Application deadlines are fast approaching!

- **December 1, 2015:** First-year application deadline for merit scholarship consideration. 
  Final application deadline for all programs in the Schools of Music, Dramatic Arts, Cinematic Arts, and Dance; the Iovine and Young Academy; and the World Bachelor in Business program.

- **January 15, 2016:** First-year application deadline for all other programs. Visit www.usc.edu/commonapp to apply.

More than 22 percent of USC undergrads receive USC Merit Scholarships

Prospective students who apply for admission by the December 1 deadline are considered for our prestigious merit awards, with amounts ranging from a few thousand dollars to half- and full tuition. Other scholarships offered by organizations outside the Office of Admission may have separate deadlines and application requirements. For more information, visit www.usc.edu/scholarships.

Preparing for a world in which majors are minor

**USC redefines the undergraduate experience**

IT’S THE REALITY FOR THOSE ENTERING COLLEGE: Virtually no job description today will remain the same years from now. And some of the most exciting and rewarding opportunities for new grads will come from fields and industries yet to be invented. That’s why preparing students to succeed in a dynamic, rapidly changing world where disciplines intersect and majors no longer rule is at the heart of the university’s strategic vision.

As USC Provost Michael Quick explains, careers are evolving so quickly that it is NO LONGER VIABLE TO THINK OF A SINGLE MAJOR AS THE FOCAL POINT OF A COLLEGE EDUCATION. Students must consider the bigger picture and frame their education according to the issues and problems they find personally compelling and want to address. By providing a full array of resources, a college education should allow students to acquire the knowledge, skill sets and experiences they will need to succeed throughout their lives.

Already an acknowledged leader in multidisciplinary education, USC is instituting a pair of far-reaching initiatives to help students navigate their career paths. The redesigned General Education curriculum, rolled out this fall, expands student engagement across a spectrum of disciplines, and provides greater flexibility in course selection. It also includes more than 100 seminar options, each built around a faculty member’s area of expertise and allowing students to explore personal interests in focused classes of fewer than 20 students.

In the meantime, the groundbreaking Career Pathfinder Program is being readied for the incoming class of 2016. Employing a robust software database that will help students and their advisors track student progress, Career Pathfinder will fully integrate career and academic advising. Students will receive personalized guidance in selecting the best combination of majors, minors, internships, special programs, work, travel, community service and other activities that will ensure they enter the world able to do anything they can imagine.

“We aren’t taking care of 18,000 undergraduates. We are taking care of each undergrad individually, and repeating that 18,000 times.”

MICHAEL QUICK, USC PROVOST
JOURNEY through the FIRST YEAR
ADMISSION REVIEW PROCESS

DECEMBER

DECEMBER 1: APPLICATION DEADLINE
for merit scholarship consideration
AND
admission to Schools of Cinematic Arts,
Dramatic Arts, Music, Dance; Iovine and Young Academy;
and World Bachelor in Business program

Applications reviewed by Office of Admission. Faculty evaluation of portfolios, auditions, supplements for talent-based majors.

JANUARY

JANUARY 15: APPLICATION DEADLINE
for regular first-year admission.

END OF JANUARY
Students NOT SELECTED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS ARE NOTIFIED that they have not been selected but are still being reviewed for admission and will be notified of decision by April 1.

END OF JANUARY
Students SELECTED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS ARE ADMITTED.
Some students are sent scholarship notification immediately. Some students are invited to interview for a scholarship at “Explore USC” event.

FEBRUARY

Requests for mid-year grades sent to applicants.

FEBRUARY 16 Deadline for submitting FAFSA and CSS PROFILE.

LATE FEBRUARY/EARLY MARCH
“Explore USC” events for students interviewing for scholarships.

MARCH

END OF MARCH
ADMISSION DECISIONS, SCHOLARSHIP NOTIFICATIONS and FINANCIAL AID OFFERS sent to students.

APRIL

On- and off-campus admitted student programs.

MAY

MAY 1
NATIONAL CANDIDATES REPLY DATE
Enrollment Commitment Deposit due for fall admits; Intent to Enroll due for spring admits.
New USC Financial Aid website offers valuable new resources

This last summer was unusually busy for the USC Financial Aid Office. While summer means finalizing Financial Aid Summaries for our students attending classes this fall, the season also marked a major accomplishment for us: THE RELEASE OF A COMPLETELY NEW AND REDESIGNED WEBSITE.

Containing a wealth of information in an easier-to-navigate format, this website also features new sections designed specifically for parents and counselors. We hope you will take the time to visit the Counselor section, where you will find:

- Our in-depth guide to financial aid, *Investing in Your Future*, available as a downloadable PDF in both English and Spanish versions.
- Our *How Financial Aid Works* video. This introduction to the basics of need-based financial aid is designed to clarify the process for parents and counselors. It also covers who qualifies for financial aid.
- Information that will help you and your students understand the value of a USC education, and the strong financial commitment USC makes in meeting each student’s demonstrated need.
- A “toolkit” with links to various resources that may be helpful to you in navigating this new territory with students and their families.

