



Graduation and Retention Network

ANNUAL REPORT FY 22/23



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina

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Shelley Dempsey

Director

I am excited to report that we have had an incredibly productive year in the Office of Graduation and Retention Network (GARNET). We have seen growth in our ongoing programs like the Summer Semester and Winter Session while also launching new programs to help our student Gamecocks stay on track for degree completion. In this annual report, you will see that we continued to serve a diverse population of students with opportunities like Accelerated Study Plans and the Jump Start Summer Transfer Program. We are proud of the role we play in helping retain students and assist them in reaching their graduation goals.

In addition we are excited about new programs that are in the planning and early execution stages, such as Complete Carolina completion grants for students nearing graduation, undergraduate interdisciplinary certificates, and increased opportunities to serve our first generation students. None of these projects would be possible without our numerous partner offices on campus in both academic and administrative units. The passion and commitment of the GARNET team is unmatched, and we look forward to serving our students in their graduation and retention goals into the future.



Continued innovation to respond to the needs of our students in the persistent new normal of a pandemic has been at the forefront of the University for the past year. The Graduation and Retention Network worked to implement practices to keep both staff and students safe, while moving forward toward degree completion.



OYT PROGRAMS

Summer Semester

Summer Semester provides an opportunity for students to catch up or get ahead on coursework. There are hundreds of summer courses available with seven different sessions and many online options, so it's possible to be enrolled part-time or full-time from wherever you are.

Winter Semester

Winter Session is a three week, 100% online session that takes place during the winter break. It's a great way to catch up or get ahead, or lighten the spring semester load to make time for practicums and internships.

Jump Start Summer Transfer Program

To increase academic success and retention amongst the transfer student population, the Jump Start Summer Transfer Program invites admitted transfer students to get an early start on their coursework and works to help students find a sense of belonging with the campus community.

Accelerated Study Plans (ASPs)

ASPs are designed to utilize Summer Semester and Winter Session to obtain a traditional 4-year degree in 3 years. There are also options to accelerate getting a bachelor's plus graduate degrees. Students may wish to graduate early to start a graduate program, start a career or simply save money.

Interdisciplinary Studies Certificates

Students can gain additional skills beyond their major and minor through interdisciplinary certificates. Certificates can be earned in as little as 12 credit hours from a combination of cross-campus courses.

Senior Citizens Tuition Waiver Program

SC residents over the age of 60 are eligible for the senior citizen tuition waiver. GARNET coordinates this program and helps its students with navigation of the University's processes.

Non-Degree Students

The Graduation and Retention Network serves as the point of contact for non-degree-seeking students in helping them navigate the campus and University processes. This includes transient students, as well as many other student types.

Summer Minors

Summer Minors provide students an opportunity to complete the requirements of a minor in one summer. GARNET has coordinated with academic departments to ensure that all courses required for participating minors are being offered in such a way that students may easily take the credits without scheduling conflicts.



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Shelley Dempsey Ph.D., Director, presented a North American Association of Summer Sessions (NAASS) webinar to discuss Building a Prosocial Workplace to increase Civility, Production, and Retention, Wednesday, March 22. Shelley presented at NAASS Annual Conference in October 2022. She is also a member of USC's Human Resources Advisory Board on Classification and Compensation and a member of the President's University Strategic Planning Group. Shelley served as Chair of NAASS National Conference 2022 Planning Committee and is a Regional Officer for NAASS. Shelley earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration in May 2021 and continues to implement the skills and knowledge gained through her studies to innovate and benefit the department.

- Helen Le, Academic Services Manager, graduated from the Emerging Leaders Program in 2023. She received the NASPA 2023 Palmetto Award for Program of Distinction on behalf of GARNET (May 2023). Helen is a member of the University Advisors Network, USC's Network of Student Care (within the Graduation and Retention Council), and also serves as GARNET's Wellness Ambassador. Helen is also an instructor for University 101 for the Fall 2023 semester.

