The University
The University of South Carolina Upstate (formerly USC Spartanburg), is a coeducational, public, comprehensive metropolitan institution that is located in Spartanburg along the thriving economic I-85 corridor between Atlanta and Charlotte. The University's numerous partnerships with public and private corporations and other educational institutions, coupled with the mission to offer baccalaureate education to the citizens of the Upstate of South Carolina, led to a name change on June 30, 2004.

As a senior comprehensive public institution of the University of South Carolina, the University's primary responsibilities are to offer baccalaureate education to the citizens of the Upstate of South Carolina and to offer selected master's degrees in response to regional demand. We offer bachelor's degree programs in the liberal arts and sciences, business administration, nursing and teacher education, as well as master's degrees in education. And we continue to create a host of new academic majors each year, most recently information management and systems, nonprofit administration, special education, graphic design, and a master's degree in teaching the visually impaired.

Today, USC Upstate is among the fastest growing universities in South Carolina. Our thriving campus, which includes 330 acres, new roadways, an athletic complex, residential housing for 1,000, an enrollment of 5,500 students, a minority enrollment exceeding 33 percent, and a Health Education Complex, is much different from its early, rather humble beginnings. USC Upstate has a Greenville campus for commuting junior and senior level students, which enrolls more than 1,000 students each year. And, the George Dean Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics in downtown Spartanburg, that opened in May 2010.

The Spartanburg campus is a dynamic hub of activity. Magnolia House, which opened in fall 2009, is a coeducational facility housing freshmen students only. Its 87 suites will house up to 346 students in single or double rooms and handicap-accessible units. The Palmetto House is a co-educational facility housing a combination of freshmen and upperclassmen students. Both housing facilities boast computer rooms, open areas, laundry facilities, keyless entry and wireless Internet. Students often gather at the Louis P. Howell Athletic Complex, one of the Southeast's top sports venues, to cheer on the Spartans in baseball, softball, tennis and soccer.

USC Upstate is home to 5,500 students from 38 states and 71 nations. It offers challenging, first-rate academic courses, small class sizes, personal experiences, remarkable diversity, an expansive international community, and a dynamic campus life. Our acclaimed and accredited academic programs create real opportunities for our students to build bridges to their future through internships, field services, study abroad, and more.

USC Upstate inspires its students to grow intellectually, culturally, socially and emotionally. Students are also challenged to think critically and to prepare themselves for the professional challenges that lie ahead. As a first-year student, we don't expect you to have all of the answers. That's why we have an extensive network of academic support services to help guide the way, including our innovative Student Success Center, Opportunity Network, the Writing Lab and Career Center.

Just as it offers academic excellence, USC Upstate also offers a comprehensive athletics program competing on the NCAA Division I level as a member of the Atlantic Sun Conference. The Spartans field 17 varsity sports -- basketball, soccer, tennis, golf, cross country, and track and field for both women and men; baseball for men; and softball and volleyball for women. The USC Upstate athletics department is a diverse, dynamic, and widely successful arm of the university, one that promotes teamwork, leadership, and an overall sense of community both on campus and in the greater Upstate region of South Carolina.

Parallel to the growth and expansion of the University is the steadily climbing base of USC Upstate alumni. Forty-four years after its founding, USC Upstate boasts an alumni base of more than 19,000; 85 percent of whom remain in the Upstate to build their lives and careers.

Mission Statement

University of South Carolina Upstate aims to become one of the Southeast's leading "metropolitan" universities ... a university that acknowledges as its fundamental reason for being its relationship to expanding populations along the I-85 corridor. It aims to be recognized nationally among its peer metropolitan institutions for its excellence in education and commitment to its students, for its involvement in the Upstate, and for the clarity and integrity of its metropolitan mission.

As a senior public institution of the University of South Carolina with a comprehensive residential campus in Spartanburg and commuting and degree completion operations at the University Center of Greenville, the University's primary responsibilities are to offer baccalaureate education to the citizens of the Upstate of South Carolina and to offer selected master's degrees in response to regional demand.

USC Upstate strives to prepare its students to participate as responsible citizens in a diverse, global and knowledge-based society, to pursue excellence in their chosen careers and to continue learning throughout life. Curricula and services are designed for the University's students, four to seven thousand in headcount, who are diverse in background, age, race, ethnicity, educational experience and academic goals. Students are drawn in large proportion from the Upstate where many choose to remain for their careers. A broad range of major curricula are provided in arts and sciences and in professional fields of study required by the regional economy, including business, education, and nursing. Through on-site instruction, distance learning, continuing education and inter-institutional articulation agreements, both traditional students and working professionals are served across the region.