Though students are focused on finalizing their college applications this fall, we encourage you to work with families now so that they are prepared to apply for financial aid. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if we can be of help to you and your families in the coming year.

**USC FINANCIAL AID OFFICE**

(213) 740-4444, Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Visit our new website at [www.usc.edu/financialaid](http://www.usc.edu/financialaid).

**AT A GLANCE: New General Education requirements at USC**

New course selections have added greater depth, breadth and flexibility to our GE program. Courses include small seminars and many classes that can double to meet General Education and major requirements.

**CORE LITERACIES**

8 courses from these areas

Arts
Humanistic Inquiry (2)
Social Analysis (2)
Life Sciences
Physical Sciences
Quantitative Reasoning

**GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES**

2 courses from these areas

Citizenship in a Global Era
Traditions and Historical Foundations

**KEY FEATURES**

- Freshman Seminar, limited to 19 students, satisfies one Core Literacy course.
- A small writing seminar of 20 students can satisfy a Humanistic Inquiry course.
- A single class can be used to satisfy one Core Literacy and one Global Perspectives requirement.
- AP, IB and A-level exam scores can be used to satisfy some of these requirements. For more information, visit [www.usc.edu/transfercredit](http://www.usc.edu/transfercredit).

**FROM OUR STUDENTS TO YOURS: Study apps that make a difference**

Recommended by our students and compiled courtesy of *Wired Magazine*, these free – or nearly free – must-have mobile apps will help students work toward academic success:

- **Quizlet** *(free)* (Apple and Android)
  Create flashcards, tests and study games.

- **Evernote** *(free)* (Apple, Android, Windows)
  Note-taking app that allows students to move seamlessly between laptops and mobile devices.

- **Khan Academy** *(free)* (iOS, Android)
  Series of instructional videos that teach math, biology, chemistry, economics and other subjects.

- **Easy Bib** *(free)* (Apple, Android)
  A tool to format papers with thousands of citation styles. Create citations by typing in the name of the book, or taking a picture of the book’s bar code.

- **Fast Scanner Pro** *($2.99)* (Apple, Android)
  Saves documents as PDFs that you can email to yourself.

- **StudyCal** *(1.99)* (Apple, Android)
  School planner and organizer that helps students track both grades and assignments in one place.

**USC Admission has a page just for you!**

Contact the USC admission counselor who will be the first to read your students’ applications; check out the Admission Blog for behind-the-scenes information and advice on the admission process; and keep track of important dates, special invitations and notices. Visit [www.usc.edu/admission/undergraduate/counselors](http://www.usc.edu/admission/undergraduate/counselors).

**FIND OUT MORE:** dornsife.usc.edu/2015ge/2015ge-requirements
We asked several students to comment on USC’s emphasis on breadth with depth, and what future students can expect.

**Larissa Purnell**  
Senior  
Major: Business  
Double Minor: Digital Studies and Health Policy & Management  

**My experience at USC has reinforced the truth that no one has the same career path.** It’s also shown me that having flexibility and not being limited by the boundaries of a major can lead you to build whatever skills you need to follow your passions.  

Since freshman year I’ve worked with my academic and career advisors to align my studies with real-world applications, add minors, and identify opportunities that have expanded my education in amazing ways. For example, I originally planned to work in healthcare technology administration, but a summer internship showed me an entirely new side that I will now pursue: working with the human factors involved in adopting and using new technology within the health space. I found my fields of study all intersected when I studied in Barcelona last spring, got an internship with a digital health startup, and helped represent the company at a conference where the world’s top tech investors gather!  

It’s traditional to think of General Ed requirements as a hindrance to getting on with your academic focus, but I’m seeing a change with the freshmen I am mentoring. They are excited to see how the new GEs help them make connections between fields, and add balance to their education and careers.

**Eric Miller**  
Junior  
Major: Business  
Minor: Engineering  

I came to USC with a wide array of interests, and it was great to find that’s a quality shared by the students and faculty who are drawn here. My General Education classes only increased my appreciation of interdisciplinary learning and the unexpected bonuses it can bring – like a fun class that used science fiction films and stories to trigger conversations and debates around deep, philosophical questions, while meeting both science and literature requirements. Being with students from other majors also helped me understand what makes them feel passionate and why they have chosen totally different career paths.  

When I heard the student government’s academic affairs committee was involved in shaping the new General Ed requirements, that’s where I wanted to be. Our focus was on giving students the ability to have more options and totally tailor the experience to maximize its value. Being with students from other majors also helped me understand what makes them feel passionate and why they have chosen totally different career paths.

**Maariyah Patel**  
Junior  
Double Major: Neuroscience and Business Administration  

USC has always been my dream school, and one of the reasons was knowing there were great things happening in numerous fields. To me, that meant if my interests changed, I could switch to an equally top-notch major, and in fact that’s what happened: I started in pre-med and, when I realized I am interested in the finance side of medicine, I was able to take on a second major at the Marshall School.  