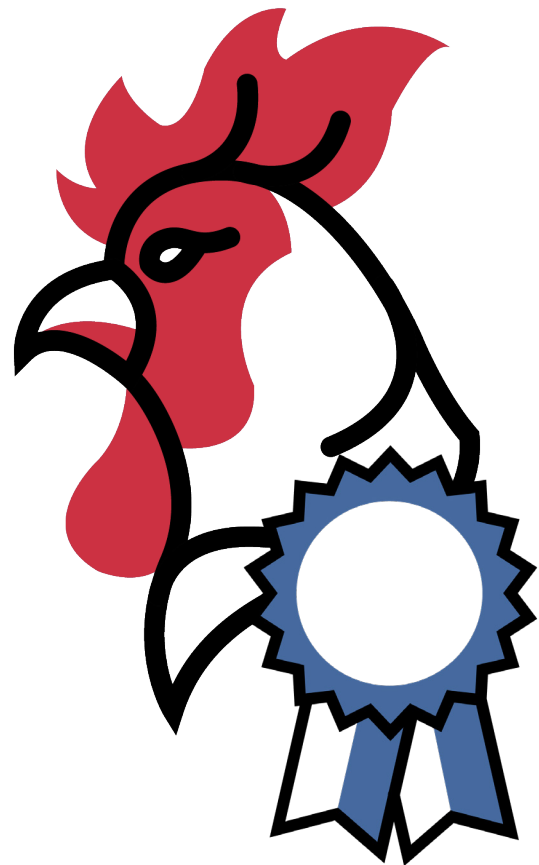
- Meghan Lipinoga, Data and Business Manager, serves as the treasurer for NAASS. Meghan also led a working group on best practices in data collection and distribution for the North American Association of Summer Sessions. Meghan is also an instructor for University 101 for the Fall 2023 semester.

- Amanda Therrell, Assistant Director, serves on USC's Transfer Student Advisory Council and is a member of the University Advisors Network. She is the Regional Vice President (RVP) for the Middle/Southern Regions for NAASS. She was asked to present at Student Success US, sponsored by Inside Higher Ed and The Gates Foundation. Amanda received the NASPA 2023 Palmetto Award for Program of Distinction on behalf of GARNET

(May 2023). Amanda is also an instructor for University 101 for the Fall 2023 semester.

- Kelly DeShazo, Student Services Coordinator, received her Effective Communication Certificate from HR in March 2023. She also shared information about Senior Citizen Program with Dashia Marie N. Tisdale, Park Center Specialist.

- Taylor McRavin Human Resources Coordinator, completed the SCWHE Leadership Academy She also received the NASPA 2023 Palmetto Award for Program of Distinction on behalf of GARNET (May 2023).



CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS



As GARNET falls under the umbrella of the Office of the Provost, campus partnerships remain critical to the implementation and success of GARNET's programs. The partnerships between GARNET and other offices under the umbrella of the Provost including University Advising Center (UAC), Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), and others, have been essential to the success of programs such as Winter Session, both for coordination and student support.

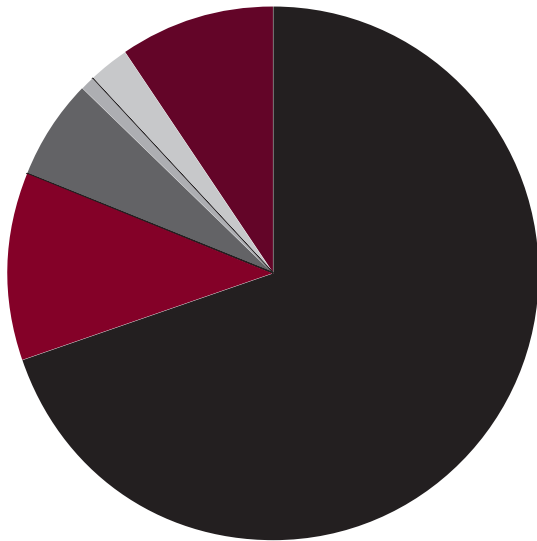
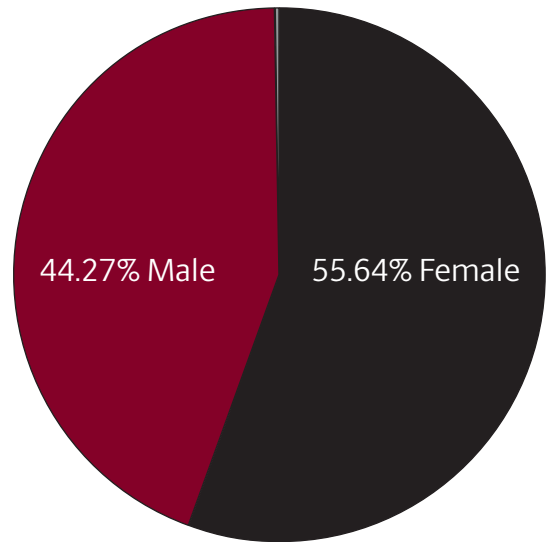
GARNET has worked with campus partners to make courses available during the seven different summer sessions of varying lengths. Being a data-driven department, GARNET has also worked closely with the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment, and Analytics to build reports and utilize data in ways that are beneficial to our students and institution, as well as maintain Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) compliance.



GARNET maintains a close partnership with the UAC. GarNet and UAC work together toward the goal of on-time student graduation. Additionally, GARNET actively seeks to build new campus partnerships and finds ways to collaborate across departments, such as building relationships with academic departments to build the Summer Minors program.

PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHICS

The Graduation and Retention Network (GARNET) strives to reflect the University's values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. GARNET programs endeavor to reach marginalized student populations and extend the ability of every USC student to reach on-time graduation. GARNET staff are committed to exploring and implementing ways to achieve a diverse academic setting.



Diversity Demographics

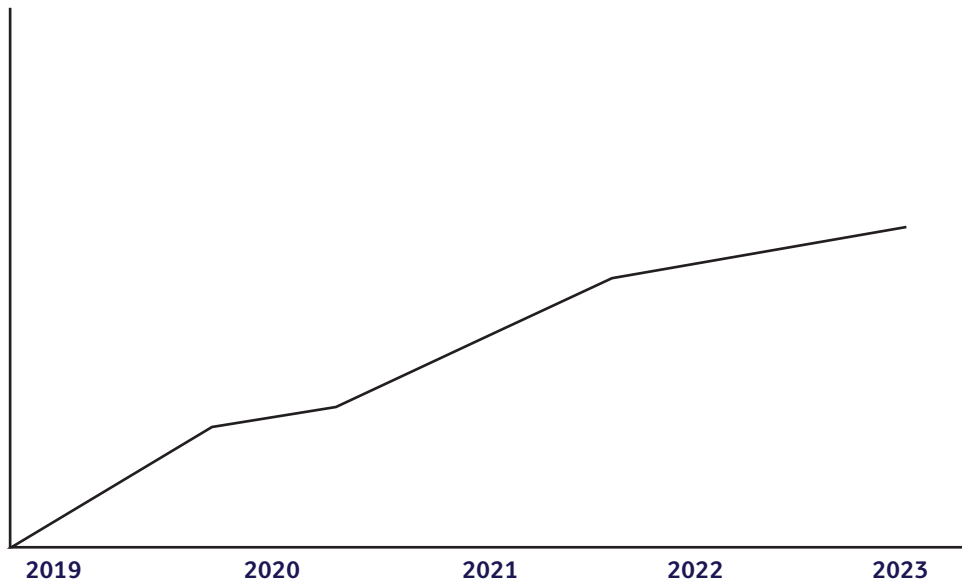
Data includes: Summer 2023 Undergraduate Enrollees, 2023 Winter Session Enrollees, 2022-2023 ASP Students & Summer 2023 Jump Start Students. Students were counted one time per program. Students were counted per each selected race.

- White
 - African American
 - American Indian
 - Asian
 - Hispanic
 - Hawaiian
 - Not Reported
 - 2+ Races
- Total: 8,658

2023 SUMMER DATA



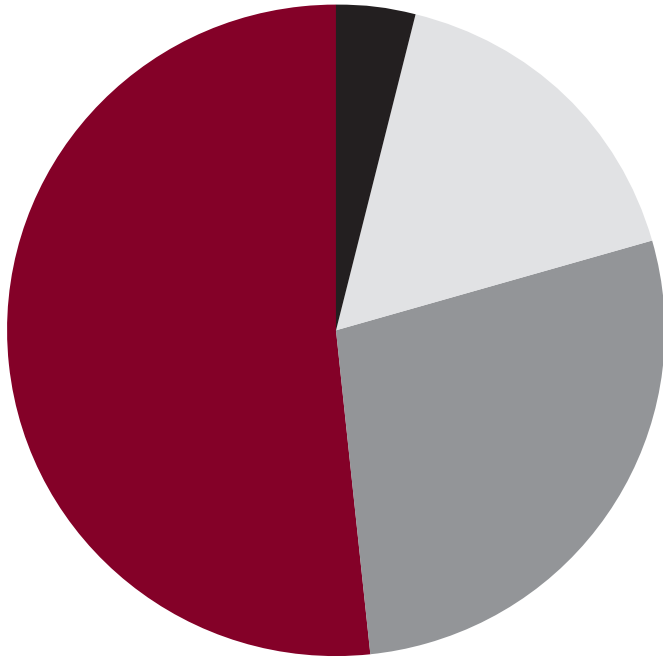
Students Enrolled in 12+ Credit Hours



There was a 2.45% increase in number of student enrolled in 12+ credit hours from 2019 to 2023.

