (Calculus II); PHYS 135ab (Physics for the Life Sciences I and II)
Earth Sciences	✓	GEOL 105 (Planet Earth) or GEOL 107 (Oceanography); CHEM 105a (General Chemistry I); MATH 118 (Fundamental Principles of the Calculus) or MATH 125 (Calculus I); BISC 120 (General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution); CHEM 105b (General Chemistry II) or PHYS 135a (Physics for the Life Sciences I)
Economics	✓	ECON 203 (Principles of Microeconomics); ECON 205 (Principles of Macroeconomics); MATH 118 (Fundamental Principles of the Calculus) or MATH 125 (Calculus I)
Economics/Mathematics	✓	ECON 203 (Principles of Microeconomics); ECON 205 (Principles of Macroeconomics); MATH 126 (Calculus II); MATH 225 (Linear Algebra and Linear Differential Equations) or MATH 245 (Mathematics of Physics and Engineering I); MATH 226 (Calculus III)
Environmental Science and Health	✓	BISC 120 (General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution); BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105ab (General Chemistry I and II) <i>For details regarding other course requirements visit dornsife.usc.edu/environmental-studies/environmental-science-and-health-major.</i>
Geological Sciences	✓	CHEM 105ab (General Chemistry I and II); GEOL 105 (Planet Earth); MATH 125 (Calculus I); MATH 126 (Calculus II); PHYS 135a (Physics for the Life Sciences I) or PHYS 151 (Fundamentals of Physics I: Mechanics and Thermodynamics) or BISC 120 (General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution); PHYS 135b (Physics for the Life Sciences II) or PHYS 152 (Fundamentals of Physics II: Electricity and Magnetism) or BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology)
Health and Human Sciences	✓	BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105a (General Chemistry I)
Human Biology	✓	BISC 120 (General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution); BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105ab (General Chemistry I and II);* MATH 108 (Contemporary Precalculus); MATH 125 (Calculus I);* PHYS 135a (Physics for the Life Sciences I) or PHYS 151 (Fundamentals of Physics I: Mechanics and Thermodynamics)* <i>*Not required for the B.A.</i>

Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences / dornsife.usc.edu

MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
International Relations	✓	Requires a fourth-level course of foreign language for degree completion.
International Relations (Global Business)	✓	ECON 203 (Principles of Microeconomics); ECON 205 (Principles of Macroeconomics); MATH 118 (Fundamental Principles of the Calculus)
International Relations & the Global Economy	✓	
Mathematics, Applied and Computational Mathematics	✓	MATH 125 (Calculus I); MATH 126 (Calculus II); MATH 225 (Linear Algebra and Linear Differential Equations); MATH 226 (Calculus III)
Neuroscience	✓	BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105a (General Chemistry I); PSYC 100 (Introduction to Psychology); MATH 125 (Calculus I) <i>The B.S. program in Neuroscience also requires CHEM 105b and PHYS 135ab.</i>
Physics/Computer Science	✓	MATH 125 (Calculus I); MATH 126 (Calculus II); MATH 225 (Linear Algebra and Linear Differential Equations); MATH 226 (Calculus III); MATH 245 (Mathematics of Physics and Engineering I); PHYS 151 (Fundamentals of Physics I: Mechanics and Thermodynamics); PHYS 152 (Fundamentals of Physics II: Electricity and Magnetism)
Political Science	✓	POSC 100 (Theory and Practice of American Democracy); POSC 120 (Comparative Politics)
Psychology	✓	PSYC 100 (Introduction to Psychology); MATH 114 (Foundation of Statistics)
Sociology	✓	SOCI 200 (Introduction to Sociology)
All other majors	✓	Courses vary. Visit dornsife.usc.edu/majors .

