

## **Environment and Resources**

The University of South Carolina is in Columbia, SC, the capital city and geographical center of the state, with the campus adjacent to the state government complex and the downtown business and cultural districts. The Columbia metropolitan area has a population of more than 680,000 and is easily accessible by public transportation and interstate highways.

One of the oldest and most comprehensive public universities in the United States, the University of South Carolina Columbia is the major research center of the University and its largest campus, enrolling some 18,362 undergraduate students and 8,703 students in graduate and professional programs. From its location in the state capital, the University offers a range of excellent programs and activities designed to enhance the intellectual, cultural, physical, and social development of its diverse student body. Additional opportunities for personal and career development are provided to the citizens of South Carolina through outreach and continuing education activities. USC Columbia offers the most comprehensive array of educational programs in the state. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching has designated the University of South Carolina as an institution of "very high research activity." USC is one of 62 public and 32 private research institutions—and the only university in South Carolina—to earn this distinction.

Today the University serves the entire state and includes, in addition to the Columbia campus, three four-year campuses (USC Upstate, USC Beaufort, USC Aiken) and four regional campuses (Lancaster, Sumter, Salkahatchie, & Union). Enrollment on all campuses totals more than 39,300.

The University offers more than 350 major degree programs, including baccalaureate degrees in 126 areas, 11 programs of study for associate degrees on regional campuses, master's degrees in 172 areas, doctoral degrees in 74 areas, and professional doctorates in business, education, engineering, law, medicine, nursing, music, pharmacy, and public health. More than two dozen programs are nationally and internationally ranked from the creative arts, liberal arts, health and physical sciences to law, business, and engineering.

### **Accreditation/ External Review**

The University of South Carolina is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). In addition to this comprehensive accreditation, the professional schools within the Columbia campus are individually accredited by their respective associations. The baccalaureate and master's degree programs of the College of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE 2001-2011).

The College of Nursing participated in a statewide external review of all public baccalaureate and higher degree nursing programs by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) in fall 1999. The College of Nursing was the only nursing program to receive a commendation of excellence from the CHE for all of its programs including the PhD program.

### **Libraries**

University libraries in Columbia house over 3 million volumes, 1 million government documents, 400,000 maps and aerial photographs, and a wealth of rare books and manuscripts. Thomas Cooper Library, which opened in June 1976, contains all of the University library collections in Columbia except those located in the South Caroliniana Library, Law Library, Mathematics Library, Music Library, Business Library, and Medical Library. Thomas Cooper Library seats approximately 2,500 readers. Included in the seating are more than 900 private locked facilities for faculty and graduate students involved in research. The facility has 40 study rooms seating up to four persons each, six seminar rooms for library related seminars, and a classroom for the library-taught orientation and bibliographic instruction classes. Special areas in the library include the Student Computer Labs, the Science Library, Special Collections, and the Map Library. Access to the collection is obtained through the USCAN/NOTIS Online Card Catalog with terminals located throughout the building. CD ROM stations are available for user searching of multiple databases. Thomas Cooper Library has available to visually disabled students a Kurzweil Reading Machine, which electronically reads aloud printed and typed materials.

The Thomas Cooper Library offers access to literature from international sources through the on-line computer-assisted reference department. The computerized reference service provides bibliographic citations, statistics, and international news from recent literature on a wide range of subjects. This service is particularly strong in the natural and social sciences. Also included are government activities, publications, and grant sources. Data bases in nursing include Medline, Nursing and Allied Health, and Health Planning and

Administration. Data bases related to nursing include Psychological Abstracts and Mental Health Abstracts. New data bases are added regularly, and information on them is available in the Reference Department.

### **Office of Research and Health Sciences (ORHS)**

The Office of Research and Health Sciences, under the Vice President for Research and Health Sciences, plays a role in strategizing the research infrastructure of the University in order to help build the institution's existing research base, providing support and assistance for faculty and students conducting research throughout the University. The office also develops and promotes scholarly research and sponsored programs across all disciplines and works to enhance awareness of the significance and the value of the University to the citizens of South Carolina.

