First-Year Student Profile and Admission Information 2020 - 2021

USC Class of 2024
New first-year students 3,460
USC Trustee Scholars (full tuition) 100
USC Presidential Scholars (half tuition) 461
USC Dean’s Scholars (quarter tuition) 89
Recipients of other USC merit scholarships 70
National Merit Scholars 310
First-generation college-goers 22%
Scions (legacy students) 15%
Female 53%
Male 47%

Race / Ethnicity
White 31%
Asian / Asian American 27%
Latino / Hispanic 17%
International (student visa holders) 12%
Black / African American 6%
Multiple Ethnicities 6%
Not reported 1%
Native American or Pacific Islander <1%

Most Represented Public High Schools
Foshay Learning Center, Los Angeles, CA 25
Arcadia HS; Arcadia, CA 15
Palos Verdes HS; Palos Verdes Estates, CA 15
Diamond Bar HS; Diamond Bar, CA 14
Orange County HS of the Arts; Santa Ana, CA 14
Saratoga HS; Saratoga, CA 14

Most Represented Independent/Parochial Schools
Mater Dei HS; Santa Ana, CA 12
Saint Francis HS; Mountain View, CA 10
Harvard-Westlake; Studio City, CA 9
Loyola HS; Los Angeles, CA 9
Punahou School; Honolulu, HI 9
Sacred Heart Prep; Atherton, CA 9

Most Represented Geographic Areas
U.S. States
California 42%
New York 18%
Texas 18%
Illinois 18%
Washington 18%
New Jersey 18%
Florida 5%
Outside U.S.
China 42%
India 18%
South Korea 18%
Canada 18%
Taiwan 18%
Singapore 18%
United Kingdom 18%

Academic Distribution
Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences 42%
Marshall School of Business 18%
USC’s Schools of Visual and Performing Arts 17%
(Viterbi School of Engineering 13%
Annenberg School for Comm. & Journalism 5%
Undeclared Major 2%
Price School of Public Policy 2%
Kee School of Medicine (Health Studies) 1%
Iovine-Young Academy 1%
School of Pharmacy <1%
Davis School of Gerontology <1%
Occupational Therapy Program <1%

Fall Enrolls Fall Admits Fall Applicants
3,460 9,618 59,712
36.0% yield 16.1% admitted

Students’ Declared Pre-Professional Interests
Pre-Medicine 15%
Pre-Law 9%
Pre-Health (Dent., Pharm., OT, PT, etc.) 3%
Pre-Teaching 2%

Cost and Financial Aid
USC practices need-blind admission. A student’s ability to pay has no bearing on his or her admission.
USC has a long tradition of fully meeting the USC determined need of undergraduates through a combination of merit scholarships, need-based grants, Federal Work-Study and loans. Under USC’s Affordability Initiative, announced in 2020 (affordability.usc.edu), students from U.S. families with an annual income of $80,000 or less, with typical assets, will attend USC tuition free.
About 21% of the 2020 entering first-year class received a merit-based scholarship from USC. Approximately two-thirds received some form of financial assistance.
Although international students are not eligible to receive federal or USC need-based aid, they may be awarded merit scholarships and/or other departmental awards. AB 540 students may be eligible to receive a Cal Grant. Undocumented students meeting certain criteria may be eligible for need-based aid.

Items Used to Determine Financial Aid Eligibility
• CSS PROFILE
• FAFSA
• Other specific information may be required, depending upon family’s situation

2020-21 Undergraduate Annual Cost of Attendance
Tuition and fees $60,275
Housing $9,327
Dining/Meal Plan $6,110
Miscellaneous expenses and transportation $2,151
Books and supplies $1,200
Annual Total $79,063

2021 First-Year Application Process
USC accepts the Common Application and does not offer early action or early decision.

Required Application Materials
• Completed Common Application form and USC’s Common Application Supplement
• Official high school transcripts, grades 9 – 11 (and eventually, final high school transcripts)
• Essay and responses to short answer topics
• Activities list
• Counselor/teacher recommendation form and letter

Other Items Required of Certain Applicants
• Supplemental materials and/or auditions, depending upon major.
• TOEFL, IELTS, PTE Academic or Duolingo English Test results required for international applicants whose native language is not English.
• Predicted IB or A-Level Exam results, from students following such curricula.

SAT / ACT Optional for 2021-22
• Applicants decide whether to submit scores
• Applicants without scores will not be disadvantaged or penalized in USC’s holistic admission or scholarship selection processes.

Important Dates and Deadlines
December 1, 2020 App. deadline for scholarship consideration
January 15, 2021 Final application deadline
February 13, 2021 PROFILE and FAFSA should be filed by this date for priority financial aid consideration
March 2, 2021 Deadline for Cal Grant application (California residents only)
April 1, 2021 Admission notification date
May 1, 2021 National Candidates Reply Date