GUIDED TRANSFER PATHWAYS THROUGH COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS



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University Advising Center
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

WHO ARE TRANSFER STUDENTS AND WHAT ARE THEIR CONCERNS?

- How will their credits transfer?
- How long will it take to graduate?
- How much will it cost?
- Who will help me navigate this?

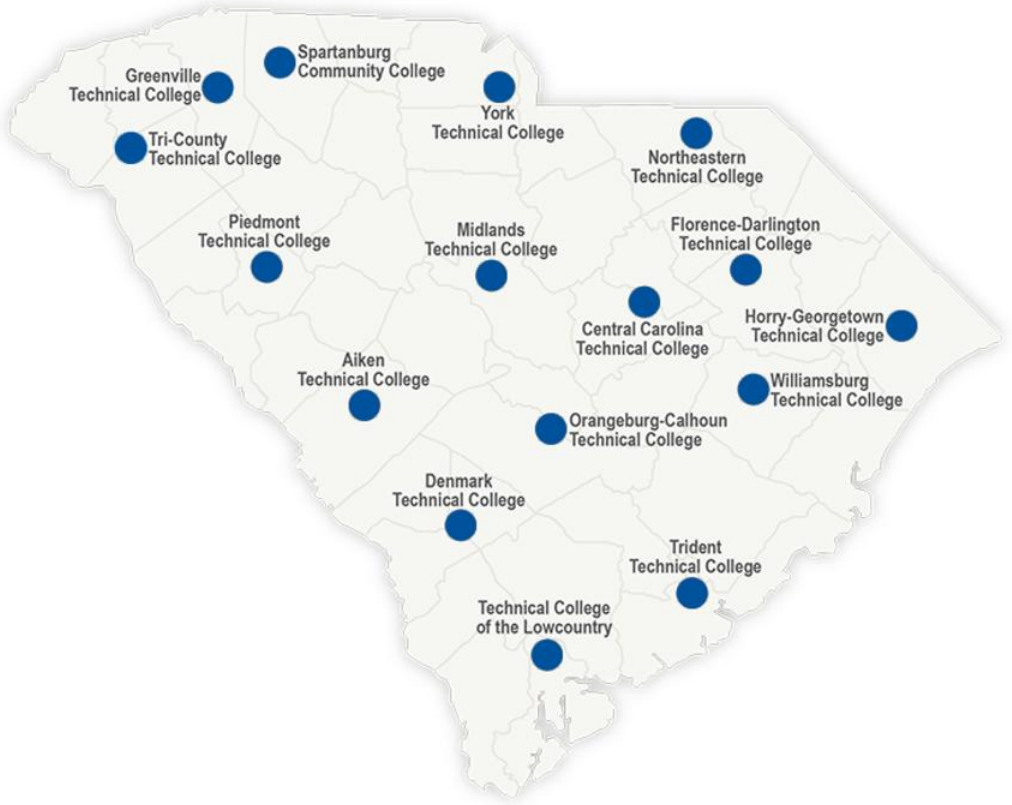
Table 1. Transfer Patterns, Terms, and Definition(s).

Transfer patterns and terms	Definition(s)
Vertical transfer	Students who begin at a 2-year and transfer to a 4-year with or without an associate's degree (Townsend, 2001).
Lateral transfer	Students who transfer from a 2-year institution to a 2-year institution, or a 4-year institution to a 4-year institution (Bahr, 2009).
Reverse transfer	Students who begin at a 4-year and transfer to a 2-year institution, including undergraduate reverse transfer students, postbaccalaureate reverse transfer students, double reverse transfer students, and summer sessioners (Hagedorn & Castro, 1999; Townsend, 2001; Townsend & Denver, 1999).
Reverse credit transfer	The transfer of credits from a 4-year institution back to a 2-year institution for the purpose of conferring an associate's degree (Taylor, 2016).
Swirlers and alternating enrollees	Students who attend more than two institutions and transfer or who transfer from and to community colleges (Adelman, 2004, 2006; de los Santos & Wright, 1989; Townsend, 2001).
Concurrent enrollees, co-enrollment, double-dipping, simultaneous enrollees	Students who attend more than one institution at the same time and who transfer courses (Adelman, 2004, 2006; Crisp, 2013; McCormick, 2003; Townsend, 2001; Wang & Wickersham, 2014).
Dual credit, dual enrollment	Transfer of college-level courses taken during high school.
Transient	Students who take courses as nondegree seeking students at institutions other than home institution with intention to transfer credits to home institution (McCormick, 2003).

Note. These transfer terms are commonly used in the literature. We recognize these terms could be interpreted as hierarchical, deficit, and/or problematic, and we advocate for the development of critical and appropriate language to describe transfer patterns and experiences.
Source. Adapted from Taylor (2016).