In the fiscal year 2005, USC Columbia faculty received \$166.2 million from external sponsors to support a variety of research, public service, and training projects. This figure represents an 11.3 percent increase over the previous year, which itself marked a 14.1 increase over 2003 results. Total research support grew to \$173.3 million in October 2006.

### **Office of Sponsored Awards Management (SAM)**

The Office of Sponsored Awards Management (SAM) assists faculty and staff in identifying and obtaining funding from government and private sources for research and other sponsored projects. SAM is also USC's central administrator for proposal submission and the overall management of grants and contracts. The SAM library is available to faculty and staff as a resource for funding agency selection.

The SAM Research Development Office supports the research needs of faculty throughout the university by developing collaborative teams of USC faculty and forming partnerships with other entities. Research Development also assists these collaborative teams in the formation of large competitive proposals. In addition, our team provides training for faculty and staff to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to promote the University's research enterprise.

The Gamecock Research Administrator Network and Training (GRANT) program is a comprehensive, certificate training program developed to meet the research administration needs of University of South Carolina faculty. Developed by the Office of Research and Health Sciences, in cooperation with the Divisions of Business and Finance, Human Resources, and University Advancement, the goals of the GRANT program are to provide the university's research community with an improved understanding of regulations, policies, and procedures; provide a fundamentally more unified and streamlined sponsored projects system; and to provide staff access to vital resources and contacts for further assistance.

SAM is responsible for the initial review of all proposals to make certain they conform to the many regulations of the University, the state, and the potential sponsor before they are signed by the signatory officer of the University. Official and binding pre-award and post-award contract negotiations with the sponsors are performed through the SAM office. Upon receipt of an award from a funding agency, SAM initiates the internal paperwork to establish an account with the University and joins with the investigator(s), the University administrative officers, and the sponsors to see that the project is carried out in conformance with the contractual agreement. USCeRA is the University of South Carolina electronic research administration software system which includes electronic grants routing/approval and human subjects applications submission/routing.

### **Office of Research Compliance (ORC)**

The Office of Research Compliance (ORC) provides support and training for faculty members, researchers, students and staff in regulatory requirements for scientific research. ORC is responsible for the development and implementation of university policies related to use of human subjects in research (Institutional Review Board), conflicts of interest, misconduct in science, and other regulatory compliance programs. ORC also supports the University community in promoting the responsible conduct of research.

### **USC Research Foundation**

The University of South Carolina Research Foundation is an element in the university's strategy for research growth, supporting faculty efforts, and helping faculty with their research goals. The primary objectives of the USC Research Foundation (USCRF) are to administer proposals and awards more efficiently, assist faculty more effectively in competing for external funding, and maximize the University's returns on its research efforts. The foundation provides greater flexibility and competitiveness in implementing research

grants and contracts, building infrastructure, and developing intellectual property management responsibilities including the intellectual technology licensing program and USC's Technology Incubator Program.

### **University Instructional Services**

The Columbia campus is the pivotal point in providing learning opportunities for all residents of South Carolina through the use of communications technology such as computer networks and open-and-closed-circuit television. Each year, University Instructional Services (UIS) processes more than 2,000 requests for services, offers more than 80 courses by television, and produces more than 2,000 individual programs. Each week, UIS produces more than 500 videotape recordings and duplications. UIS has available for these productions five television production studios, one remote bus, five portable video systems, 16mm film production equipment, 16mm and 35mm film-to-video transfer equipment and one inch, three-fourths inch, and one-half inch videotape recording and duplication equipment. To assist television productions, ISC has audio, graphics, and photographic production departments.