2023 SUMMER DATA CONT.

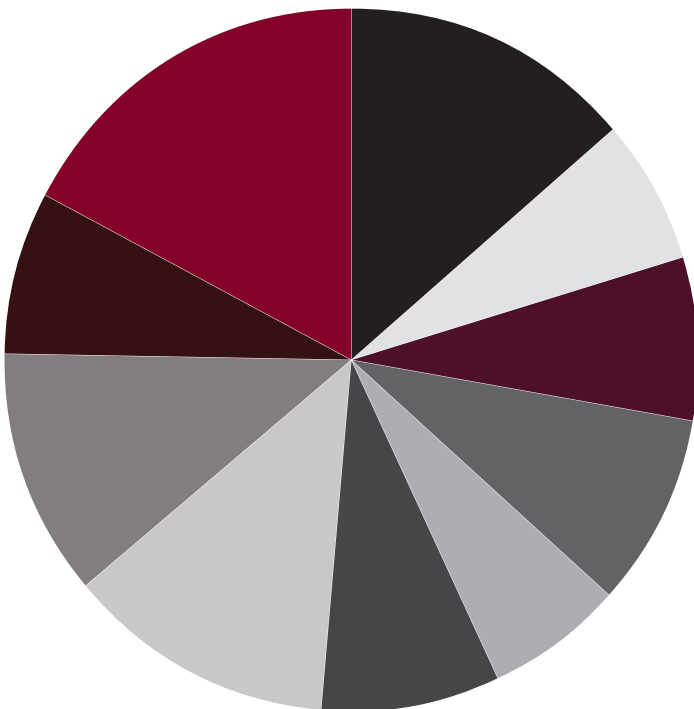
Undergraduate Summer Enrollment By Class Level



- Freshman: 310 students
- Sophomore: 1,227 students
- Junior: 2,063 students
- Senior: 3,843 students

Total: 7,443 students

Undergraduate Summer Enrollment By Major



- Biological Sciences: 482
- Criminology and Criminal Justice: 233
- Exercise Science: 256
- Finance: 307
- Nursing: 299
- Pre-Business: 291
- Psychology: 431
- Public Health: 395
- Retailing: 258
- Sport and Entertainment Mgmt: 599

Total: 3,481

2023 SUMMER DATA CONT.

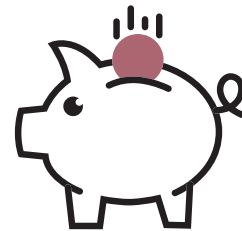
Student Residential Numbers



Residents: **61%** of students
Non-Residents: **39%** of students

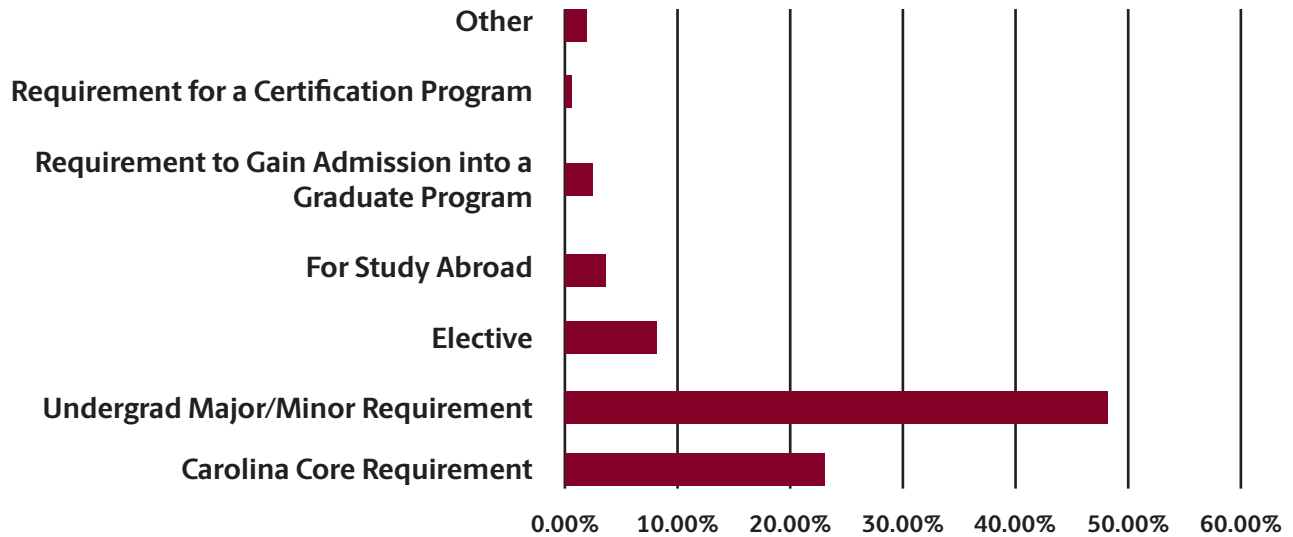
Summer Semester Financial Aid

- 1.5%** Increase in Graduate/Professional Aid recipients from 2022 to 2023
- 10%** Increase in Undergraduate financial aid amount awarded from 2022 to 2023
- 3%** Increase in Pell Grant recipients from summer 2022 to 2023

