One of the things we treasure about our country is a belief that we live in a meritocracy,” states USC vice president of Admissions and Planning Katharine Harrington. “It’s in the DNA of who we are to expect that if you are talented and work hard, you can achieve and will be rewarded for your efforts.”

High school students who are designated National Merit Finalists and list USC as their first-choice college can earn National Merit Scholarships. USC also recognizes outstanding student accomplishment in academics and leadership through Trustee, Presidential and Deans Scholarships, plus an array of others. Awards range from several hundred dollars up to full tuition for four years.

This spring USC received one of the most generous gifts in the University’s history, from longtime supporters John and Julie Mork. Their $110 million donation recognizes and supports student excellence by establishing a fund for undergraduate scholarships. The Morks’ extraordinary success exemplifies the heights to which ability, dedication and vision can carry someone, and they know firsthand how a world-class education at USC can transform lives. Their gift will undoubtedly help talented, passionate students become future leaders and innovators.

How it works:
A four-year, full-tuition award, plus an annual living stipend of $5,000, the Mork Family Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors “with exceptional talent and intellectual capability, who have demonstrated the highest qualities of scholarship and citizenship.” Emphasis is given to accomplishments in the areas of science, technology, social sciences, arts and humanities. In keeping with the University’s longstanding commitment to its neighborhoods and the Mork family’s personal values, Mork Family Scholars will also include students from the USC Family of Schools. Students who apply for admission to USC by December 1 will be automatically considered for the scholarship.

This year, 20 Mork Family Scholars were invited to move into the new Honors Residential College, where they will enjoy special programs throughout the year. Eventually, USC plans to host up to 40 scholars on campus, but it is already clear that, as the capstone of our Merit Scholarship program, Mork Family Scholars will be enhancing the educational landscape of the University for years to come.

In our view, every student should aspire to become a merit scholar. As one of our Presidential Scholars put it: “I can’t control how much my parents can or want to contribute to my college education. What I can control is how much I care and how much effort I put in.” That’s the kind of commitment and dedication USC hopes to inspire in all its students.
2015 Freshman Class Profile
Welcome to the class of 2015!
Incoming freshmen continue to raise the bar in terms of academic excellence and all-around accomplishment. Thanks for preparing them so well!

Total Applicants: 37,210
Admit Rate: 23%
Total Matriculants: 2,931
Mean GPA: (unweighted) 3.72
Middle 50% SAT Composite: 1970-2180
Critical Reasoning: 610-720
Math: 670-770 Writing: 650-740
Middle 50% ACT Composite: 29-33
National Merit Scholars: 247

Gender:
Male 50% Female 50%

Ethnic Background:
African American 7%
Asian 25%
Caucasian 39%
Latino/Hispanic 12%
Native American/Pacific Islander 2%
International students: 15%

First Generation College-Goers: 14%
Scions (legacy) students: 20%

Financial Aid: More than 60% of undergraduates in 2010-2011 received some form of financial aid; 23% of the fall 2011 freshman class were merit scholarship recipients.

From the Sports Desk | USC fields two new NCAA Division I Teams!
Women's Lacrosse and Sand Volleyball added to athletic scholarship sports

This fall marks the beginning of the Pac-12 era as we welcome the Universities of Colorado and Utah to the ranks of our storied athletic conference. USC is also thrilled to mark another athletic milestone by adding two new NCAA Division I women's sports: lacrosse and sand volleyball.

Well-established on the East Coast, Women's Lacrosse is gaining popularity along the West Coast, and we believe the time is right to establish ourselves as collegiate leaders in the sport. Although full competition does not begin until spring 2013, the first athletic scholarship recipients have already arrived on campus for training. We expect to hit the ground running as a contender for a national championship and have signed Lindsey Munday as coach. Munday is an All-World member of the US National Team and helped lead Northwestern University to five national championships as both player and assistant coach.

