

# Introduction to USC



# USC at a glance



## Private Research University

MISSION



**1880**

FOUNDED



**Los Angeles**

LOCATION



**21,000**

UNDERGRADUATES



**28,000**

GRADUATE STUDENTS



**1**

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE



**10**

PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS



**6**

SCHOOLS OF VISUAL/  
PERFORMING ARTS



**1**

ACADEMY



**450,000+**

ALUMNI WORLDWIDE





# We offer world-class programs in virtually every field.

## **Are you ready to join this dynamic community?**

The University of Southern California offers exceptional students a world-class education with highly ranked programs in virtually every field—from cinema to the sciences. Our location in the heart of Los Angeles means students have unparalleled research, internship and professional opportunities in a wide array of organizations including nonprofits, Fortune 500 companies and global businesses.

At USC, students begin a journey of intellectual challenges, personal and professional achievement and lifelong friendships with alumni who excel in every field.

Now more than 450,000 members strong, the Trojan Family will be there for you, lifelong and worldwide.

## **Trojan Voices**

***“The best thing about USC is the opportunity to pursue the many interests that I have. With over 200 minors to choose from and 18 academic schools, there is truly an opportunity for every student.”***

**HAYDEN AMERICUS RIVAS '24  
SOUTH SURREY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**

# Academics

Since its founding in 1880, USC has grown into a top-tier private research institution, with all the resources of a large, urban university and the nurturing environment of a smaller college.



## Trojan Voices

***“I chose USC because I could get the best of both worlds: a small, liberal arts education coupled with a large school spirit.”***

DOMINIC BORRELLI '24  
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS

**Pursue** unique combinations of majors and minors across interdisciplinary programs that combine academic rigor with professional development.

**Thrive** in pioneering undergraduate programs that include overseas travel and study.

**Participate** in faculty-led or original research projects, earn fellowships or scholarships to support your research, and prepare for advanced studies or the career of your choice.

**Learn** from our outstanding faculty members who are experts in their fields.

**Gain knowledge and insights** from the best to become the best.





**150+**  
MAJORS AND MINORS



**26**  
AVERAGE CLASS SIZE



**9:1**  
STUDENT-TO-FACULTY RATIO



**50+**  
CITIES ACROSS FIVE  
CONTINENTS WITH STUDY  
ABROAD PROGRAMS



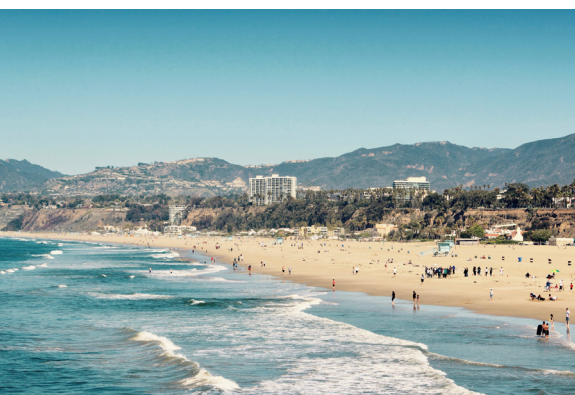
RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES AS  
SOON AS YOUR FIRST YEAR





# Los Angeles

At USC, you will live and thrive in the heart of a diverse, dynamic world center, home to one of the top 20 economies in the world, where more than 100 nationalities are represented and 200+ languages are spoken. You will find a range of recreational and cultural activities—from relaxing on the beach to attending plays, concerts and gallery showings—within a few miles of campus, and in some cases, right outside your front door.





## Getting Around

The city offers several ways to get around. Buses and light rail provide quick, affordable transportation throughout Los Angeles. The Metro rail E Line connects the beaches and shops of Santa Monica with USC and Downtown. Rental services such as Zipcar and Enterprise provide inexpensive alternatives to owning a car. And the university's Lyft Rides Program can get you home safely after hours.

If you prefer to bike around campus, USC provides numerous bike lanes and bike racks, making it a truly bike-friendly campus.



USC HAS THREE METRO STOPS  
ADJACENT TO CAMPUS 🙌

## Internship and Job Opportunities

The city also provides a wide array of opportunities for students looking for internships and jobs. Each year, more than 750 companies recruit on campus.

[careers.usc.edu](https://careers.usc.edu)



## Things to do near USC





# Campus Life

## Residential Community

Most students live on or near campus. First-year students are housed in residential colleges with faculty in residence.