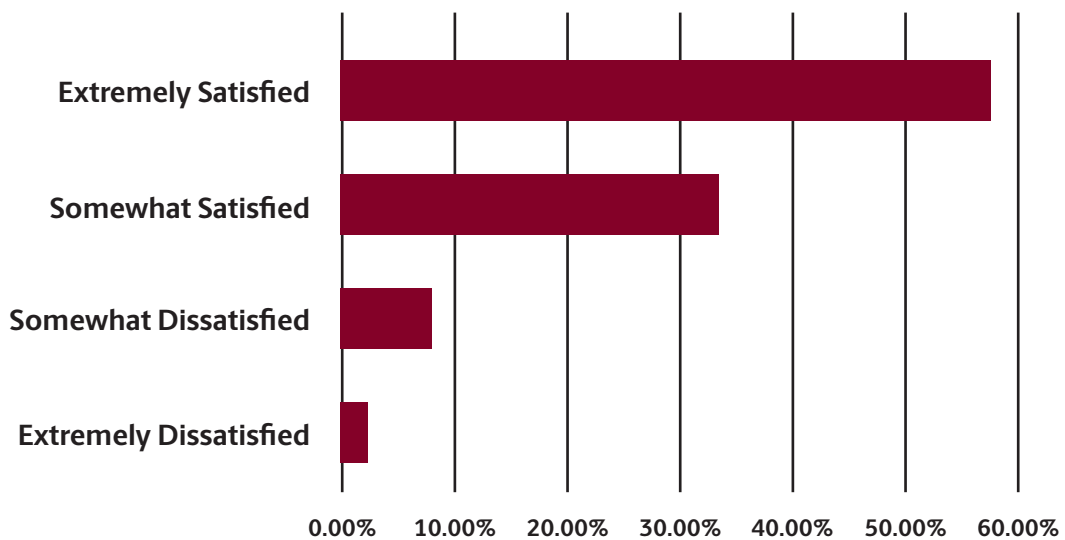


2023 SUMMER DATA CONT.

The Summer Course(s) I Took Were



How Satisfied Were You With the Quality of your Summer Courses



SUMMER STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

Successful Summer Student Contessa Davis

BA, Public Relations, Magna Cum Laude

Contessa Davis was a student in the College of Information and Communication that graduated in 3 years with the high honor of Magna Cum Laude thanks to her time in Summer Semester! Here is what she had to say.

“During my three years, I served as a resident mentor, University 101 Peer Leader, Press Secretary to the Student Body Vice President, and Chapter President of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). As far as graduating On My Time, it began when I was a senior in high school taking dual enrollment courses offered through my local technical college. In addition to the credits I earned from the institution, I took two summer courses during 2019 (end of freshman year) and four classes during summer 2020 before senior year.”

“A tip I learned to keep myself on track was to frequently check DegreeWorks (mapping out several scenarios) and knowing what I needed to take before my advising appointments so the focus could solely be on the pressing questions about my college career.”



Successful Summer Student Savannah Belt

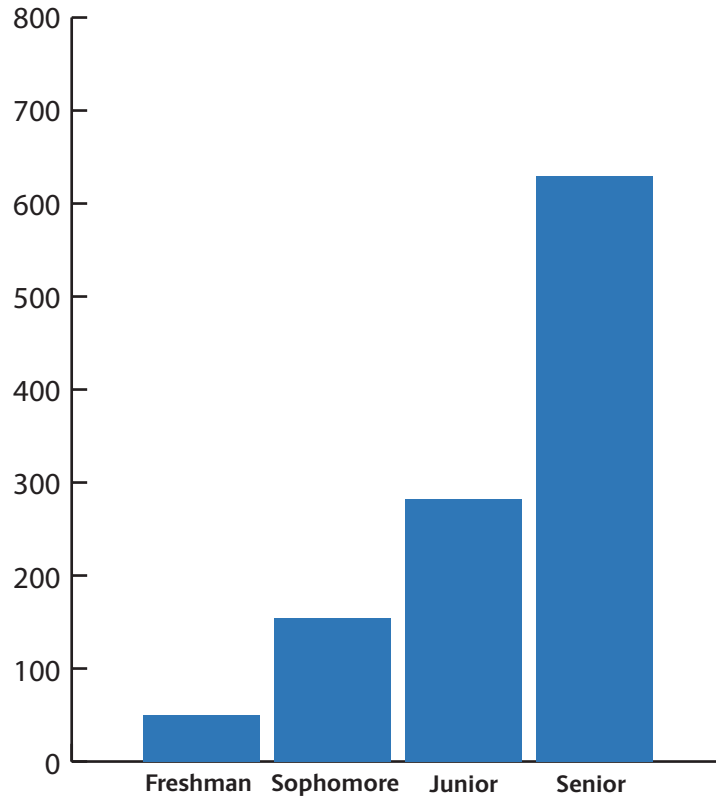
Class of 2024

“Like many incoming freshmen, I had no idea what I wanted to do for my career. With interests in public health, biology, chemistry, psychology, and more, I did not think I would have enough time to explore every option. However, the combination of my AP credits along with On Your Time Initiatives summer classes program allowed me to pursue all my passions while staying on track for graduation. Without these initiatives I most likely would not be content with the career path I chose, and it would have left me wondering ‘what if...’”

