

FAMILY CALENDAR & HANDBOOK

FALL 2020



Parent and Family Programs
University of South Carolina

WELCOME!

In recognition of the critical role that families play in their students' college success, the Office of Parent & Family Programs partners with you to help educate you about the resources available to support your University of South Carolina student.

DATES & UPDATES

This year's **Family Calendar & Handbook** features all dates available at the time of publication. These dates are subject to change. Please use the additional campus resources below or contact our office with questions regarding specific dates.

- **[2020-2021 Official Academic Calendar](#)**
The University Registrar establishes the official calendar followed by the University of South Carolina system. Access the full current and upcoming semester academic calendars to find key dates and information including holidays, registration dates, payment deadlines, drop or add dates, exams and commencement for each term.
- **[Bursar's Office Important Dates](#)**
Being aware of important dates and deadlines is critical both academically and financially.
- **[Student Calendar](#)**
Check out events for students hosted by university offices and student organizations.
- **[Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)**
The University of South Carolina's path forward in the fight against COVID-19 needs your support to be successful. Learn about how the university is changing to mitigate the effects of the pandemic and what you can do to help.

ADDITIONAL PARENT & FAMILY RESOURCES

Monthly Family E-Newsletter

bit.ly/UofSCParentsAssociation

Stay connected with South Carolina through the family e-news, delivered to your inbox each month with campus updates and topics to discuss with your student.

Parents & Families Gateway

sc.edu/parents

Visit the Parents & Families Gateway to stay up-to-date on important announcements, upcoming campus events and approaching deadlines for your student.

UofSC Parents Mobile App

guidebook.com/g/uofscparents

Keep university resources in the palm of your hand 24/7! Download the app today and find out why it has been accessed more than 210,000 times by UofSC families!

Questions? Contact Us!

Contact the Parents Assistance Line or email with any questions or concerns about your student's South Carolina experience. Our dedicated staff members are here to assist you!



800-868-6752



scparents@sc.edu



sc.edu/parents



guidebook.com/g/uofscparents



facebook.com/uofscparents



instagram.com/uofscparents

STUDENT SAFETY

The University of South Carolina experience should be educational, fun and safe for everyone. We are deeply committed to the health and well-being of our campus community. If your Gamecock is experiencing a hurtful or harmful situation, [use these campus resources](#) to take action immediately.

Carolina Alert

The [Carolina Alert system](#) is used to notify the university community via text message and email of any emergencies that may occur. Students can add several contact numbers, including those of family members.

Rave Guardian App

The free [Rave Guardian mobile app](#) makes it possible for students to set safety timers, send anonymous crime tips and easily connect with USCPD during an emergency.

USCPD

The university has a full-service police department that works to keep campus safe year-round. The department offers a variety of programs, including self-defense classes, property registration and more.

Interpersonal Violence

Interpersonal violence (sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, harassment) is never the survivor's fault, and it's never tolerated at the University of South Carolina. The university [urges survivors to seek help](#).

Rideshare Safety

Students utilizing rideshare services must always check the make, model, color, and license plate of the vehicle. In addition, asking "what's my name," can ensure the student is getting into the correct car with which they've been matched.

AUGUST 2020

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[Fee payment deadline for fall semester](#)

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[New Student Convocation](#)

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Classes begin
[AlcoholEdu & SAPU Part 1 due](#)
[Thursday After Dark](#)

21

22

[Service Saturday](#)

23

24

[Student Organization Tour begins](#)

25

26

Last day to change/drop a course w/o a grade of "W" being recorded

27

[Thursday After Dark](#)

28

[Student Organization Tour ends](#)

29

30

31

LIVE YOUR STUDENT LIFE

Getting involved is essential for success. Research suggests that students who are involved in student organizations and campus activities make higher grades and have a better college experience. Through [Student Life](#) programming, your student will discover their passions and strengths, feel more connected to campus and gain important leadership experience to help them find internships and jobs. Most importantly, they'll make friends and have fun!

Gamecock Entertainment

[Gamecock Entertainment](#) is UofSC's source for FREE and FUN things to do both on and off campus! GE is home to Carolina Productions, Homecoming, Dance Marathon, Thursday After Dark, Gamecock Picture Show and numerous other events and programs throughout the year.

Campus Recreation

Encourage your student to stay active throughout their time in college by taking advantage of all that [Campus Recreation](#) has to offer. Students can take part in group exercise classes, intramural sports, sport clubs and outdoor recreation trips to the mountains and the beach.

Student Organizations

Involvement in campus life helps students make friends, feel connected to the university and strengthen their résumé. With [more than 500 clubs and organizations](#), your student can find their niche in Student Life. Coaches are also available in the [Leadership & Service Center](#) to meet with students about their interests and find organizations that align with specific values and goals.

SEPTEMBER 2020

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|---|--|--|
| 1 | 11 | 21 Graduation application deadline |
| 2 | 12 | 22 |
| 3 Thursday After Dark | 13 Grandparents Day | 23 |
| 4 | 14 | 24 Thursday After Dark |
| 5 | 15 | 25 |
| 6 | 16 | 26 Service Saturday |
| 7 Labor Day - asynchronous remote class day | 17 Constitution Day
Thursday After Dark | 27 |
| 8 | 18 Rosh Hashanah begins | 28 Yom Kippur |
| 9 | 19 | 29 |
| 10 Thursday After Dark | 20 Rosh Hashanah ends | 30 |

➤ **Family Weekend is Sept. 11-13.** Visit sc.edu/familyweekend to view the tentative schedule of events!