Iovine and Young Academy / iovine-young.usc.edu

MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation (B.S.)		<p>Required for admission: In addition to the Common Application, applicants are required to submit a portfolio of their work. Select candidates will be invited to a virtual admission interview. Please visit the Iovine and Young Academy website for complete details.</p> <p>Please note the Academy curriculum is sequential and may require three to four years at USC to complete, depending on how many General Education courses are satisfied prior to transfer.</p> <p>Required for admission: The Business of Innovation major requires MATH 118 (Fundamental Principles of the Calculus or Math 125 (Calculus 1). The calculus course must be completed by the end of the spring semester for admission consideration. Fall completion is preferred.</p>
Business of Innovation (B.S.)		

USC School of Architecture / arch.usc.edu

MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Architecture		<p>Required for admission: MATH 108 (Contemporary Precalculus)</p> <p>Recommended course: PHYS 125 (Physics for Architects) or PHYS 135ab (Physics for the Life Sciences I & II)</p> <p>The five-year Bachelor of Architecture program is a professional degree accredited by the National Architecture Accrediting Board (NAAB).</p> <p>All transfer applicants must submit a portfolio directly to the School of Architecture via uscarch.slideroom.com. Consult the School of Architecture program website for instructions.</p> <p>Placement level and the amount of time to complete the studio sequence are dependent on skill level, not unit count.</p> <p>Submit a recommendation from a college/university instructor or your college academic advisor via Slideroom. Letters from high school teachers or counselors will not be accepted.</p> <p>When selecting General Education courses, please focus on Categories B, C, D, G and H. If you are admitted to the B.Arch program, Categories A, E and F will be fulfilled by major requirements.</p>

Roski School of Art and Design / roski.usc.edu

MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Art (B.A.)	✓	<p>All transfer applicants must upload a portfolio of 10-15 images of recent artwork (completed within the past two years), prompt-based artist essay, and a list of creative accomplishments to roski.slideroom.com. See Roski website for more details.</p> <p>Submit two letters of recommendation from current or former art instructors via Slideroom.</p> <p>When selecting General Education courses, please focus on Categories C, D, E or F. Categories A, B, G and H will be fulfilled by major requirements.</p> <p>All studio courses taken outside USC are subject to an online portfolio review by Roski faculty prior to granting credit for them. For this reason, if you are admitted, prepare to submit additional portfolios of appropriate artwork and syllabi for each art or design course taken.</p>
Design (BFA)		
Fine Arts (BFA)		

Majors that require a third-level foreign language for graduation are indicated with a checkmark in the “FOREIGN LANG.” column.

Marshall School of Business & Leventhal School of Accounting / marshall.usc.edu

MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Business & Accounting		<p>Required for admission: MATH 118 (Fundamental Principles of the Calculus) or MATH 125 (Calculus I)</p> <p>The calculus course must be completed by the end of the spring semester for admission consideration. Fall completion is preferred.</p> <p>All upper-division business core courses and major electives must be taken at USC. Business courses completed at another college or university may earn general elective credit.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>It is recommended that students enroll in available General Education courses.</p>

USC School of Cinematic Arts / cinema.usc.edu

MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
<p>All undergraduate applicants must submit a SlideRoom application in addition to the Common App. The application deadline for BFA programs is December 1, 2024. Visit cinema.usc.edu/admissions/apply.cfm for details.</p> <p>In addition to the general math and writing requirements, applicants to Cinematic Arts majors are encouraged to complete as many General Education requirements as possible before transferring.</p> <p>Those applying for the BA programs (Film & Television Production, Cinema & Media Studies, and Media Arts + Practice) should also complete the third level of a foreign language.</p>		
Animation + Digital Arts (BFA)		Animation & Digital Arts applicants: These courses of study will require four years to complete, regardless of the number of units transferred.
Cinema & Media Studies (B.A.)	✓	Film & Television Production applicants: Applicants must complete at least 48 transferable semester units through the spring term, not including courses or exam credit completed during high school.
Film & Television Production (B.A.)	✓	Game Art applicants: This program will require three years to complete, regardless of the number of units transferred.
Game Art (BFA)		Game Development and Interactive Design applicants: These programs will require three years to complete, regardless of the number of units transferred.
Game Development and Interactive Design (BFA)		Media Arts + Practice applicants: These programs will require three years to complete, regardless of the number of units transferred.
Media Arts + Practice (B.A.)	✓	Themed Entertainment applicants: This program will require three years to complete, regardless of the number of units transferred.
Themed Entertainment (BFA)		Writing for Screen & Television applicants: These courses of study will require four years to complete, regardless of the number of units transferred.
Writing for Screen & Television (BFA)		

Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism / annenberg.usc.edu

MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
<p>The best preparation for an Annenberg major is progress toward completing the USC General Education program and having completed at least one level of a foreign language.</p> <p>In addition: A letter of recommendation is optional.</p>		
Communication	✓	Communication applicants: Communication courses taken at another college or university will not count toward the Communication major.
Journalism	✓	Journalism and Public Relations applicants: You may transfer in a maximum of 12 units of advertising, journalism and public relations courses for elective credit only.
Public Relations and Advertising	✓	Please visit annenberg.usc.edu/admissions/undergraduate-applicants for detailed information.

Kaufman School of Dance / kaufman.usc.edu

MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Dance (BFA)		<p>In addition to the Common Application, all applicants are required to submit the USC Kaufman Portfolio, which includes a pre-screening video, a dance résumé and photographs, via SlideRoom.</p> <p>When selecting General Education courses, please focus on Categories B, C, E, and F. Categories A, D, G, and H, as well as one course in Category B, will be fulfilled through the BFA core program.</p> <p>Select students will be invited to audition.</p> <p>Please visit kaufman.usc.edu/apply for complete details.</p> <p>Please note that although current USC and transfer students are welcome to apply, the BFA program requires four years to complete at USC.</p>

USC School of Dramatic Arts / dramaticarts.usc.edu

MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Dramatic Arts (B.A.)	✓	<p>There is no audition or portfolio review component for B.A. applicants. The B.A. deadline for transfer applicants is February 15, 2025.</p> <p>BFA applicants to programs in Acting, Musical Theatre, Sound Design, Theatrical Design, Stage Management and Technical Direction are required to submit pre-screen materials or a portfolio. A select number of applicants will be invited for a second round of review. The BFA deadline for all applicants is December 1, 2024.</p> <p>Please visit dramaticarts.usc.edu/programs/undergraduate/apply for complete details.</p>
Dramatic Arts (BFA)		