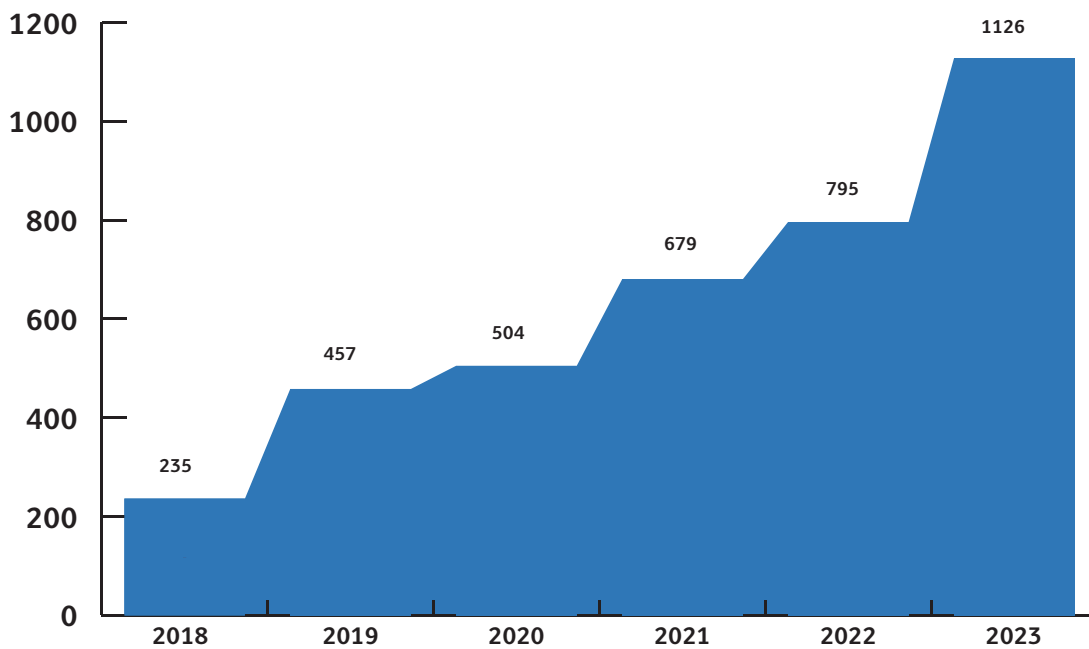


2023 WINTER SESSION DATA

Enrollment By Class

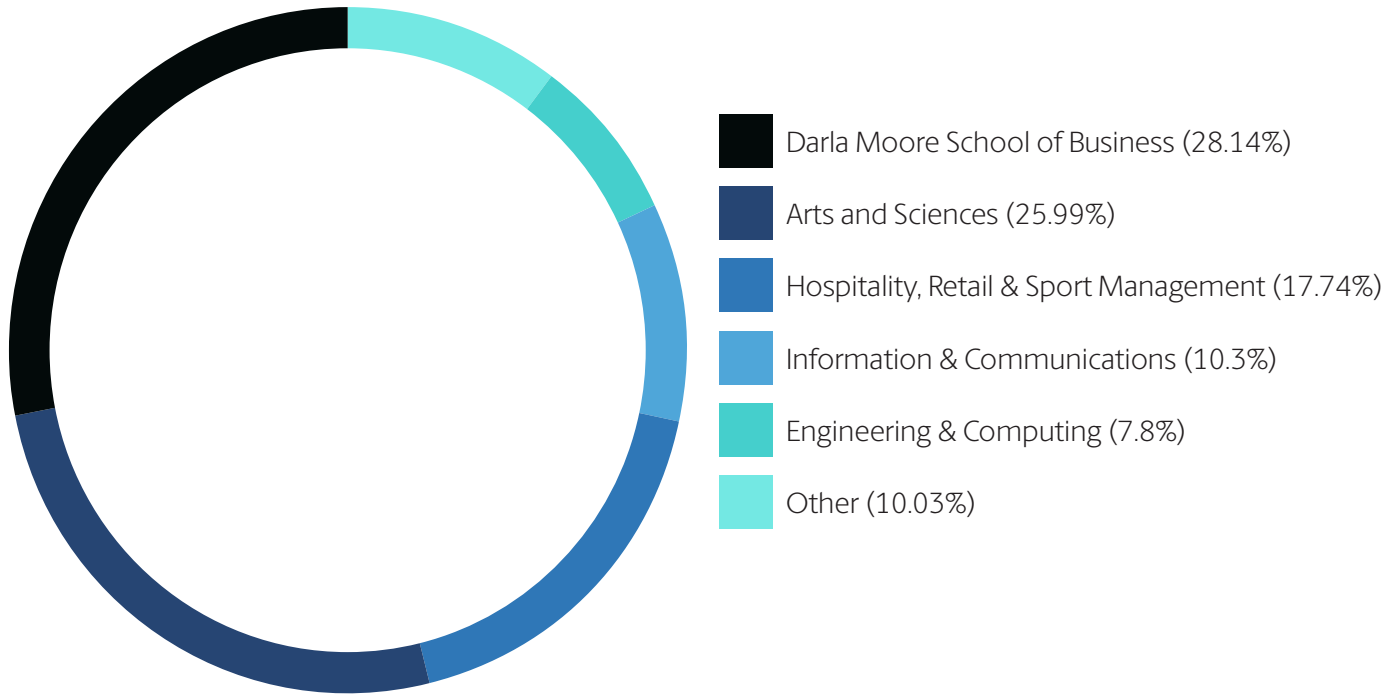


Winter Session: Unduplicated Headcount



2023 WINTER SESSION DATA CONT.

Undergraduate Winter Enrollment by College



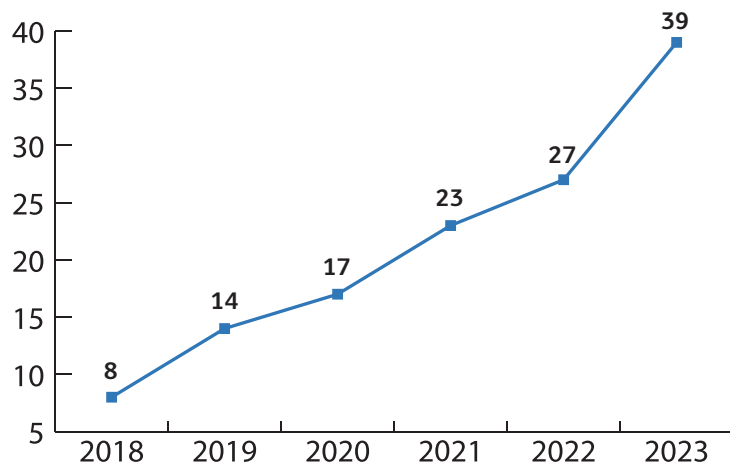
94% of WS students reported that they felt adequately prepared by USC for the accelerated pace.

African American and Hispanic enrollment grew by **2%** from the 2020 Winter session.

“**I liked that I was able to take 18 credit hours this semester, but I only am doing the work for 5 during the Spring section of this term.**”

2023 WINTER SESSION DATA CONT.

Total Number of Winter Session Courses



Survey Feedback

72.5%

of students reported they were highly satisfied or satisfied with the WS course offerings available.

90.6%