The Classroom Enhancement Project represents a campus-wide effort to bring media into the classroom. In renovated classrooms, faculty have access to technology that facilitates the teaching and learning experience. Classrooms are equipped with video/data projectors, enhanced public address systems, VCRs, PhotoCD or laserdisc players, slide projectors, document cameras, and computer network connections to the University's campus-wide backbone.

UIS works closely with academic departments in developing telecourses for use in statewide satellite broadcasts and two-way video. UIS maintains USC links to all eight USC campuses, selected technical colleges, higher education centers, and hospitals. UIS also maintains links nationwide with a KU Band uplink and toll-free nationwide telephone numbers.

South Carolina is a national leader in the use of two-way conversation between professor and student in the delivery of courses. The talkback system allows students in a course delivered live to 25 USC viewing sites hundreds of miles apart to converse with the professor and one another.

University Instructional Services is also connected to local cablevision systems allowing telecasts of some USC courses direct to homes. UIS also offers the use of its tape duplication facility to provide multiple VHS copies for home delivery of pretaped USC courses.

To provide greater access for students in the state to graduate and undergraduate courses in nursing, the College of Nursing offers a number of master's and undergraduate courses via telecommunications. Televised nursing courses reach students through a closed-circuit system capable of broadcast throughout the state to 400 viewing sites. Designed specifically for independent learners, courses are taught by faculty in the College of Nursing. Students may register online through USC's Visual Information Processing system (VIP) or through regular registration at any USC campus. To receive graduate credit for a course, students must be admitted to the graduate school. Tuition and fees are the same as for regular on-campus courses. Texts and syllabi are mailed to students along with a toll-free telephone number to use in reaching the instructor for appointments or with questions concerning the course.

Facilities include the Advanced Instructional Media Lab for faculty use. The lab is equipped with Windows and Macintosh computers, color and black and white laser printers, scanners (including a 35MM slide scanner), and a CD recorder. A variety of presentation, graphics, multimedia, and Web page design programs are available.

### **University Technology Services**

University Technology Services (UTS) under the direction of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) provides both academic and administrative computing and information systems support to the University of South Carolina. UTS administers an IBM mainframe and numerous systems providing instructional, research, and administrative support to University faculty, staff, and students. All faculty, staff, and students may request accounts on the system for electronic mail and Internet access. Other resources maintained and supported by UTS include support for administrative systems, data warehouse, university databases, and USCAN-the University's on-line library catalog system. UNIX-based servers support a variety of Internet server applications, BlackBoard course management software, and student email.

Access to these resources is provided through thousands of workstations and departmental systems connected to the University's high-speed campus network. UTS support includes technical software support, documentation, and training for applications for multiple platforms. Hands-on classes are offered on a regularly scheduled basis at no charge for USC faculty, staff, and students. Consulting in specialized areas such as

numerically intensive computing and statistical programming as well as assistance with standard system software (word processing, database, spreadsheet, electronic mail, system utilities, etc.) is available by phone, in person, and via electronic mail.

University Technology Services also administers several site licenses for the distribution of software to USC personnel at a reduced rate; notable licenses currently in place include agreements with Microsoft, Novell, McAfee and, SAS. Administrative support includes responsibility for computer systems managing financial, personnel, and student records for the University administration. UTS also provides technical support for the campus backbone network and telephone system, including the planning, implementation, installation, and maintenance of supporting hardware and software systems. UTS provides voice, data, and video communications support to all University campuses. This includes the support of over 16,000 Columbia campus telephone lines, voice mail, backbone network connections, security, performance monitoring, web services, and a wide area network to all other system campuses.

### **Graduate School**

The Graduate School offers advanced degree programs (beyond the baccalaureate level) designed to give qualified men and women professional competence in specialized disciplines. It educates scholars, research specialists, and teachers at all levels, and experts in various practical professions. Emphasis is placed on methodology as well as on mastery for defined areas of subject matter. Graduate work brings together a group of scholars actively engaged in research and thus provides a close association between students and mature investigators with a wide range of interests. While stressing specialization as basic to graduate work, the Graduate School encourages interdisciplinary study as a response to the great problems facing mankind in a rapidly changing world.

