

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE
FACULTY STANDING COMMITTEE YEAR-END REPORT
2014-2015

Committee: Student Services Committee

Members: Jonathan Storm (NSE, Chair), Virginia Alexander (LIB), Susan Fernandez (SOE), Shannon Polchow (LLC), Carolyn Webber (FACS), Brian Smith (JCBE), Elizabeth (Betsy) Swanson (SON), Alexander Dukes (student)

Ex-Officio Members: Tom Moore (Chancellor), John Masterson (Interim Senior Vice Chancellor), Mary-David Fox (Registrar), Frieda Davison (Dean, Library), Laura Puckett-Boler (Dean of Students), Jeanne Skul (Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Services), Donette Stewart (Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services)

Meetings/Accomplishments: We met as a group three times in the Fall semester and four times during the Spring semester. We have been communicating via email for admission and appeal decisions during the summer months.

The main purpose of our committee is to review admission and suspension appeals. We reviewed 427 appeals from November, 2014 - June, 2015. Through the assessment of student gpa and SAT scores, high school class rank, transcripts, or letters of appeal, we decided whether to approve or deny them admission to the University of South Carolina Upstate. Summary data for the new freshman we admitted and denied are below.

Rejected New Freshmen Students				
	HS GPA	HS Core GPA	HS Class Rank	SAT
Mean	2.83	2.33	36	791
Median	2.84	2.29	35	800

Admitted New Freshman Students				
	HS GPA	HS Core GPA	HS Class Rank	SAT
Mean	3.54	3.08	63	787
Median	3.52	3.08	64	800

The Chair of the Student Services Committee I, Jon Storm, led a study to help the Committee make informed admission decisions for high school and transfer applicants. I ran analyses on the 2014 freshmen class at USC Upstate (745 students) and students who applied to graduate during the 2014 calendar year (Spring, Summer, and Fall 2014; 966 students). I included most of the variables we use in our typical decision-making process (high school GPA, class rank, and SAT). I also used a new admission index to see if it was informative – the California State University System Admission Index (CSU Index). The CSU index is used by schools within the California State University System for admission decisions ([Link to Index](#)).

For the graduating student dataset, I used a forward stepwise multiple linear regression to determine which predictor(s) (SAT, high school overall GPA, and high school class rank) are most informative for determining the USC System GPA of graduates. This analysis also allowed me to determine the level of multicollinearity between these 3 variables. The Student Services Committee decided to adopt a universal set of desired threshold scores for new students, regardless of intended major. These thresholds are based on the 10th percentile of high school scores for our graduation applicants. Based on the stepwise multiple linear regression, overall GPA is the #1 consideration (varied by major, though). The committee adopted the following high school thresholds for making informed admission decisions. When an applicant has a score lower than the thresholds shown below, it serves as a “red flag” for their potential academic struggles at USC Upstate. The complete report is available from Jon Storm, upon request.

10th Percentile High School academic scores for USC Upstate graduation applicants in 2014

Overall HS GPA	HS Class Rank	SAT	ACT	CSU Index
3.00	50 th	820	16	3400