**[housing.usc.edu](https://housing.usc.edu)**

## Student Clubs and Organizations

Connect with fellow students and learn valuable skills through USC's 1,000+ student clubs and organizations, including cultural and religious clubs; service-learning programs; and academic, recreational and professional organizations.

**[campusactivities.usc.edu](https://campusactivities.usc.edu)**

## Arts and Entertainment

Enjoy hundreds of film screenings, theatrical performances, art exhibitions and music concerts throughout the year.

**[visionsandvoices.usc.edu](https://visionsandvoices.usc.edu)**

USC has a proud tradition of supporting the scholar-athlete. More than 9,600 students participate in club sports and teams. Our 21 Division I athletic teams have earned 112 NCAA championships and 135 team titles.

**[recsports.usc.edu](https://recsports.usc.edu)**

**[usctrojans.com](https://usctrojans.com)**

## Dining

The USC campus and surrounding neighborhoods offer a wide array of dining options. Dining halls serve a variety of cuisines daily for residents of USC housing, and coffee shops, restaurants and markets offer a number of grab 'n' go items.

**[hospitality.usc.edu](https://hospitality.usc.edu)**

## Student Equity and Inclusion Programs

USC's Student Equity and Inclusion Programs (SEIP) are student support services and organizations that facilitate dialogue and community building with a focus on intersectionality, belonging and well-being. Programs include: Asian Pacific American Student Services (APASS), the Center for Black Cultural and Student Affairs (CBCSA), the First Generation Plus Success Center, the Latinx/ Chicanx Center for Advocacy and Student Affairs (La CASA), the LGBTQ+ Student Center, and the Native American Student Assembly (NASA). Visit the SEIP website for a full list of services.

**[seip.usc.edu](https://seip.usc.edu)**

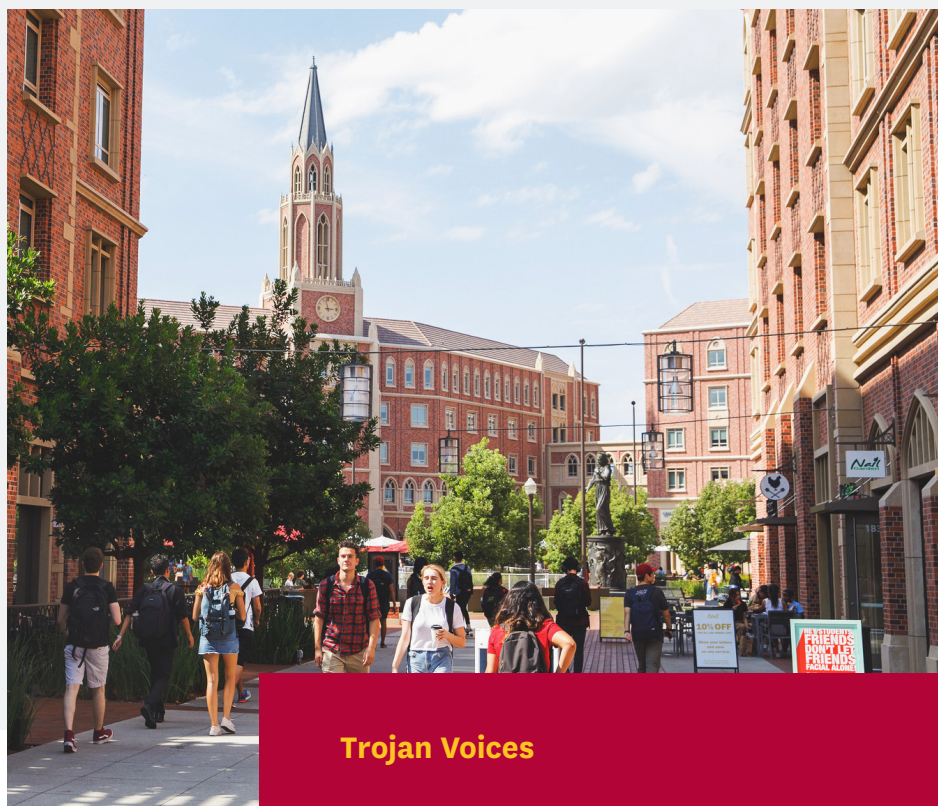


# USC Village

The USC Village comprises a town center with 1.2 million square feet of retail and residential space, including a full-service grocery store, restaurants and recreational spaces. Eight residential colleges provide 2,500 beds for USC students in the Village.

