



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The University of South Carolina – Columbia and The SC Technical College System

The following agreement between the University of South Carolina–Columbia and the SC Technical College System is designed to enhance the transfer of students from South Carolina Technical Colleges to the University of South Carolina–Columbia. This collaboration is intended to serve students by providing program support and services which facilitate the transfer process and prepare and acclimate students desiring to matriculate at the University of South Carolina - Columbia.

Overview

This program utilizes existing policies, programs and services in a defined and targeted way for students beginning at a South Carolina technical college who wish to matriculate at the University of South Carolina-Columbia. Policies governing the admission, enrollment and transfer of students are the sole purview of each institution.

Students served by the program begin their academic studies at a South Carolina technical college. Transfer consideration generally requires at least 30 semester hours of transferable work. While it is anticipated that students will spend at least a full year at a South Carolina technical college, students meeting the University of South Carolina's freshman admission requirements may transfer after one semester.

The University of South Carolina-Columbia and the SC Technical College System can promote associate degree attainment to interested students. This includes, but is not limited to, completing all necessary coursework and hours to earn an associate's degree at a South Carolina technical college or the 'reverse transfer' of courses back to a South Carolina technical college upon successful completion of coursework and hours at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

Promotion/Eligibility

The program is intended for first-time college attendees who are recent high school graduates. Participation in the program is determined by the student's express desire to eventually matriculate at the University of South Carolina–Columbia.

Students will be identified in the following ways:

- Students denied admission to the University of South Carolina-Columbia either for academic or space available reasons and who live in the service area as

defined by the SC Technical College System will be notified of the program option by the University of South Carolina-Columbia Admissions Office.

- At their option, the South Carolina Technical Colleges can notify prospective and/or newly matriculated students about the availability of the program through whatever means they choose.

Once students are identified by the University of South Carolina-Columbia or a South Carolina technical college, student names and contact information will be sent to the University of South Carolina-Columbia Admissions Office for system input and tracking.

Admission

All admission policies and procedures, including the admission standards of individual academic units, of the University of South Carolina-Columbia and a South Carolina technical college will be enforced.

Initial, first year admission is determined by South Carolina Technical Colleges, while subsequent transfer is determined by existing transfer admissions policies at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

Each institution will provide updates of any admission policy changes as soon as practical. Any official policy change is subject to change without notice.

Program Components

With the exception of Technical Colleges which have established a separate Bridge Program agreement, many of the program components will be delivered in a virtual fashion and made available to all participants.

Fall Activities

- Virtual introduction to the Bridge Program and the University of South Carolina-Columbia
- Late fall virtual program focusing on admissions, financial aid and student success programs

Spring Activities

In February or early March an on-campus program will be held on the University of South Carolina – Columbia campus.

- Bridge Program students will have the opportunity to meet and interact with:
 - Admissions
 - Financial Aid
 - Student Success Program

Career Center
University Housing

-Students will have an opportunity to meet with representatives from their chosen academic area

-Students will also be offered the opportunity to take a campus tour

A special program for Technical College advisors will be hosted by the university in late spring.

All Bridge Program contact personnel at the Technical College will be provided a list of contacts from university administrative and academic departments.

Special Opportunities

Students will be offered the opportunity to be matched with a transfer student mentor the semester before entering the University of South Carolina-Columbia to answer questions as the student prepares for his/her transition to the University. Students will continue to benefit from mentoring opportunities throughout their first year at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

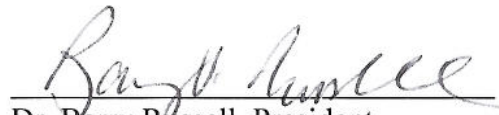
Early in their first semester at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, students will attend a session specifically designed for bridge program students that addresses personal and academic success.

Summary Comments

All aspects of the program will be periodically reviewed by representatives of the University of South Carolina-Columbia and the SC Technical College System. Any alterations or new program elements will be implemented when mutually agreed upon by the two institutions.



Dr. Andrew Sorensen, President
University of South Carolina
November 29, 2007



Dr. Barry Russell, President
SC Technical College System
November 29, 2007