### **The College of Nursing**

The College of Nursing is located in the urban setting of the University of South Carolina's Columbia campus. It is housed in the Williams-Brice building, a six-story facility that has been remodeled over time to maintain state-of-the-art technology to support the College's mission. The College is located next to the College of Liberal Arts and is in close proximity to other colleges on the main campus and the library. The College of Nursing is one of five health-related colleges including pharmacy, social work, public health, and medicine. One of the largest colleges of nursing in the Southeast, the College provides leadership for South Carolina and the southeastern area of the United States.

The College of Nursing offers both graduate and undergraduate programs. Graduate programs include two doctoral programs, the Doctor of Nursing degree and the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science degree, and a Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree. The Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing Science program is designed to prepare graduates for a lifetime of intellectual inquiry that manifests itself in creative scholarship and research. Students in the PhD program acquire the knowledge and skills to conduct research, which is theory-generating and/or theory-testing. Students also acquire the ability to generate and refine nursing science as the basis for nursing practice, education, and administration. Graduates are equipped as nurse researchers to influence the quality of local, regional, national, and international health care. Students may enter the PhD program with a Masters degree in nursing or a BSN.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree is an advanced practice doctoral degree. The curriculum prepares the graduate to practice at the highest level of advanced practice nursing. The program objectives are to provide students with the skills to manage health care of individuals and/or communities in complex health care systems, conduct research utilization studies to innovate practice, influence health care policy at the local, state, and national level, and assume leadership roles in health care. The DNP program has three entry points, depending upon prior educational experiences. The entry points include the non-BSN prepared entry for students with a bachelor's degree in a discipline other than nursing to include licensed registered nurses who do not hold a BSN; the BSN-prepared entry; and the Masters in Nursing-prepared entry.

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree has several emphasis areas including Acute Care, Community Health, Primary Care, Psychiatric/Mental Health, Women's Health, and Administration. Also offered are programs leading to a dual master's (MSN/MPH) degree from the College of Nursing and School of Public Health; a Certificate of Graduate Study in Advanced Practice Nursing that includes emphases in Primary Care, Acute Care, and Psychiatric/Mental Health; and a Certificate of Graduate Study in Nursing Administration. Two doctoral programs are offered, the Doctor of Nursing degree and the Doctor of Philosophy

in Nursing Science degree. All graduate degrees and certificates are awarded through the Graduate School of the University.

The College offers a four-year undergraduate program that leads to the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree with an RN/BSN option. A combined BSN/MSN Education Plan is available for both BSN and RN/BSN students to apply up to 12 credits of graduate study toward the BSN degree. An average of 30% of undergraduate nursing students graduate with university honors. Approximately 5% of upper division nursing undergraduate students are enrolled concurrently in the Honors College.

The College of Nursing has graduated more than 6000 students with bachelor's, master's, post-master's, doctoral degrees and certificates since it was founded in 1957. The PhD program has graduated 68 students since its founding in 1987.

The faculty has a philosophical commitment to collaborate with other health disciplines. This commitment has been fulfilled through interdisciplinary collaboration in health planning, grant writing, delivering services, and developing educational programs. There are 42 full-time faculty in the College of Nursing. Of these, 20(48%) hold earned doctorates. Three faculty members are Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing.

### **College of Nursing Research Resources**

The College of Nursing houses an Office of Nursing Research (ONR) under the leadership of an Associate Dean for Research. In addition, a Program Coordinator, Administrative Assistant, a Statistician, and research assistants staff the ONR. The ONR functions to assist faculty with research proposal development and submission. The Associate Dean meets with faculty who are planning to submit proposals and at regular intervals during proposal writing. The Associate Dean arranges for external review of proposals planned for extramural funding. Monthly research brown bag sessions are held throughout the year for faculty and graduate students. The ONR provides assistance to faculty with abstract and manuscript preparation and provide information on funding opportunities. ONR staff also assist faculty with budget preparation, and they attend to the technical aspects of the proposal. The ONR publishes an annual report of research activities.