Consistent with the international character of the Upstate, the University promotes global perspectives across its programs. Supporting the regional employment objectives of most of its students, it provides extensive experiential learning opportunities.
The University's metropolitan mission rests upon a foundation of partnerships with the education, corporate and service organizations of the Upstate. The faculty provides leadership in promoting the Upstate's economic, social and cultural development. This is achieved through its teaching, professional and public service, basic and applied scholarship and research, and creative endeavors.

Vision Statement

USC Upstate will emerge as "the metropolitan university of South Carolina" and one of the leading metropolitan universities of the Southeast, recognized as a center of superb teaching, experiential learning, regional partnerships, international opportunity, cultural diversity, and dynamic community activity.

History

The history of the University of South Carolina Upstate is a chronicle of remarkable development. In 1967, the university was founded in response to efforts undertaken by G.B. Hodge, M.D., together with fellow members of the Spartanburg County Commission for Higher Education, and a remarkably strong founding faculty primarily to avert a serious health care labor shortage crisis when Spartanburg General Hospital announced plans to eliminate its diploma program for registered nurses. A citizen's committee investigated the situation and ultimately requested that Spartanburg be included in the University of South Carolina system.

The Spartanburg Regional Campus, as it was first known, opened its doors in the fall of 1967 to 177 students on the first floor of the Spartanburg General Hospital nursing residence. Enrollment continued to increase, which resulted in the school becoming a four-year university in 1975 and being renamed the University of South Carolina Spartanburg.

Since its founding, USC Upstate has grown from a small, two-year campus into one of the leading metropolitan universities in the Southeast. This growth has been a direct response to the needs of the Upstate — a tradition that began with the University's creation. The University has expanded well beyond nursing to include 40 bachelor's programs in the liberal arts, sciences, business, information management and systems, teacher education and nursing. In 1994, the University moved to the graduate level, with master's degree programs in elementary education and early childhood education. The University's numerous partnerships with public and private corporations and other educational institutions, coupled with the mission to offer baccalaureate education to the citizens of the Upstate of South Carolina, led to a name change. On June 30, 2004, with USC Board of Trustees approval, USCSC changed its name to the University of South Carolina Upstate.

Accreditation

The University of South Carolina Upstate is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate and masters degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of USC Upstate. Business programs are accredited by AACSB International — The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (600 Emerson Road, Suite 300, St. Louis, Mo. 63141-6762; Telephone 314-872-8481). Nursing programs are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) (1 Dupont Circle Northwest, Suite 530, Washington, D.C. 20036, 1-202-463-6903).

Undergraduate education programs are accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (2010 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Suite 500, Washington D.C. 20036-1023; Telephone202-466-7496). The Bachelor of Science in Computer Science program is accredited by ABET — Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology Inc. (111 Market Place, Suite 1050, Baltimore, Md. 21202-4002; Telephone 410-347-7700).

Public Service

In addition to academic excellence, USC Upstate is dedicated to public service activities. Among the University's initiatives in this area:

The Scholars Academy is a joint venture of the University of South Carolina Upstate and the seven Spartanburg County school districts to provide advanced learners with a quality education in a supportive learning environment. Its mission is to attract and graduate students with a life-long passion for learning and compassion for others, and enable them to translate academic study and personal concern into effective leadership and action in their communities and the world.

Ninth and tenth grade students are taught and supervised primarily by a cadre of selected Spartanburg county school teachers. In addition, students take some college coursework. Eleventh and twelfth graders enroll in a combination of mostly Advanced Placement and college courses. Students graduate with a high school diploma and as much as two years of college course credits.

Twenty-five students from seven Spartanburg county public high schools were invited to attend the Academy in its initial year of operation during the 2007-08 academic year. There is no charge for students to attend the Academy as the project is funded through the Voluntary Public School Choice Grant program. For additional information, interested parents and students may visit the Scholars Academy website at the following address: http://www.uscupstate.edu/scholars_academy.

USC Upstate administers ACHIEVE, a youth GED and employment program, in Cherokee, Spartanburg and Union counties. The program provides employability training and job placement, instruction and career activities for high school dropouts.

Upward Bound is a program of intensive instruction, tutoring, social and cultural activities designed to increase high school student's motivation and personal and academic skills to levels necessary for success beyond high school. Upward Bound works primarily with students who are low-income and/or potential first generation college students. Upward Bound is totally funded, by a Title IV grant awarded to the University of South Carolina Upstate by the U.S. Department of Education.