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 as 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.stm.

**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.usc.upstate.edu)
- $40 application fee
- 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

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