Viterbi School Of Engineering / viterbiadmission.usc.edu		
MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Engineering & Computer Science (all majors)		<p>Applicants to any engineering or computer science degree program are strongly encouraged to review the detailed instructions and transfer course plans at viterbiadmission.usc.edu/transfer. Specific instructions and counseling vary by degree program.</p> <p>Required for admission: Two courses of calculus (or higher-level math beyond calculus) after high school with a minimum of MATH 126 (Calculus II) in progress at the time of application.</p> <p>Science or Computer Programming courses: All applicants must complete lab-based science or computer programming courses as determined by their desired major at USC. Please see the above Viterbi School transfer website for specific course advisement.</p>
Davis School Of Gerontology / gero.usc.edu		
MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Human Development and Aging (Health Science track)		<p>Courses recommended for the Health Science track include: BISC 120 (General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution); BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105ab (General Chemistry I and II); MATH 125 (Calculus I); PHYS 135ab (Physics for the Life Sciences I and II); CHEM 322ab (Organic Chemistry I and II). There is no foreign language requirement for the Health Science track.</p> <p><i>Students pursuing the Human Development and Aging (Social Science track) and Lifespan Health degrees must meet a foreign language or computer programming requirement.</i></p>
Human Development and Aging (Social Science track)	✓	
Lifespan Health	✓	
Gould School of Law / gould.usc.edu		
MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Legal Studies (B.S.)		There are no specific recommended preparatory courses. However, classes taken in the following fields will be valuable to entering students: writing, history, political science, and English, along with social sciences and humanities-related classes.
Keck School of Medicine / keck.usc.edu pphs.usc.edu		
MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Global Health	✓	BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105a (General Chemistry); ECON 203 (Principles of Microeconomics); MATH 125 (Calculus I)
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention	✓	BISC 120 (General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution); BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105a (General Chemistry); MATH 108 (Contemporary Precalculus) or MATH 125 (Calculus I)*; PSYC 100 (Introduction to Psychology) <i>*Required for pre-health students.</i>
Thornton School of Music / music.usc.edu		
MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Music Industry (B.S.)		<p>The B.S. in Music Industry requires four units of Economics coursework, which can be satisfied with any ECON course number 100-499.</p> <p>The B.S. in Music Industry also requires an accounting course that covers managerial and financial accounting. Course(s) that cover both topics can satisfy this requirement. During orientation, incoming transfer students will be required to provide their academic advisor with a syllabus to confirm that their accounting course(s) covered both topics.</p> <p>In addition to the Common Application, all undergraduate applicants must submit a Thornton SlideRoom Portfolio. The transfer application deadline for all Thornton programs is December 1, 2024. Visit music.usc.edu/admission for detailed information about how to apply and required supplemental materials. Visit music.usc.edu/admission/transfer for more information about transferring to the Thornton School.</p>
Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences / mann.usc.edu		
MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Biopharmaceutical Sciences (B.S.)		<p>MATH 108 (Contemporary Precalculus); or MATH 118 (Fundamental Principles of the Calculus); or MATH 125 (Calculus I)*; BISC 120 (General Biology: Organismal Biology and Evolution)*; BISC 220 (General Biology: Cell Biology and Physiology); CHEM 105a (General Chemistry); CHEM 105b (General Chemistry)</p> <p><i>*Required for pre-pharmacy students.</i></p>
Pharmacology and Drug Development (B.S.)		
Price School of Public Policy / priceschool.usc.edu		
MAJOR	FOREIGN LANG.	RECOMMENDED PREPARATION
Public Policy		<p>Public Policy, and Urban Studies and Planning, both require MATH 117 (Introduction to Mathematics for Business and Economics); ECON 203 (Principles of Microeconomics).</p> <p>Required for admission: The Real Estate Development major requires ECON 203 (Principles of Microeconomics) and one of the following: MATH 117 (Introduction to Mathematics for Business and Economics), MATH 118 (Fundamental Principles of the Calculus) or MATH 125 (Calculus I).</p>
Real Estate Development		
Urban Studies and Planning		

Transfer Credit Policies

Units That Must Be Earned at USC

With a few exceptions, transfer students must complete a minimum of 64 units in residence at USC, or half the units typically required for graduation.

While in residence at USC, you are also expected to:

- Complete all upper-division units in your major and minor.
- Complete WRIT 340, a minimum of two Core Literacy GE courses from a Dornsife College department, and any remaining General Education courses not taken before entering USC.
- Take all your fall and spring semester courses for credit at USC. Courses may be taken at other institutions only during summer sessions, with limitations.

Exceptions:

- **Engineering 3+2 Program:** Students must complete a minimum of 48 units in residence at USC. At least two out of three years of any transferable coursework must be completed at one of USC's four-year partner institutions.
- **Bachelor of Architecture:** Students must earn at least 80 units at USC. A maximum of 70 of the transferable units for this program may be earned elsewhere.

Transfer Unit Limits

USC limits the transfer of credit in certain categories. You may transfer up to:

- Sixty-four (64) units of credit from other institutions, except where noted.
- Four (4) units each of English as a Second Language, physical education activity courses and music ensemble courses.
- Eight (8) units of dance.
- Twelve (12) units of physical education theory courses.
- Sixteen (16) units of individual instruction in music.
- Other studio and performing arts classes are also limited.

Please keep copies of your syllabi and all major-related coursework (exams and papers) in case you need to petition for credit.

Courses/Units That Will Transfer

Accredited courses: Coursework completed at, or degrees from, U.S. institutions accredited by the six regional accrediting agencies are generally accepted. Coursework completed at international post-secondary institutions approved by the local Ministry of Education as degree-granting institutions may also transfer.

Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), A-Level and other standardized examinations: We accept a maximum of 32 units for standardized examinations.

Please visit arr.usc.edu/transfercrredit for a list of standardized exams and the course requirements they fulfill.

