Grading System

For a detailed discussion of the current grading system, consult the USCS Catalog.

Grade Reports and Changes of Grades

All final grades are due by the date and time requested by the Registrar. Grades are entered electronically by the faculty of record. USC Columbia is responsible for running the grade program that calculates grade point averages and academic honors as well as probation and suspension. All students on the grade sheet must be assigned a grade.

If a grade is assigned in error, the faculty member completes a change of grade form and submits it to the Registrar. Grade changes are reviewed by the Executive Academic Affairs Committee before being processed.

Consensual Relations Policy

Instructional staff members must refrain from engaging in any romantic or sexual relations with students over whom they have academic or supervisory control.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

USCS adheres in principle to the American Association of University Professors’ Statement on Academic Freedom. The university’s policy shall be to defend academic freedom against any encroachment. As a center of learning, a university depends upon the free search for truth and its free expression. The university has adopted the following statement on academic freedom:

Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of other academic duties, but research for pecuniary return shall be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution (see Appendix A: Patent and Copyright Policy).

Faculty members are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subjects.

Faculty members are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of the institution. When faculty members speak or write as citizens, they are free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As persons of learning and as educational officers, faculty members shall remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Consequently, faculty members shall at all times be accurate, shall exercise appropriate restraint, shall show respect for the opinions of others, and shall make every effort to indicate that they are not spokespersons for the institution.

Faculty members who feel that their academic freedom has been infringed may make written request of the Chancellor that an investigation may be made of their case. The request should set forth in a clear and concise manner the events and circumstances upon
which the charge is based. The Chancellor may refer the question to an appropriate faculty committee. See also the section *Grievance Procedures* in the *Manual*.