Admissions
The University of South Carolina Upstate offers the degree of Master of Education in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education and in Special Education: Visual Impairment.

**USC Upstate School of Education**  
**Graduate Mission Statement**  
"Preparing Reflective Professionals"

Educators prepared in the graduate school at USC Upstate are well-versed in the liberal arts and applicable content areas, the latest developments in curriculum and instruction, theory and practice, and the research-based, sociocultural, and philosophical foundations of education. They understand and respect cultural diversity, welcome diversity of opinion and belief, and place the welfare of their students first. As reflective professionals, they are leaders among their colleagues and are committed to a service ideal built upon the highest standards and ethical principles.

**Admission**

Application packets may be obtained from the USC Upstate Admissions Office or from the USC Upstate School of Education. Application for admission to graduate programs will be given consideration after receipt of all credentials. Admission to the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education, the M.Ed. in Elementary Education and the M.Ed. in Special Education: Visual Impairment is based on the total profile of the applicant.

**Proof of Citizenship**

USC students must present proof of citizenship or lawful presence in the U.S. before enrolling. This policy has been adopted by the University in order to comply with section 59-101-430 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended, which requires that lawful presence in the United States is verified before enrollment at any public institution of higher education. Verification of immigration status for non-citizens will be conducted by International student officials. For other students, a proof of citizenship verification process has been adopted to deter and prevent false claims of citizenship by unlawful aliens attempting to evade the eligibility requirements of section 59-101-430. Students who are not verified as citizens during the Federal financial aid application (FAFSA) process must present proof of citizenship in the form of one of the following acceptable documents:

- Copy of the South Carolina driver's license if the student first became a licensed driver in the state after Jan. 1, 2002;
- A Certified Birth Certificate indicating that you were born in the United States or a territory of the United States. A photocopy of your birth certificate is not acceptable.
- Current U.S. Passport or U.S. Passport that has not been expired more than 10 years;
- Certificate of Naturalization - USCIS Form (N-550 or N-570);
- U.S. government issued Consular Report of Birth Abroad;
- Certificate of Citizenship (N-560 or N-561);
- Unexpired U.S. Active Duty/Retiree/Reservist Military ID Card (DOD DD-2)

The University can accept photocopies of birth certificates and other citizenship documents so long as we reserve the right to demand production of the certified original in the event we have any questions about whether the copy is true and accurate, or in the event any of the information on the copy is unreadable. For more information: http://registrar.sc.edu/html/citizenshipverification.htm.

**Degree Candidates**

Individuals seeking admission to USC Upstate as a degree candidate will be considered for full admission when the USC Upstate Admissions Office receives all admissions materials. However, students are eligible to take up to twelve hours of program courses pending receipt of all materials. If the student meets all criteria, the student will be accepted as a degree candidate.

- Valid teacher certificate
- Application for degree seeking graduate students. (available at www.uscupstate.edu)
- $40 application fee¹
- A state residency status form.
- Two letters of recommendation using forms provided in the application packet.
- Minimum Miller Analogies Test (MAT) score of 390 or Graduate Records Examination (GRE) score of 400 on the verbal section and 400 on the quantitative section.
- Official copies of transcripts from all previous undergraduate and graduate studies.
- A minimum GPA on all undergraduate course work of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Proof of immunization for measles (rubella) and German measles (rubella) if born after Dec. 31, 1956.
- A personal interview with a member of the faculty of the USC Upstate School of Education.
- Attendance at a regularly scheduled Portfolio Introduction and Training Session.

**Conditional Admission**

Under two circumstances a student may apply for conditional admission as long as all other admission requirements have been fulfilled.

1. If, after two attempts, the student fails to meet the required Miller Analogies Test (MAT) score of 390 or Graduate Records Examination (GRE) score of 400 on the verbal section and 400 on the quantitative section

OR

2. The student does not have the minimum GPA on all undergraduate coursework of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

The student must submit a request for conditional admission in writing to the director of graduate programs. If the student fails to meet BOTH of these criteria they ARE NOT eligible for conditional admission.

If the student is granted conditional admission, and achieves a minimum GPA of 3.25 on the initial 12 hours of USC Upstate program coursework, the student will be

¹Fees are subject to change as approved by USC Board of Trustees.