College courses taken during high school: We accept a maximum of 16 units, which are included in the 32-unit combined maximum for exam credits. These courses must be part of the regular college curriculum, taught by college faculty and open to all full-time students at that college. They can fulfill General Education requirements, but they cannot fulfill the writing or foreign language requirements nor receive equivalence to USC courses.

Courses/Units That May Transfer

Nontraditional formats/time frames: Distance-learning, online courses, concentrated "intensive" sessions, special weekend modules, and other nontraditional course formats and time frames will be considered by petition, and credit is granted on a case-by-case basis. Be sure to keep copies of course syllabi, exams and papers, as we may ask for these in making our determination.

Please note that elective units only—not equivalence to USC courses or fulfillment of requirements—are granted for foreign language and laboratory science courses taught via distance learning, TV, or in an online or correspondence course.

Exceptions MAY be made for foreign language or laboratory science courses taken before fall 2022 if they were intended to be completed in person but moved online due to COVID-19.



Courses/Units That Will Not Transfer

Unaccredited institutions:

Coursework or degrees completed at U.S. institutions not accredited by a regional accrediting agency.

Low grades: Courses in which your grade was lower than C- (1.7).

No degree credit: College extension courses and courses taken at international institutions not credited toward a degree at that college.

Courses in areas of study not offered by USC: These include agriculture, business office procedures, hotel management, food services, industrial mechanics, interior design, fire science, forestry, police academy, and similar professional and technical programs.

Duplicated material: Standardized exams or college courses covering the same material.

Life and work experience:

Including portfolio work, continuing education, equivalency examination units, and courses offered by business and governmental agencies (even if evaluated by the American Council on Education).

Placement exams: Courses and/or unit credits awarded by another institution for placement exams or credit by exam.

Remedial/college prep/personal development: Including mathematics courses below the level of college-level algebra. (Intermediate Algebra, USC's minimum math requirement for admission, is not transferable.)

Nontraditional formats at two-year colleges: Including independent study, directed study, correspondence courses, internships and travel courses.

Graduate-level courses: Graduate-level coursework taken by undergraduate students.

Determining Your Transfer GPA

USC calculates your transfer GPA on the basis of your grades in all USC-transferable courses, including grades of D and below. Plus and minus grading is taken into account. Expired incompletes, unofficial withdrawals and missing grades are treated as an F. Credit/No Credit and Pass/No Pass marks are not included in the transfer GPA.

USC does not honor other colleges' academic "renewal" or "forgiveness" programs that permit students to improve a substandard grade. If you repeat a transferable course for which you earned a grade of D+ or lower, both grades will be included in your transfer GPA. If the grade on the first course was a C- or higher, only the first grade is included.

Your transfer GPA is different from the GPA earned in courses you take at USC. The transfer GPA and your USC GPA are kept separate until it is time to determine if you are eligible to graduate and earn graduation honors, as described in the *USC Catalogue*.

Academic Standards and Requirements

The *USC Catalogue* is the document of authority on policy matters, and it changes from time to time. It provides complete information about academic standards governing coursework taken at other colleges, as well as specific requirements for your major field. Please visit catalogue.usc.edu for the most current version.

Financial Aid

USC administers one of the largest financial aid programs in the United States, with a long tradition of meeting the full USC-determined financial need of applicants who meet all eligibility requirements and deadlines. In the 2023-2024 academic year, more than \$902 million in financial aid was awarded from all sources to more than 15,000 undergraduate students.

2024-2025 Estimated Cost of Attendance

The following are estimated costs for a full-time USC undergraduate (taking 12-18 units each semester) living in university housing:

Tuition	\$69,904
Fees	\$1,743
Housing	\$12,271
Food	\$7,660
Books and supplies	\$1,200
Personal and miscellaneous	\$2,006
Transportation	\$441
<hr/>	
Total	\$95,225

(Add \$450 New Student Fee for your first semester.)

Undergraduate financial aid includes federal, state and university need-based grants; merit scholarships; and Federal Work-Study and loans* for students and parents.