As a lively hub for social, residential and academic opportunities, the USC Village is transforming the undergraduate experience at USC.

[housing.usc.edu](https://housing.usc.edu) • [village.usc.edu](https://village.usc.edu)



## Trojan Voices

***“One of the great things about USC is its proximity to Downtown L.A., where there’s no shortage of exciting things to do. You can attend an L.A. Philharmonic concert at Disney Hall, see a contemporary art exhibit at The Broad, and eat incredible food in Little Tokyo—all in a single day!”***

**JAMES WANG '25  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA**



# Admission

## First-Year Students

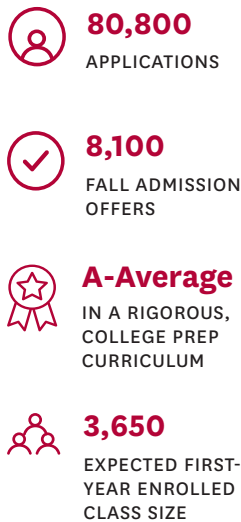
Like many highly selective universities, we conduct a holistic review of your application to consider academic and personal characteristics.

We will review your performance in school, the rigor of your program and your writing skills. We also consider personal qualities, as revealed through community involvement, leadership and achievements.

We look for students we believe will thrive at USC. Most of our first-year students come from the top 10 percent of their high school classes.

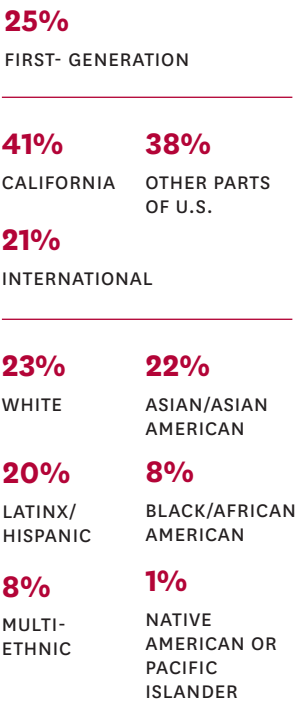
Please visit [admission.usc.edu/firstyear](https://admission.usc.edu/firstyear) for more details.

## 2023 First-Year Student Profile\*



\*AS OF JULY 2023

## Demographic Breakdown\*

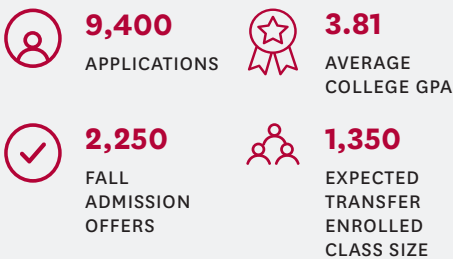


## Transfer Students

Transfer candidates are evaluated primarily by their academic record with respect to making good progress toward their intended degree. In addition to maintaining strong grades, transfer students should complete specific courses in college-level writing and mathematics and make consistent progress toward meeting USC Core Requirements, including foreign language and General Education requirements, as well as lower-division courses required for the major.

Please visit [admission.usc.edu/transfer](https://admission.usc.edu/transfer) for more details.

## 2023 Transfer Student Profile\*



\*AS OF JULY 2023

Scan to view our *Transferring to USC* brochure.



# Application Deadlines for Admission and Scholarships

Get more information at [admission.usc.edu/deadlines](https://admission.usc.edu/deadlines).

## First-Year Applicants

### Early Action

**November 1, 2023**

Early Action (EA) admission is non-binding and non-restrictive, and is not available for certain majors. Check with your department of interest or review the schools listed below.

Students applying to most majors must apply EA in order to be considered for USC Merit Scholarships.

### Regular Decision

For majors requiring a portfolio or audition

**December 1, 2023**

Final deadline to apply for admission to the following programs:

Iovine and Young Academy; School of Architecture; Roski School of Art & Design; School of Cinematic Arts; Kaufman School of Dance; School of Dramatic Arts; and Thornton School of Music.

Candidates applying to these programs by December 1 will be considered for USC Merit Scholarships.