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**Graduate Programs**  
**2011-2012 USC Upstate Catalog**
fully admitted as a masters candidate. If the student fails to achieve this grade point average, the student may not continue in the masters program.

Applicants Not Seeking a Degree
Students wishing to enroll in either program courses or professional development courses but who do not wish to pursue a graduate degree at USC Upstate must submit the following admission materials:

- Valid teacher certificate or a letter indicating full-time employment by a school district (i.e. PACE program or interns).
- Application for Non-Degree Seeking Graduate Students. (available at www.uscupstate.edu)
- $10 application fee
- A state residency status form.

Students with No Teaching Credential
Students holding a baccalaureate degree but no teaching credential may be admitted and enroll in graduate courses as a non-degree student with the approval of the Director of Graduate Programs. However, only teachers who hold a permanent, current teaching credential are eligible for the reduced tuition rate allowed for certified teachers. Students admitted as non-degree students may take up to twelve hours of graduate work without being admitted to a degree program. In order to enroll in more than 12 hours as a non-degree student, the applicant must complete another non-degree application form, a state residency status form, and submit a copy of a teaching credential. This procedure will allow an additional 12 hours of graduate study. However, the applicant must be aware that a maximum of six hours of professional development courses are applicable to a degree program.

Change of academic objectives. Students are admitted to a specific graduate program at the time of acceptance. Upon completion of that degree, further graduate study requires readmission to graduate study.

Valid period of admission. Admission to graduate study at USC Upstate is valid for one year. If an applicant fails to complete any graduate course or part of the prescribed program within this period, the acceptance lapses, and the student becomes subject to any new requirements that may have been adopted. Students who do not enroll in classes within one calendar year of admission must reapply.

Students who have been admitted to graduate study at the University of South Carolina under regulations other than those now in force, and who have not completed any USC courses during a period of three or more years, are required to fulfill current admission requirements prior to attending USC Upstate for additional graduate work. Upon readmission, these students become subject to the current graduate regulations.

Disability Services
Students with disabilities are assisted through the Office of Disability Services. The staff works toward accessibility for all university programs, services, and activities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Services offered include priority registration, test proctoring, classroom adaptation, sign language interpreter, reader, braille, and note taker. If you have a disability and need assistance, contact the Office of Disability Services.

Graduate Tuition
Academic fees at the University of South Carolina Upstate are established by the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees and are subject to change.

Tuition
All fees are payable in full at the beginning of each term.

Graduate Tuition (fees shown as 2010-2011 rates—changes pending)

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full-time students (12-16 semester hours)</th>
<th>Part-time and summer school students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SC residents</td>
<td>$5,245 per semester</td>
<td>SC residents</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-residents</td>
<td>$11,275 per semester</td>
<td>Non-residents</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>$945 per semester hour</td>
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<td>$440 per semester hour</td>
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Certified Teachers

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SC residents</th>
<th>Non-residents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$320 per semester hour</td>
<td>$350 per semester hour</td>
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Academic Regulations
Students may obtain a degree following the requirements in force at the time they are admitted to degree candidacy, or under subsequent regulations published while they are degree candidates. However, students are restricted in the choice of requirements to one specific catalog. Students have a period of six years inclusive and continuous in which to claim the rights of a specific catalog. Students may request permission to revalidate USC/USC Upstate program courses falling outside the six-year parameter. With the approval of the director of graduate programs, the student will work under the direct supervision of a graduate faculty member to update course content and to demonstrate competency on an examination.

Students are advised that unforeseen circumstances may interfere with the scheduling of any given course or degree offering. Students are required to take such developments into account as they arise, even if doing so means a delay in the fulfillment of some of their academic goals or modification of those goals.

Advisement
Every candidate admitted for a degree is assigned a faculty advisor with whom to plan a program of study relevant to specific objectives and sufficiently intensive and sequential to assure professional competence and breadth of knowledge. Students have the privilege of requesting a particular advisor, subject to the consent of the faculty member and approval of the director of graduate programs. The advisor should be a specialist in the candidate's major area of study.

Program of Study
Immediately following admission to the program, every degree seeking student, working with an advisor, must develop and file a program of study in the office of graduate programs. A program of study is an agreement signed by the student, the advisor, the director of graduate programs and the dean of the School of Education. This