Financial Aid Calculators

financialaid.usc.edu/calculators

Receive an initial estimate of any need-based financial aid you may qualify for. Designed specifically for transfer students, the **MyinTuition Quick Cost Calculator** does not require detailed financial information and takes only a few minutes to use.

More than two-thirds of USC undergraduates receive some form of financial aid. In 2023-2024, nearly 80 percent of that aid was in the form of grants and scholarships. Merit scholarships and need-based grants are awarded on the basis of academic merit and/or demonstrated need, respectively, and do not need to be repaid.

To apply for financial aid, you must submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the CSS Profile. **Transfer students must apply by March 3, 2025, to be considered for all available funding and to ensure timely notification of their financial aid eligibility.**

The USC Payment Plan and other payment options are also available. Please visit sfs.usc.edu for more information.

**Federal student loans are required by law to provide a range of flexible repayment options, including but not limited to Income-Based Repayment and Income-Contingent Repayment plans, as well as loan forgiveness benefits, which other student loans are not required to provide. Direct Loans are available to students regardless of income.*



Campus Support Centers

A number of resources are available for transfer students—including housing, the Veterans Resource Center, and Academic Counseling Services—which can help ease the transition to life at USC.

Housing

Most USC students prefer to live near campus. Although university-owned housing may be available, housing for transfer students is not guaranteed, and many students choose to rent privately owned apartments nearby, many of which have been vetted by the university. housing.usc.edu

USC Veterans Resource Center

Through an array of affiliated services and programs, the USC Veterans Resource Center helps ease the transition to USC for military veterans. Services range from academic and career counseling, to financial aid and veteran benefits information, to religious life. vrc.usc.edu

First Generation Plus Success Center

The First Generation Plus Success Center (FG+SC) serves as a resource hub for current first-generation, undocumented, former foster youth and transfer students as they navigate campus. The center's mission is to create a culture of belonging and inclusion that will facilitate the transition into college life. firstgenplussc.usc.edu

Cultural Centers

USC Student Life runs our Student Equity and Inclusion Programs, which focus on intersectionality, belonging and well-being. seip.usc.edu



Meet Us

Detailed information about events can be found at admission.usc.edu/meet-us.

Transfer Information Sessions

An admission counselor will discuss how courses transfer to USC and what makes for a competitive transfer application.

Campus Tours

Experience our campus and learn about all that USC has to offer.

Academic Information Sessions

Hear from department representatives about your specific major and the opportunities available in your program of interest.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are USC's admission requirements different for students transferring from outside California?

No. Admission requirements are the same for all students, regardless of their state of residence. Also, because USC is a private university, all students are charged the same tuition and fees.

If my college grades are excellent, but my high school record was just average, could that affect my admission to USC?

If you complete at least 30 transferable college semester units in a strong academic program, our decision focuses primarily on that work. If you have earned fewer than 30 units at the college level, however, your admission will depend on a combination of your high school record, results of any (optional) SAT or ACT tests taken during high school, and college courses completed to date.

What if I did not graduate high school?

If there are special or extenuating circumstances that prevented you from graduating high school, please submit your GED or similar leaving certificate with a statement of explanation. We also require transcripts listing any high school work you did complete. USC discourages students from leaving high school merely with the intention of starting college earlier. International applicants are also expected to earn the equivalent of a full high school diploma in their home country. If your high school record indicates weak preparation for a rigorous college-level curriculum, we will expect to see a strong turnaround in your college coursework.

Will it be difficult to transfer to USC's semester schedule if I'm at a quarter-system school?

No. Quarter-system schools are usually compatible with USC's fall and spring-semester start dates. To determine their semester equivalent, divide quarter units earned by 1.5 (for example, 45 quarter units equal 30 semester units). Courses must be at least 4 quarter units to earn equivalence or General Education credit at USC.

Does USC have a math requirement?

USC expects students to have mastered the equivalent of Intermediate Algebra with at least a C grade. Some programs require students to take a higher level math course before applying to USC. Students who did not complete Advanced Algebra (Algebra II) in high school should plan to take Intermediate Algebra or a more advanced course at the college level.