All other majors

**January 15, 2024**

## Transfer Applicants

### Regular Decision

For some majors requiring a portfolio or audition

**December 1, 2023**

Transfer deadline to apply for admission to the following programs:

BFA Cinematic Arts and Dramatic Arts programs; Kaufman School of Dance; and Thornton School of Music.

All other majors

**February 15, 2024**

Final transfer application deadline for all other programs. All transfer students who apply for admission by this date will be considered for USC Merit Scholarships.

*All transfer candidates will receive either an admission decision or a request for spring grades by May 31. If you receive a request for spring grades, you will be notified of an admission decision by mid-July.*





# Application Checklist and Requirements

## ■ The Common Application

USC uses the Common Application. Please visit [admission.usc.edu/commonapp](https://admission.usc.edu/commonapp) for detailed information.

## ■ School report

First-year applicants only.

## ■ Letter of recommendation from teacher or counselor

Required of all first-year applicants. Required of some transfer students, depending on major.

## ■ Portfolio, résumé and/or additional writing samples if required by major

Performance majors may also require auditions or interviews.

## ■ Official high school and college transcripts

## ■ AP, IB and A-Level scores (optional)

Please visit [arr.usc.edu/transferecredit](https://arr.usc.edu/transferecredit) to find out which exams may fulfill USC course requirements.

## ■ Mid-Year Report/fall grades

## USC's Test Optional Policy

Students who apply to the fall 2024 academic year will not be required to submit SAT/ACT scores, although they may still submit them if they wish. Applicants will not be penalized or put at a disadvantage if they choose not to submit SAT or ACT scores. Please visit [admission.usc.edu/test-optional-policy-faq](https://admission.usc.edu/test-optional-policy-faq) for more information.

## Transfer Applicants:

We do not require the Common Application's College Report.

## International Students:

### ■ Financial statement of personal or family support

### ■ TOEFL, IELTS, PTE Academic or qualifying ACT/SAT scores

Required from students whose native language is not English. Please visit [admission.usc.edu/international](https://admission.usc.edu/international) for more information.

## Scholarships

### [admission.usc.edu/scholarships](https://admission.usc.edu/scholarships)

The USC Office of Admission administers prestigious scholarship programs for incoming students, including the Trustee and Presidential awards. Amounts vary but include full, half- and quarter-tuition awards. More details are available online.

To be considered for USC Merit Scholarships, first-year applicants must submit their application by the Early Action deadline of November 1, or by the Regular Decision deadline of December 1 if applying to a major that requires a portfolio or audition. Transfer applicants must apply by February 15.

Additional USC scholarships are administered by organizations outside the Office of Admission. These often require a separate application and have varying deadlines and eligibility requirements. A full list of USC scholarships is available online.



**USC's Affordability Initiative**  
[affordability.usc.edu](https://affordability.usc.edu)

Newly admitted first-year students from U.S. families with an annual income of \$80,000 or less (with typical assets) are able to attend USC tuition-free. This initiative boosts opportunities for students whose families earn too much to qualify for adequate aid but too little to afford a top-tier college education.

**Financial Aid Calculators**  
[financialaid.usc.edu/npc](https://financialaid.usc.edu/npc)

Visit our Financial Aid Calculators to receive an estimate of your cost, based on your family's financial circumstances.

# Financial Aid

USC is need-blind in its admission process. Students are admitted regardless of their ability to pay, and we work with families to meet the full financial need for qualified students.

Nearly two-thirds of USC undergraduates receive some sort of financial aid, including need-based grants, merit scholarships, Federal Work-Study and loans.

In 2022-2023, the university awarded more than \$814 million in financial aid. More than 75 percent of that amount comprised grants and scholarships—gift aid that does not need to be repaid.

**Applying for Financial Aid**  
[financialaid.usc.edu](https://financialaid.usc.edu)

All applicants should complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile by the deadlines listed below. The process for obtaining need-based financial aid is the same for all students regardless of which admission deadline they apply by.

**First-Year Deadline for Early Action:**  
January 12, 2024

**First-Year Deadline for Regular Decision:** February 7, 2024

**Transfer Deadline:** March 4, 2024

**2023-2024 Estimated Cost of Attendance**

Tuition	\$66,640
Fees	\$1,597
Housing*	\$11,910
Food/meal plan*	\$7,290
Books and supplies	\$1,200
Personal and miscellaneous	\$1,820
Transportation	\$464
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,921</b>

*(Add \$450 New Student Fee for your first semester.)*

*\*Includes average rent and the standard meal plan for students living in on-campus first-year housing.*



# Meet Us

Detailed information about events can be found at [admission.usc.edu/meet-us](https://admission.usc.edu/meet-us).



