Academic Regulations
Phi Kappa Phi, dedicated to the recognition and promotion of academic excellence in all fields of higher education, is the nation's oldest and largest all-discipline honor society. Membership in Phi Kappa Phi is by invitation only. Those invited to membership include the top 7.5 percent of last-term juniors and the top 10 percent of seniors, along with outstanding graduate students, faculty, professional staff, and alumni.

Pi Sigma Alpha is the national political science honor society. The Nu Kappa chapter was chartered at USC Upstate in 1982. Membership is open to students who attain a B average, both overall and in political science courses. Applicants must have completed 10 semester hours in political science and be ranked in the upper third of their college class.

Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, was founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship and advancing the science of psychology. The chapter at USC Upstate was chartered in 1993. To be eligible for membership, students must be psychology majors (or IDS bi-disciplinary psychology majors) who have completed at least three semesters of college work including nine hours of psychology. Eligible students must rank in the top 35 percent of their class and have a minimum GPA of 3.0 in psychology courses.

Graduation Requirements

Applicants for graduation are urged to confer with the appropriate chair or dean about their major program and degree requirements before the beginning of their last semester of residence at USC Upstate.

Academic Residency Requirements. The last twenty-five per cent of the semester hours of the degree program must be completed in residence at the University. In residence means that students are regularly enrolled in the University, are members of a class which is supervised by a faculty member of USC Upstate, and in other ways conform to the requirements that are normally connoted by the term in residence. In residence requirements may not be met by courses for which credit is earned by examination, or courses for which transfer credit was awarded. Students who have not established credit for the prescribed number of hours in residence are not eligible for graduation.

Residency Requirements in the Major. To receive a degree, students must complete at least 12 semester hours of major course credit at USC Upstate or at other campuses in the USC system.

Degree Applications. Candidates for degrees must file formal applications prior to the last academic term before graduation with the Records Office. Applications must be filed according to the deadlines published. In order to graduate for the term applied for, all academic work, including transfer credit, exemption exams and make up of incompletes, must be received in the Records Office prior to the end of the semester. Students who have applied for graduation but did not meet degree requirements must re-apply for a subsequent term.

Graduation Requirements. Students submit to their dean a list of courses meeting all regulations and requirements of their school and major department which they claim for graduation and for which their overall GPA and their GPA on USC system course work is at least 2.0. This list, after verification, forms the basis for the dean's approval or rejection of students' applications for graduation. (This list contains only the courses in which students have performed at or above the required level. The list need not contain all courses attempted or passed, but only those which students wish to submit in fulfillment of graduation requirements.) Students who have been granted academic forgiveness must have an overall GPA of at least 2.0 since returning to USC Upstate. A minimum grade of C is required for any course submitted for fulfillment of general or intensive major requirements in most degree programs. Exceptions to this requirement are noted in the description of each academic program. The USC system does not grant degrees retroactively. Therefore, all academic requirements, including the making up of incompletes or posting of transient credit, must be on the academic record prior to the end of the term in which the student is attempting to graduate.

Second Undergraduate Degree

At times the University confers a second undergraduate degree upon candidates who have completed all requirements for the desired degree. A second degree is awarded provided that the additional requirements for the second degree include a minimum of 18 semester hours beyond those required for the first degree. Students may pursue both degrees simultaneously. A separate application is required for each USC Upstate degree.

Student Responsibility

The USC Upstate Student Handbook contains additional rules and regulations, as well as the Code of Academic Responsibility. Students are responsible for obtaining a copy of the handbook from the Student Affairs Office upon registration.

Notification of Student Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to
their education records. They are:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access.

Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic division, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The university official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the university official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identifying the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the University decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

The University of South Carolina will disclose information from a student's education records only with the written consent of the student, except:

(a) To school officials with legitimate educational interests;
   *A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position; a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor, or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.
   *A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

(b) To officials of other institutions in which the student seeks or intends to enroll provided that the student has previously requested a release of his/her record;

(c) To authorized representatives of the U.S. Department of Education, the Comptroller General of the United States, state educational authorities, organizations conducting studies for or on behalf of the University, and accrediting organizations;

(d) In connection with a student's application for, and receipt of, financial aid;

(e) To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;

(f) To parents of dependent students as defined by the Internal Revenue Code, Section 152;

(g) To appropriate parties in a health or safety emergency; or

(h) To the alleged victim of any crime or violence if the results of any disciplinary proceedings conducted by the University.

(i) The University may disclose the result of a disciplinary proceeding to a parent or guardian so long as the student is under the age of 21 at the time of the incident and the proceeding has resulted in a violation of University drug or alcohol policies, or any federal, state, or local law.

(j) To students currently registered in a particular class, the names and e-mail addresses of others on the roster may be disclosed in order to participate in class discussion.

The University of South Carolina has designated the following items as directory information: a student's name, electronic mail address, local and permanent mailing addresses and telephone numbers, semesters of attendance, enrollment status (full- or part-time), date of admission, date of graduation, school, majors and areas of concentration, whether or not currently enrolled, classification (freshman, etc.), type of degree being pursued, degrees, honors, and awards received (including scholarships and fellowships), weight and height of members of athletic teams, and whether the student has participated in officially recognized activities and sports sponsored by the University.

The University may disclose any of these items without prior written consent, unless the student has submitted a written request to the Office of the Registrar not to release directory information pertaining to them. Requests will be processed within 24 hours after receipt. Directory information will be withheld from student directories and telephone books only if notification is received prior to the publication of these documents. The electronic directory is updated each weekend; requests for non-disclosure will be honored with the next update after the request is processed by the staff of the Office of the Registrar.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the University to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20202-4605.

Questions concerning this law and the University's procedures concerning release of academic information may be directed to the Office of the Registrar at 864-503-5220.