Students will be required to complete the General Education program to meet degree requirements. Refer to the "Planning Your Coursework" section of this guide for more detailed information.

Due to disruptions caused by COVID-19, exceptions may apply to courses taken before fall 2022. Please note, however, that transfer applicants must still meet the minimum math requirement by earning a C or better in the required math courses.

How can I be sure of the exact requirements of my major?

The *USC Catalogue* provides official lists of degree programs and their graduation requirements. Visit catalogue.usc.edu for the most current version. Admission requirements can be found on pages 12-15 of this brochure.

When will I get my admission decision?

You will receive either an admission decision or a request for more information, such as spring grades, by May 30. If we require more information, you may not receive a decision until mid-July.

Can you evaluate my credits before I apply to USC?

Credit evaluations are initiated for committed students only. For help before you apply, access our Transfer Planning Guide at usc.edu/tpg. (See page 9 for more details.) Additionally, your college transfer counselors can help you review our articulation agreements and histories, as well as our admission policies.

Does the competitiveness of my intended major affect my chances of admission?

In addition to the intended major, we consider every applicant's second-choice major. Even so, we cannot always find spaces for the many capable students who are not recommended for their intended fields of study.

Can I transfer classes taken Pass/No Pass or Credit/No Credit?

In general, we discourage students from taking required courses on a Pass/No Pass basis when letter grading is available, as this may negatively affect an admission decision. Transfer students can, however, take as many as 24 semester units on a Pass/No Pass basis, including up to four units of GE Core Literacy requirements for graduation.

Exceptions:

- Composition courses cannot be taken as Pass/No Pass.
- If a course is offered only as Pass/No Pass, these limits do not apply.

Does USC consider the rigor of my college or university?

We are primarily concerned with the specific coursework you chose and the grades you earned. We then evaluate your work within the context of your institution.

Does USC accept courses used to fulfill the IGETC?

USC has its own distinct General Education requirements. The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) was developed for the University of California and California State University systems, and coursework within IGETC does not automatically fulfill our GE requirements. However, courses used to fulfill the IGETC are generally transferable to USC.

Can I afford to attend?

Because we are committed to making a USC education affordable, the university works to meet the USC-determined financial need of all eligible admitted undergraduate students. USC also offers a payment plan and other financing options.

How can I find out about scholarships?

All students who submit a complete application for admission by February 15, 2025, will be automatically considered for the Transfer Merit Scholarship offered by the Office of Admission. Visit admission.usc.edu/scholarships for complete information. Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines.

Many agencies, foundations and corporations also offer scholarships. Check with the financial aid office or transfer center at your current college, search online or visit a public library for books that list funding sources.

Visit financialaid.usc.edu for information about some of these online sources.

Is it possible to attend USC part-time?

Yes, but it is not common. Part-time students pay the per-unit tuition rate rather than the flat fee, and you must be enrolled at least half-time to qualify for financial aid. Most undergraduate students attend USC on a full-time basis. Undergraduate coursework at USC may not be completed through evening-only or fully online programs.

Can I complete my degree at USC by taking evening classes only?

Probably not. Although some night courses are offered each semester, most of the courses you will need to complete your degree will be offered only during the day.

May I apply for the spring semester?

We do not accept applications for spring admission, but all applicants who apply for fall admission are considered for a place in the following spring semester class.

What are the admission requirements for international students?

In addition to the Common App and supporting materials listed on page 3, international students are required to provide a Financial Statement. If your native language is not English, you will be required to provide proof of English proficiency. Note that DACA and undocumented students are not considered international applicants. Details can be found at admission.usc.edu/international.

How can I receive the USC Catalogue?

The most current version of the *USC Catalogue* is available online at catalogue.usc.edu.

If I have more questions, where can I find answers?

Many of your questions—and some you may not have even thought about—will be answered during a Transfer Information Session (see the Meet Us section on page 19 for details).

We encourage you to check out admission.usc.edu/transfer for a wealth of information, or visit admission.usc.edu/contact to contact the Office of Admission.

You can also find the USC admission counselor for your current school at admission.usc.edu/find-your-counselor.

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