Women's Sand Volleyball was perhaps literally invented in our backyard. A mainstay of Southern California beaches, sand volleyball is making its debut as an NCAA Division I sport, with competition beginning in spring 2012. We believe it will be the perfect complement to our championship-caliber Women's Indoor Volleyball team, and we are proud to have signed Anna Biller Collier as coach. Collier played three sports while at USC and is a sand volleyball legend, having coached some of the most high-profile players in the world, including teams in two Olympics.

Our coaches are now actively recruiting for these sports. Interested students should contact Anna Biller Collier, Women's Sand Volleyball, at annacoll@usc.edu or (213) 740-4151, or Lindsey Munday, Women's Lacrosse, at usclax@usc.edu or (213) 740-0917.

Our student athletes are merit scholars too! The scholar-athlete tradition remains strong at USC. We pursue excellence in athletics as well as in the classroom, and offer the maximum number of scholarships allowed by the NCAA for each of the 21 sports we play. We are also proud to be rated among the top 10 universities in the nation by Stack Magazine for the quality of our combined athletic and academic experience.

New on Campus
Freshman merit scholars fill new honors residential college
Move-In Day is always filled with anticipation, but this year there was an extra air of excitement among the 259 freshmen who became the first residents of the USC University Residential College. These Mork, Trustee and Presidential scholars fill to capacity all seven floors of Birnkrant Hall, enjoying a prime location near the heart of campus. The University Residential College is designed to give these students an unforgettable first year — living with their peers from around the country and the world, in a culturally and intellectually stimulating collegial atmosphere. Students moved in early to attend a campus retreat featuring a mini international film and literature fest. Faculty master in residence Stan Rosen, professor of political science, hosts weekly dinners for students to interact with other professors and visiting scholars. The meal plan covers regular excursions to sample the city’s diverse cuisine, and free tickets and transportation are provided for performances at LA’s most exciting cultural venues. Professor Rosen says, “It’s proving to be a place where future leaders of the University and beyond can meet, form lifetime friendships, and get everything possible out of their college experience!”

New Tools for Counselors
Coming Soon!
Help your students improve their college prep skills with Collegeology
As games have pervaded young people’s lives, a growing body of evidence shows they are one of the most powerful ways for players to become familiar with the unknown. For most students, the biggest unknown they face is the world of college, where the possibilities and pitfalls are numerous and the stakes are high. For several years, our Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis has been working on ways to harness the potential of games to help high school students envision the college experience, how to prepare for it, identify and evaluate their choices and navigate the process by making mistakes in a safe environment.

Recently our Rossier School of Education and nationally top-ranked Game Innovation Lab were awarded over $1 million in grants to build a groundbreaking suite of computer games called Collegeology. The first, “Application Crunch,” is based on our innovative Pathfinder card game. Students can use this cutting edge game technology to create personas with different skill sets and interests, then play out scenarios that reveal the consequences of actions (such as failing classes or missing deadlines), as well as the strategies that lead to success. Counselors now have an opportunity to test the game and receive free sets of the updated card game.

■ To sign up for updates and free trials, please visit pathfinder.usc.edu.
■ To learn more, visit mat.usc.edu.

Quarterly Updates for College Counselors
It’s your life, your one and only life – so take excellence very personally.

Scott Johnson

New Program Opportunity: Occupational Therapy Now Open to Freshmen

For the first time, the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy has opened its B.S. in Occupational Therapy to freshman and sophomore applicants. Declaring OT earlier not only gives incoming freshmen a “home department” at the start of their university career, but also offers other unique benefits. Students can enroll in a progressive track that allows them to earn their master’s degree in just five years, conduct original research and take classes at the world-class Health Sciences campus. Forbes magazine recently listed occupational therapy as a Top 5 Recession-Proof Job. US News & World Report also listed it as a Best Career for 2011, based primarily on salary, job satisfaction and strong forecasted growth over the next 10 years.

Prospective applicants should contact the USC Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at (323) 442-2850 or otdept@usc.edu or visit our website for more information: www.usc.edu/ot.

Looking ahead: What does it take to be lauded at USC?