## In Person

Experience USC firsthand at on- or off-campus events, or by taking an on-campus guided tour!



## Online

Learn more about USC from the comfort of your own home through virtual tours, student panels and informational webinars.

## Other Ways to Connect with USC

Sign up for our mailing list:

[admission.usc.edu/requestforinformation](https://admission.usc.edu/requestforinformation)

Find your admission counselor:

[admission.usc.edu/find-your-counselor](https://admission.usc.edu/find-your-counselor)

Follow us on social media:

[@uscadmission](https://twitter.com/uscadmission)



The University of Southern California prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, religion, creed, sex, age, marital status, national origin, citizenship status, employment status, income status, shared ancestry and ethnic characteristics, partnership status, medical condition (including pregnancy and related medical conditions), disability, political belief or affiliation, domestic violence victim status, military or veteran status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, and any other class of individuals protected from discrimination under federal, state, or local law, regulation, or ordinance in any of the University's educational programs and activities.

For questions about compliance with the notice of non-discrimination, the University has designated a Vice President for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX Coordinator, Catherine Spear, who can be reached at [eeotix@usc.edu](mailto:eeotix@usc.edu), (213) 740-5086, USC Credit Union Building, 3720 South Flower Street, 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, California 90089-0704. For disability-related questions, the University has also designated an ADA/Section 504 Coordinator, Christine Street, Associate Vice Provost for Student Affairs-Institutional Accessibility and ADA Compliance, who can be reached at [streetc@usc.edu](mailto:streetc@usc.edu), (213) 821-4658, 3601 Trousdale Parkway, Bldg. #89, Los Angeles, California 90089.



# Directory

## ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Accounting  
and Business  
740-8885  
**marshall.usc.edu**

World Bachelor  
in Business  
740-8885  
**wbb.usc.edu**

Architecture  
740-2723  
**arch.usc.edu**

Art and Design  
740-ARTS (2787)  
**roski.usc.edu**

Arts, Technology  
and the Business  
of Innovation  
821-6140  
**iovine-young.usc.edu**