The College of Nursing operates a core research center, the Center for Health Promotion and Risk Reduction in Special Populations. This center was initially funded through the National Institute of Nursing Research and is currently funded through the College of Nursing and USC Office of Research and Health Sciences. The purpose of the Center is to provide the infrastructure to (1) develop a critical mass of investigators to study problems related to the center focus; (2) promote and support interdisciplinary collaboration in research; and (3) develop and initiate mechanisms to disseminate research findings into the scientific community, clinical practice, and health care policy. The Center supports the College of Nursing's goal to conduct interdisciplinary research, which builds knowledge in the science of health promotion and risk reduction in special populations.

The Research Council of the College of Nursing is a standing committee in the College with the Associate Dean for Nursing Research serving on the Committee. The Research Committee assists the associate dean in carrying out the research mission of the College. Faculty, staff, and student research proposals are reviewed by the University IRB.

The College houses a statistics laboratory that is equipped with nine personal computers (Intel Celeron 750 Mhz) connected to the USC mainframe and two laser jet printers. A full-time doctorally prepared statistician and part-time research assistants staff the laboratory to augment the research capabilities of faculty who are conducting research, preparing proposals, and/or developing manuscripts. Faculty have access to retrieval systems containing national census and health data within the University computer system. A variety of packaged computer software (statistical, graphics, word processing, and spreadsheets) is available for faculty use.

The College of Nursing has a Local Area Network using Novell Netware 5.1 as the network operating system. All faculty have direct access to this network through their office computers, and part-time faculty have access through two computer rooms. A data base program has been installed. In addition to access to the college network, each faculty member has access to the campus network thereby providing access to the World Wide Web. The word processing program used by the College is MS Word 2002. Also used is GroupWise 6.5, providing services such as electronic mail, notebook, calendar, scheduler, calculator, and file manager.

The College of Nursing has three conference rooms equipped for video conferencing. Having an internal multipoint capacity of twelve, this technology affords the ability to offer a wide range of video and data

collaboration functions as well as features that go far beyond the limits of traditional videoconferencing. Web collaboration can be integrated and systems can now be used as a Web collaboration portal. Users access Web collaboration software directly from the user interface.

### **Faculty Practice**

In January 1995, the College Faculty Practice was initiated with plans to establish three nurse managed health care centers. The Women's and Families' Healthcare Center opened in November 1996. The Center is an innovative idea born from the Healthy People 2000 Healthcare Initiative and specializes in providing comprehensive healthcare services for women and their families. Primary Care Partners followed in April 1997. Located on the USC Columbia campus, Primary Care Partners provides primary care to the faculty, staff, their families, and the surrounding community. Nurse practitioners treat minor illness and injuries along with assisting those suffering from chronic illness. The Children and Family Healthcare Center began treating patients in December 1998. The Center focuses on meeting the primary healthcare, mental health, and social service needs of the surrounding community. Along with providing quality health care services, each site offers clinical learning experiences for nursing students.

### **Clinical Resources**

The Greater Columbia area includes six major hospitals and a number of state and federal health care institutions which provide a wide variety of teaching and research settings for graduate and undergraduate students. Currently, the College of Nursing has contracts with some 315 clinical placements sites in which students may have practicum experiences. Among these are fourteen hospitals, all the mental health facilities of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, four gerontological health care settings, all facilities of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, several clinics and inpatient care facilities of the S. C. Department of Corrections, eight urban and rural community health-related agencies, and approximately fifteen physician offices. Four of the hospitals – Palmetto Health Alliance, WJB Dorn Veterans Administration Medical Center, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, and Moncrief Army Hospital – are affiliated with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and are the major sites for the clinical teaching of medical students.