Traditional academic honors conferred at graduation are based on a student’s four-year GPA, as follows:

- Cum Laude: 3.5
- Magna cum laude: 3.7
- Summa cum laude: 3.9

Students also earn University Honors by maintaining a 3.5 GPA in their major and completing an honors project. All students can participate in programs to earn the University’s top distinctions of Renaissance Scholar, Global Scholar, or Discovery Scholar, which are noted on their diplomas and qualify them for considerable awards to be applied to graduate study.
Counselor News
Quarterly News for College Counselors
Fall 2011
A college isn’t a trophy, it’s a match.

Important Dates & Deadlines

October & November

Off-campus receptions

November 20
Discover USC on-campus reception
This full day program will provide you and your family with an opportunity to meet staff from the Offices of Admission, Financial Aid and our academic departments, in addition to meeting current USC students and alumni.

December 1
First-year application deadline for scholarship consideration. Deadline for Schools of Cinema, Theatre and Music.

January 10
Final first-year application deadline.

How to find your Admission Counselor
Visit usc.edu/uga, click on “Contact Us,” then enter your high school’s name in the “Find Your Admission Counselor” box. Or call or e-mail us anytime at (213) 740-1111 or scounsel@usc.edu.

USC’s Codes

ACT Code: 0470 Used for sending ACT scores
CEEB Code: 4852 Used for PROFILE Application and SAT scores
Federal School Code: 001328 Used for FAFSA application

Discover USC at our off-campus receptions
We understand that choosing a college is one of the biggest decisions your students will face. To help them learn more about USC, we will be visiting 21 cities across the U.S., in addition to six international locales, this fall. We hope that you, your students and their parents will be able to “Discover USC” at one of these friendly and informative events.

To RSVP to the reception nearest you, please e-mail us at scounsel@usc.edu.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: www.twitter.com/USCAdmission

City | Date | Time | Location
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Atlanta | Nov. 5 | 2-4 p.m. | Grand Hyatt Atlanta
Bay Area-San Jose | Oct. 1 | 3-5 p.m. | DoubleTree by Hilton San Jose
Bay Area-Oakland | Oct. 2 | 2-4 p.m. | Marriott Oakland City Center
Beijing | Oct. 22 | 2-4 p.m. | Shangri-La Kerry Centre Hotel
Boston | Oct. 30 | 2-4 p.m. | The Westin Copley Place
Chicago | Oct. 9 | 2-4 p.m. | Chicago Marriott O’Hare
Dallas | Oct. 1 | 2-4 p.m. | Dallas/Addison Marriott Quorum
Denver | Oct. 16 | 3-5 p.m. | The Westin Denver Downtown
Hong Kong | Oct. 16 | 2-4 p.m. | JW Marriott Hong Kong
Honolulu | Oct. 9 | 2-4 p.m. | Waikiki Beach Marriott
Houston | Oct. 2 | 2-4 p.m. | JW Marriott Houston
Las Vegas | Oct. 17 | 7-9 p.m. | JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort & Spa
Miami | Nov. 6 | 2-4 p.m. | The Westin Diplomat Resort
Minneapolis | Oct. 10 | 7-9 p.m. | Mmm. Airport Marriott Bloomington
New York | Oct. 29 | 2-4 p.m. | New York Marriott Marquis
Philadelphia | Oct. 29 | 2-4 p.m. | Courtyard Philadelphia Downtown
Phoenix | Oct. 15 | 2-4 p.m. | Embassy Suites
Portland | Oct. 22 | 2-4 p.m. | Courtyard by Marriott
Sacramento | Oct. 3 | 7-9 p.m. | Sheraton Grand
San Diego | Oct. 5 | 7-9 p.m. | Hyatt Regency La Jolla
Seattle | Oct. 23 | 2-4 p.m. | Seattle Marriott Waterfront
Seoul | Oct. 24 | 7-9 p.m. | Grand Hyatt Seoul
Shanghai | Oct. 20 | 7-9 p.m. | JW Marriott Shanghai
Taipei | Oct. 18 | 7-9 p.m. | Grand Hyatt Taipei
Vancouver | Oct. 24 | 7-9 p.m. | St. George’s School
Washington, D.C. | Oct. 27 | 7-9 p.m. | Hilton Alexandria Old Town