Cinematic Arts  
740-8358  
**cinema.usc.edu**

Communication and  
Journalism  
821-0770  
**annenberg.usc.edu**

Dance  
740-9327  
**kaufman.usc.edu**

Dramatic Arts  
740-1286  
**dramaticarts.usc.edu**

Engineering and  
Computer Science  
740-4530  
**viterbiadmission.usc.edu**

Gerontology  
740-5156  
**gero.usc.edu**

Law  
740-7331  
**gould.usc.edu**

Letters, Arts  
and Sciences  
740-2531  
**dornsife.usc.edu**

Music  
740-8986  
**music.usc.edu**

Occupational Therapy  
(323) 442-2850  
**chan.usc.edu**

Pharmacy and  
Pharmaceutical Sciences  
(323) 442-1369  
**mann.usc.edu**

Public Health  
(323) 442-7200  
**pphs.usc.edu**

Public Policy  
740-6842  
**priceschool.usc.edu**

## ADMINISTRATION

Admission  
740-1111  
**admission.usc.edu**

Athletics  
740-3843  
**usctrojans.com**

Financial Aid  
740-4444  
**financialaid.usc.edu**

Office of Student  
Accessibility Services  
740-0776  
**osas.usc.edu**

*All area codes are  
(213) unless otherwise  
indicated.*



# Majors

**USC offers undergraduates a wide array of majors, minors and interdisciplinary programs.**

## **Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences**

American Popular Culture  
American Studies and Ethnicity  
*African American Studies*  
*American Studies*  
*Asian American Studies*  
*Chicano/Latino Studies*  
Anthropology  
Applied and Computational Mathematics  
Archaeology  
Art History  
Astronomy  
Behavioral Economics and Psychology  
Biochemistry  
Biological Sciences  
Biophysics  
Central European Studies  
Chemistry  
Classics  
Cognitive Science  
Comparative Literature  
Computational Neuroscience  
Contemporary Latino & Latin American Studies  
Creative Writing  
Earth Sciences  
East Asian Area Studies  
East Asian Languages & Cultures (Chinese, Japanese, Korean)  
Economics  
Economics/Mathematics  
English  
Environmental Science & Health  
Environmental Studies  
French  
Gender and Sexuality Studies  
GeoDesign  
Geological Sciences  
Global Geodesign  
Global Studies  
Health and Human Sciences  
History  
Human Biology  
Human Security and Geospatial Intelligence  
Intelligence & Cyber Operations  
International Relations  
International Relations (Global Business)  
International Relations and the Global Economy  
Italian  
Jewish Studies  
Latin American and Iberian Cultures, Media and Politics  
Law, History and Culture  
Linguistics  
Mathematics  
Middle East Studies  
Narrative Studies  
Neuroscience  
Non-Governmental Organizations and Social Change  
Philosophy  
Philosophy, Politics & Economics  
Philosophy, Politics & Law  
Physics  
Physics/Computer Science  
Political Economy

Political Science  
Psychology  
Quantitative Biology  
Religion  
Russian  
Sociology  
Spanish

## **USC School of Architecture**

Architecture, B.ARCH  
Architecture and Inventive Technologies, B.S.

## **Iovine and Young Academy**

Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation

## **Roski School of Art & Design**

Art, B.A.  
Design, BFA  
Fine Arts, BFA

## **Marshall School of Business**

Accounting  
Artificial Intelligence for Business \*  
Business Administration  
Business of Cinematic Arts  
Real Estate Development and Finance \*  
World Bachelor in Business \*

## **USC School of Cinematic Arts**

Animation + Digital Arts, BFA  
Cinema and Media Studies, B.A.  
Film and Television Production, BFA \*  
Film and Television Production, B.A. (transfers only)  
Game Art, BFA  
Game Development and Interactive Design, BFA  
Media Arts + Practice, B.A.  
Themed Entertainment, BFA  
Writing for Screen & Television, BFA

## **Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism**

Communication  
Journalism  
Public Relations and Advertising

## **Kaufman School of Dance**

Dance, BFA

## **USC School of Dramatic Arts**

Theatre, B.A.  
Theatre (Acting for Stage and Screen), BFA  
Theatre (Musical Theatre), BFA  
Theatre (Sound Design), BFA  
Theatre (Stage Management), BFA  
Theatre (Technical Direction), BFA  
Theatre (Theatrical Design), BFA

## **Viterbi School of Engineering**

Undeclared Engineering \*  
Aerospace Engineering  
Astronautical Engineering  
Biomedical Engineering  
Biomedical (Electrical)  
Biomedical (Mechanical)  
Biomedical (Molecular-Cellular)  
Chemical Engineering  
Chemical (Biological & Pharmaceutical)  
Chemical (Energy & Sustainability)  
Chemical (Materials)  
Chemical (Petroleum & Subsurface)  
Civil Engineering  
Civil (Building Science)  
Civil (Construction Engineering & Management)  
Civil (Environmental)

Civil (Structural)  
Civil (Water Resources)  
Computer Engineering & Computer Science  
Computer Science  
Computer Science Games  
Computer Science/Business Administration  
Electrical & Computer Engineering  
Environmental Engineering  
Industrial & Systems Engineering  
Mechanical Engineering

## **Davis School of Gerontology**

Human Development & Aging  
Lifespan Health

## **Gould School of Law**

Legal Studies, B.S.

## **Keck School of Medicine**

Global Health  
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Studies

## **Thornton School of Music**

**Bachelor of Music degrees:**

Choral Music  
Composition, Classical  
Jazz Studies (instrumental and vocal)  
Music Production  
Popular Music Performance  
Classical Performance (instrumental and vocal)

Bassoon	Percussion
Cello	Piano
Clarinet	Saxophone
Classical Guitar	Trombone
Double Bass	Trumpet
Flute	Tuba
French Horn	Viola
Harp	Violin
Oboe	Vocal Arts
Organ	

**Bachelor of Science degree:**  
Music Industry

**Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy**  
Occupational Therapy \*

## **Mann School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science**

Biopharmaceutical Sciences  
Pharmacology and Drug Development

## **Price School of Public Policy**

Public Policy  
Real Estate Development  
Urban Studies and Planning

## **Pre-Professional Emphases**

Pre-Dentistry  
Pre-Law  
Pre-Medicine  
Pre-Occupational Therapy  
Pre-Pharmacy  
Pre-Physical Therapy  
Pre-Physician Assistant Practice  
Pre-Teaching

**\* Available to first-year students only.**