of students were highly satisfied or satisfied with the registration process for WS.

Winter Session Students

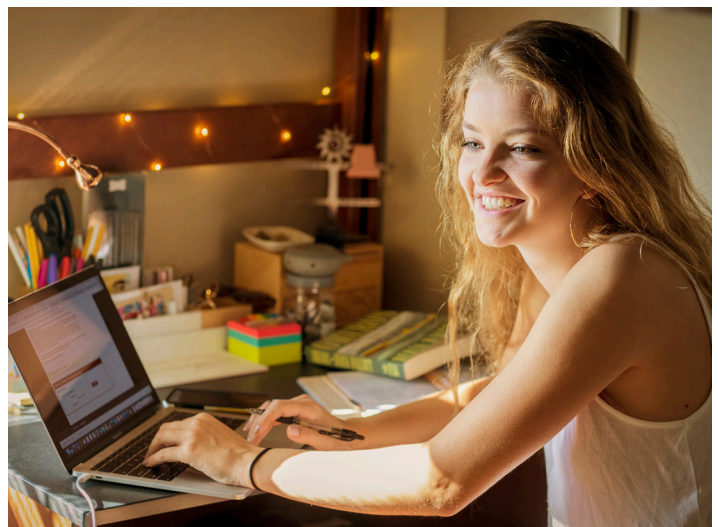
2023 Winter Session Survey Feedback

Positive feedback regarding Winter Session 2023:

“The accelerated pace and shortened course length helped me balance my fall and spring courseloads. The highly-organized, online course was easy to keep up with even though I was overseas for part of the course period.”

“I appreciated the fast paced nature of the class, as well as the different forms of media/textbooks/readings that we got to learn from. We watched videos, movies, and read unique articles.”

“I loved the structure. We had assignments due every day which helped with the pace. I much preferred assignments due every day rather than on a weekly basis because it helped me stay on track.”



