Recommendations
Palmetto College: USC Union

To learn more about making the most of your educational experiences within and beyond the classroom contact:
Dr. Randy Lowell, Acting Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, lowell@mailbox.sc.edu
PARTICIPATE

Community Service

**Related courses**
- University 101, Sociology, Palmetto 494 (Required Internship for BOL and BLS), Palmetto 495 (Service Learning), Independent Study Courses (as coordinated via professor)

**Sites/Experiences**
- Volunteer and Internship opportunities via campus direction/coordination
  - Union County History Museum, SC Dept of Juvenile Justice, Union County Historical Society, Union County Dept of Social Services, Union County Dept of Mental Health, Union County Council on Aging, Union County Adult Education, Union County Office of Drug and Alcohol Assistance, Upstate Alzheimer’s Association, United Way of Piedmont (Partnership with USC Union to operate an annual on campus Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Service (VITA))

**Why is this important**
- Students attending USC Union can supplement their academic learning experiences by gaining rewarding real world service experiences while attending classes. Courses such as University 101, Sociology 101, and Palm 494/495, can provide students with the experience of serving others while learning potential career related and “beyond the classroom” skills.

**Getting started**
- Contact Dr. Randy Lowell, Academic Dean, (lowell@mailbox.sc.edu) or Bill Moore, Student Academic Success Coordinator (moorebil@mailbox.sc.edu)

Global Study

**Related course**
- Foreign Language, Western Art, Custom designed Independent Study courses, Study Abroad opportunities with other USC Campuses

**Recommended timing/semester or destination**
- Students may participate in any of the Study Abroad or MayMester travel opportunities that are planned through the USC Study Abroad Office

**Campus or Local Opportunities**
- USC Union, and the various academic disciplines supporting or encouraging foreign travel or study, will assist students in participating in various opportunities as they are developed.
  - International Society (Walterboro)

**Why this is important**
- USC Union realizes that global travel opportunities expose students to real world experiences and concepts that they might otherwise only read about. Such travel can help students become more socially and professionally successful and confident. Additionally, such opportunities can play a key role in supporting the Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) component as well as helping students to appreciate the concept of a “global economy.”

**Getting started**
- Dr. Randy Lowell, Academic Dean (lowell@mailbox.sc.edu)
PARTICIPATE

**Peer Leadership**

**Related courses**
- RCAM 205 (Leadership); University 101

**Other Leadership opportunities**
- On and off campus activities such as Student Government Association (SGA); Men and Women on a Mission/African American Association (MWOM/AAA); Student Nursing Association (SNA); Academic Student Success Center-Peer Mentor/Tutoring; Leadership Union (Community Leadership Partnership with USC Union).

**Why this is important**
- Programs and organizations that encourage the development of leadership traits tend to result in increased student confidence, social awareness, and career related opportunities.

**Getting started**
- Brad Greer, Director of Admissions and Student Organizations (greerm@mailbox.sc.edu)

**Internships**

**Requirements**
- Students enrolled in the Palmetto Degrees (BOL/BLS) are required to complete a formalized semester long paid/unpaid internship at a location, business, government agency, or service agency. Other students wanting to gain career or social service related internships can do so independently or through coordination with faculty or the Internship/Career Coordinator.

**Professional Organizations**
- Student Nursing Association (SNA) and Union County Human Resource Association

**Why this is important**
- Students can gain real world experiences related to their future careers. Students can also use these opportunities to support Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) and/or present their experiences at USC Discovery Day each year.

**Getting started**
- Bill Moore, Student Success Center/Continuing Education (moorebil@mailbox.sc.edu)

**Research**

**Related courses**
- Magellan Scholarships, Independent Study Course, and related for-credit courses are available in various disciplines and with instructor guidance/oversight, such as Research Methods courses.

**Sample research**
- Practical and basic research projects have been conducted as part of both student-driven research and faculty-driven research. This collaboration between faculty and student has yielded Magellan Scholars in the areas of Psychology and English, although such research projects are possible across numerous academic disciplines.

**Why this is important**
- Students become exposed to practical/real world research methods, data collection, surveys, reporting methods, and analytical data presentations that prepare them for future careers and advanced academic study. Additionally students can showcase their research efforts to their peers via USC Discovery Day, and can also share their work with scholars in the field via presentations at regional and national conferences, providing them with invaluable networking opportunities along the way.

**Getting started**
- Dr. Randy Lowell, Academic Dean, or specific academic discipline professors
INTEGRATE

How to Integrate
Activities such as Graduation with Leadership Distinction (GLD) and related E-Portfolios; University 401 (Capstone Projects) for Palmetto Degree students, require students to organize their cumulative experiences and document them through cognitive writing and public presentations skills. These skill sets are directly preparatory to many future career requirements and advanced academic study.

LEAD

Initial career opportunities
Beyond the classroom experiences directly help students identify practical career and life enhancing learning opportunities.

Related advanced academic programs
The two and four year degrees offered at USC Union, combined with the GLD, and various travel and research opportunities, can be directly related to/enhance completing four year and graduate degrees in a wide range of academic majors.

Future career opportunities
Today's employers are looking for students who can combine academic knowledge with real-world understanding and experiences. The available courses, research, study abroad, and beyond the classroom opportunities directly help students to reach their maximum potential during and after college.

The listed experiences are a sample of options for your campus. See the USC Connect database to search for more opportunities. http://sc.edu/about/initiatives/usc_connect/choose_experiences/search-the-database.php