It’s part of the USC culture to be innovative and make a difference, and when I became active in student government I was excited to get involved in Academic Affairs, which works to improve the academic experience for all students. There I had the opportunity to collaborate with fellow students and the administration on academic policy. Using student research and faculty input we crafted a new resolution that goes into effect this semester, that significantly extends the amount of time students have to test out different classes to decide if they are a good fit, and select their preferred grading option. It goes hand-in-hand with the new General Education requirements and is another way of encouraging students to explore different academic pursuits for the pure purpose of gaining knowledge.
Student interest fuels new majors and minors

THE SCHOLARLY POSSIBILITIES KEEP EXPANDING in response to the increasingly varied interests of our students. USC offers more majors than nearly every other university. This fall, several of our schools introduced new additions:

- **Dornsife College of Letters, Arts & Sciences**
  - B.A. in Health and Human Science
  - B.A. in Central European Studies
  - Minor in History and Culture of Business

- **Thornton School of Music**
  - B.M. in Music Production

- **USC School of Dramatic Arts**
  - Minor in Comedy Performance

- **Price School of Public Policy**
  - B.S. in Real Estate Development

- **Rossier School of Education**
  - Minor in Education and Society
  - Minor in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
  - Minor in the Dynamics of Early Childhood

- **USC School of Cinematic Arts**
  - Minor in Media and Social Change

- **Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism**
  - Minor in Culture, Media and Entertainment

Find out more: [catalogue.usc.edu](http://catalogue.usc.edu)

HELLO, CLASS OF 2019!

Our 2,950 entering freshmen excel in every metric, including their passion for exploring, connecting with others and making a difference in the world. They come from more than 1,575 different high schools across the U.S. and around the world. We’re among the most diverse college campuses in the U.S., with 442 incoming international students. The newest freshmen include 211 National Merit Scholars, and 14 percent are first-generation college-goers. Each one is a most welcome addition to the Trojan Family!

For full information, see our 2015-16 Freshman Profile.

Nobel laureate James Heckman joins faculty as Presidential-Scholar-in-Residence

Considered the world’s foremost expert in human development economics, James Heckman is being welcomed by USC’s Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics. His impressive body of work has delved into the underlying causes of social and economic inequality. Among his notable contributions are strong arguments in support of early childhood education and investing in disadvantaged youth. His collaborative, interdisciplinary approach combines insights from psychology, education and economics, and exemplifies USC’s core philosophy that crossing traditional boundaries can yield groundbreaking results.

Dr. Heckman’s arrival also marks a unique meeting of Nobel minds, as he joins his colleague, Professor Daniel McFadden, with whom he shared the Economic Sciences prize in 2000!

The smoothest of moves!

A quick tour of USC on Move-In Day in mid-August revealed a well-oiled machine as more than 3,000 students moved onto campus. Stations were strategically set up for programming ID cards, distributing linens, lending luggage carts, dispensing information – or comfort (for parents!) – and free welcome gifts. Our student managers shared some insights for your future freshmen:

- **Travel light.** If you don’t wear that outfit (a lot!) at home, don’t bring it.
- **Resist the gadgets.** Game consoles and huge TVs take up valuable space, and are distractions from more rewarding ways to spend your time.
- **It’s definitely harder for your parents than you, so be kind, let them ask questions and try to help – it’s their last chance!**
This fall, our admission counselors brought a bit of USC to cities across the United States and around the world through our Discover USC programs. If your students missed these events, we encourage them to join us at our on-campus Discover USC Open House, where they can learn more about the application process and our world-class academic programs.  

www.usc.edu/DiscoverUSC

**FULL-DAY OPEN HOUSE on the USC CAMPUS**

Los Angeles
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 22

**A COLLEGE ISN’T A TROPHY. IT’S A MATCH.**

The University of Southern California admits students of any race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical disability or mental disability.

**IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Nov 22</td>
<td>Discover USC on-campus open house for prospective students and their families. <a href="http://www.usc.edu/DiscoverUSC">www.usc.edu/DiscoverUSC</a></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>First-year application deadline for merit scholarship consideration. Final application deadline for all programs in the schools of Music, Dramatic Arts, Cinematic Arts, and Dance; the Iovine and Young Academy; and the World Bachelor in Business program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Final first-year application deadline for all other programs.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Early Feb</td>
<td>Admission notifications sent to all applicants who applied by the December 1 merit scholarship deadline. Those not selected as scholarship finalists will be notified that their applications are still under review for admission.</td>
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<td>Feb 16</td>
<td>FAFSA and CSS PROFILE filing deadline for priority consideration.</td>
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<td>Late March</td>
<td>Admission decisions, scholarship notifications and financial aid packages sent to all first-year applicants.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>National Candidates Reply Date.</td>
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**USE THESE ID CODES FOR USC**

CSS/College Board Code: 4852
Use for CSS PROFILE Application and SAT scores.

Federal School Code: 001328
Use for FAFSA application.

ACT test ID Code: 0470
Use for sending ACT scores.

**YOUR MAILING INFORMATION**

If you wish to update your school’s mailing address, or change the name of the addressee for this newsletter, please email us: scounsel@usc.edu.

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