2022 JUMP START TRANSFER PROGRAM



Kathy Smiling
HRSM Assistant Dean of Student Services

“Jump Start has provided HRSM students early access to courses, faculty, staff and an abundance of engagement opportunities!”

92%

Retention rate of all Jump Start Students

Average GPA

3.461

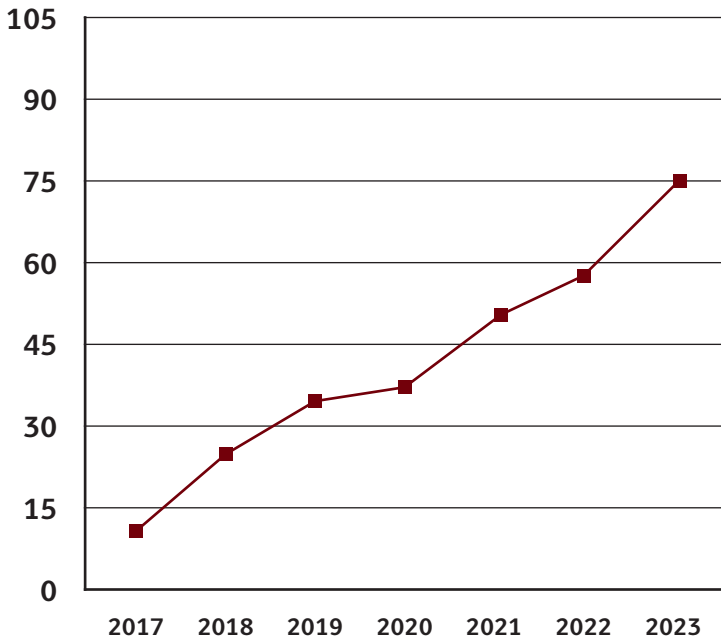
Current Jump Start Degree Programs

When Jump Start began in 2019 it was open to majors in the College of HRSM. Since, it has expanded to the following:

- Hospitality, Retail, and Sports Management
- Hospitality Management
- Retailing
- Sport and Entertainment Management
- Tourism Management
- Interdisciplinary Studies
- Information and Communications
- Broadcast Journalism
- Journalism
- Advertising
- Mass Communications
- Public Relations and Visual Communications
- Arts and Sciences
- Biology
- Psychology
- Economics
- Math
- Statistics
- Chemistry
- Neuroscience

ACCELERATED STUDY PLAN DATA

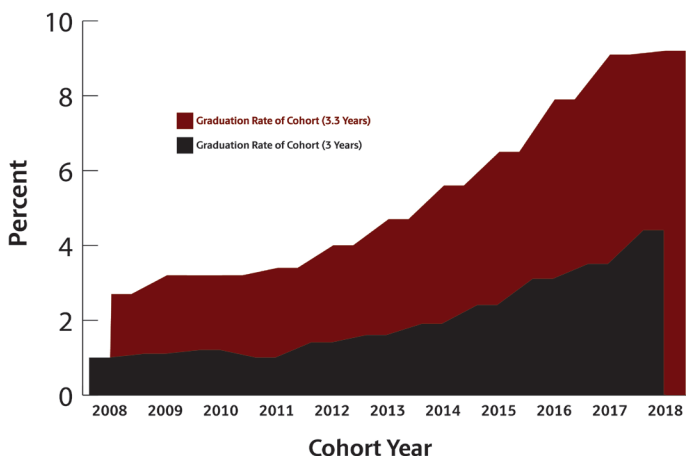
Number of Students Enrolled in an Accelerated Study Plan



3.657
Average GPA

19 Different majors currently represented in ASP

Increase in the Number of USC Students Graduating in 3/3.3 Years



Eva Borad, Class of 2022 *Accelerated Study Plan Student*

Eva was a student in the College of Arts and Sciences studying biology. She was able to graduate in 3 years with an accelerated study program through GARNET.

“Summer classes allowed me to be able to focus on one class at a time so I can really learn from it. Both this and an option to graduate early gave me the opportunity to accomplish my goals at an earlier stage of my life. This gives me flexibility and time to experience more in the real-world with the accreditation I need. It gives me a chance to relax and work on other goals before starting the next big chapter of my life, graduate school.”

“Graduating in three years allows me to take a gap year without delaying my career trajectory for my age.”

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

The Graduation and Retention Network held our third annual Summer Opportunities Fair on Greene Street on April 5th. We hosted representatives from over a dozen campus departments, units, and community partners who play a role in Summer Semester at USC. Students were invited to stop by for snacks, giveaways, music, photos with Cocky, and lots of information about how Summer Semester can help them on their path to graduation. This fun event is growing each year to successfully spread the word about the benefits of summer enrollment.



CONTACT

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