STUDENT SUCCESS

Academic Advising

It often takes a semester for students to find a balance between their major and goals for the future. The [University Advising Center](#) is available to help students create an academic engagement plan to help reach those goals or help them redirect and change to a major better suited for their skills and interests.

Off-Campus Living

Navigating the off-campus housing search can be difficult. The [Office of Off-Campus Living and Neighborhood Relations](#) provides many resources to assist in this process.

Student Success Center

The [Student Success Center](#) is a comprehensive one-stop shop for academic support services on campus. Initiatives include one-on-one success consultations, academic success workshops, financial education, as well as peer writing and tutoring assistance.

OCTOBER 2020

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|----|-------------------------------------|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | Thursday After Dark | 11 | | 21 | |
| 2 | | 12 | Midpoint in semester | 22 | Thursday After Dark |
| 3 | | 13 | | 23 | |
| 4 | | 14 | | 24 | Homecoming ends |
| 5 | | 15 | Thursday After Dark | 25 | |
| 6 | | 16 | | 26 | |
| 7 | | 17 | | 27 | |
| 8 | Thursday After Dark | 18 | | 28 | |
| 9 | | 19 | Homecoming begins | 29 | Thursday After Dark |
| 10 | | 20 | AlcoholEdu & SAPU Part 2 due | 30 | |
| | | | | 31 | Halloween
Service Saturday |

➤ **Encourage your student to get a flu shot at the [Center for Health and Well-Being](#).** The best time to receive the vaccine is October/November for protection during the winter months. It is free to students who bring their CarolinaCard.

STUDENT HEALTH & WELL-BEING

As the semester becomes busier, remind your student to take care of their mind, body and spirit to support a successful end to the semester.

Within the [Center for Health and Well-Being](#), students have access to healthy resources, including general medicine, women's care, sports medicine, physical therapy, an allergy and immunization clinic, a pharmacy and more. Students can also take advantage of campus wellness programs offered throughout the year that focus on stress management, nutrition, sexual health and other health-related topics.

Counseling and Psychiatry support is available to students to help manage their emotional and [mental health](#). Individual appointments, group counseling and community support meetings are available for students to speak with trained counselors. Counseling is available 24/7 via telephone at 803-777-5223.

Making healthy lifestyle choices is encouraged by [Substance Abuse Prevention and Education](#). Students in recovery and allies can take part in support meetings, sober tailgates, recovery meditations and more.

NOVEMBER 2020

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|----|--|----|-------------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Daylight saving time ends | 11 | Veterans Day | 21 | |
| 2 | | 12 | Thursday After Dark | 22 | |
| 3 | General Election Day - asynchronous remote class day | 13 | | 23 | |
| 4 | Last day to drop a course or withdraw w/o a grade of "WF" being recorded | 14 | Service Saturday | 24 | Face-to-face instruction ends (last day for in-person exams) |
| 5 | Thursday After Dark | 15 | | 25 | Thanksgiving Recess begins (no classes) |
| 6 | | 16 | | 26 | Thanksgiving Day |
| 7 | | 17 | | 27 | |
| 8 | | 18 | | 28 | |
| 9 | | 19 | Thursday After Dark | 29 | Thanksgiving Recess ends (no classes) |
| 10 | | 20 | | 30 | Remote class day |

SERVING THE CAROLINA COMMUNITY

Through the [Leadership & Service Center](#), your student can choose to serve the Carolina and Columbia communities in a variety of ways, including Service Saturdays, Gamecock Pantry, The Big Event and awareness and celebration events such as Hunger and Homelessness Week and the MLK Day of Service.

Students can take an active role in the Carolina community by participating in Student Government-led programs such as the UofSC Bucket List, Creed Day and volunteering with the Carolina Closet. They can also help their college/school by running for [Student Government](#) office during the spring semester.

Winter break is a great time to reflect on the fall semester.

Talk with your student about what went well and what changes they would like to make for next semester. Encourage them to visit any of the campus resources shown throughout this handbook to plan for a strong spring semester.



DECEMBER 2020

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|----|---------------------------------|----|-------------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Remote class day | 11 | | 21 | |
| 2 | Reading Day | 12 | | 22 | |
| 3 | Reading Day | 13 | | 23 | University offices close at 5 p.m. |
| 4 | Reading Day | 14 | Remote final examinations end | 24 | Christmas Eve |
| 5 | | 15 | | 25 | Christmas Day |
| 6 | | 16 | | 26 | |
| 7 | Remote final examinations begin | 17 | | 27 | |
| 8 | | 18 | Hanukkah ends | 28 | |
| 9 | | 19 | | 29 | |
| 10 | Hanukkah begins | 20 | | 30 | |
| | | | | 31 | New Year's Eve |

➤ **Before your student signs a lease for off-campus housing**, encourage them to meet with [Student Legal Services](#) to have their agreements reviewed.