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
AT USC, STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS HAVE HELPED US:

- Create 53 Direct Transfer Tracks and Transfer Guides.
- Align coursework across institutions.
- Support earlier academic planning.
- Improve degree completion outcomes.
- Strengthen faculty and advisor collaboration



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WE CURRENTLY HAVE PARTNERSHIPS WITH:

- South Carolina Technical College System
- Midlands Technical College
- Greenville Technical College

TRANSFER ADVISING GUIDES

- South Carolina Technical College System Campuses
- Academic planning tool
- Recommended courses for the first 30 credit hours and identifies which courses will fulfill USC program requirements
- Transferrable courses beyond the first 30 credit hours

• Semester One Psychology

SCTCS Subject and Title	Credit Hours	Min. Grade	USC Equivalent Course
ENG 101 English Comp I	3	C	ENGL 101 Critical Reading & Comp (CC - CMW)
PSY 201 General Psychology	3	C	PSYC 101 Introduction to Psychology (CC - GSS)

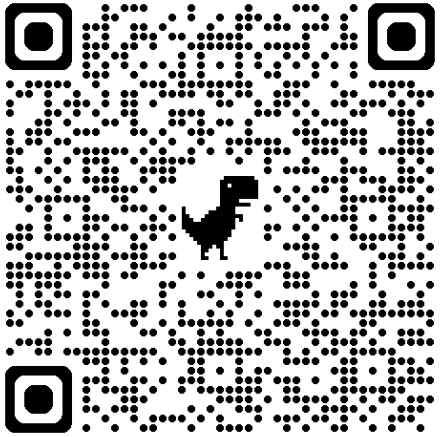
• Semester Three Psychology

USC Course Subject and Title	Credit Hours	Min. Grade	SCTCS Equivalent Course	University Requirements
PSYC 120 Professional Development in Psychology	1	C	No SCTCS Equivalency	(MR)
Foreign Language or Carolina Core Req.**	3-4		SPA 101 – Elementary Spanish I or FRE 101 Elementary French I or GER 101 Elementary German I	(CC - GFL)

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DIRECT TRANSFER TRACKS

- Provide students with a clear course map at both the SCTC and USC
- Specific majors, allowing partner students to earn an associate degree prior to transferring
- Catalog rights



- Semester One Geography

MTC Subject and Title	Credit Hours	Min. Grade	USC Equivalent Course
COL 105 Freshman Seminar	3	C	UNEL 001T Freshman Seminar (PR-Elective)
ENG 101 English Composition I	3	C	ENGL 101 Critical Reading & Composition (CC-CMW)

- Semester Five Geography

USC Course Subject and Title	Credit Hours	Min. Grade	University Requirements
GEOG 341 Cartography or GEOG 345 Interpretation of Aerial Photographs or GEOG 363 Geographic Information Systems or GEOG 551 Principles of Remote Sensing	3	C	(MR)
GEOG Elective (200-level or above)	3-4	C	(MR)

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EXAMPLES

Midlands Technical College

- Semeter One: Geography

MTC Subject and Title	Credit Hours	Min. Grade	USC Equivalent Course
COL 105 Freshman Seminar	3	C	UNEL 001T Freshman Seminar (PR-Elective)
ENG 101 English Composition I	3	C	ENGL 101 Critical Reading & Composition (CC-CMW)

- Semeter Five: Geography

USC Course Subject and Title	Credit Hours	Min. Grade	University Requirements
GEOG 341 Cartography or GEOG 345 Interpretation of Aerial Photographs or GEOG 363 Geographic Information Systems or GEOG 551 Principles of Remote Sensing	3	C	(MR)
GEOG Elective (200-level or above)	3-4	C	(MR)

Greenville Technical College

- Semeter One: Biology

GTC Subject and Title	Credit Hours	Min. Grade	USC Equivalent Course
COL 105 Freshman Seminar	3	C	UNEL 001T (Elective)
ENG 101 English Composition I	3	C	ENGL 101 Critical Reading & Composition (CC-CMW)

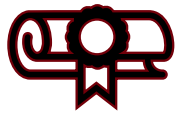
- Semester Five: Biology

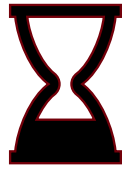
USC Course Subject and Title	Credit Hours	Min. Grade	University Requirements
BIOL 301 (& optional lab) Ecology & Evolution or BIOL 302 (& optional lab) Cell & Molecular Bio. or BIOL 303 Fundamental Genetics	3-4	C	(MR)
CSCE 102 General Applications Programming	3		(CR)

TRANSFER STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Transfer Students Navigate Complex Systems

- Credit Evaluation & Degree Applicability
- Degree Requirements & Major Exploration
- Course Sequencing & Time to Graduation
- Multiple Offices & Processes
- Campus Integration & Belonging







2021
12 Transfer Tracks
BIOL
BIOL
CHEM ENGR
CIVIL ENGR
COMP ENGR
EARLY EDUC
ELECT ENGR
ELEM EDUC
EXSC
MECH ENGR
MID EDUC
PUBH

2022
12 Transfer Tracks
BIOL
BIOL
CHEM ENGR
CIVIL ENGR
COMP ENGR
EARLY EDUC
ELECT ENGR
ELEM EDUC
EXSC
MECH ENGR
MID EDUC
PUBH

2023
22 Transfer Tracks
AESP ENGR
BIOL
BIOL
CHEM ENGR
CIVIL ENGR
COMP ENGR
COMP SCI
CRJU
EARLY EDUC
ELECT ENGR
ELEM EDUC
EXSC
GEOG
GEOG
HOSP
HOSP
HOSP
MECH ENGR
MID EDUC
PUBH
SOCY
SOCY

2024
26 Transfer Tracks
AESP ENGR
BIOL
BIOL
CHEM ENGR
CIVIL ENGR
COMP ENGR
COMP SCI
CRJU
EARLY EDUC
ELECT ENGR
ELEM EDUC
EXSC
GEOG
GEOG
HOSP
HOSP
HOSP
INFO SCI
INTL STUD
MASS COMM
MECH ENGR
MID EDUC
POLI
PUBH
SOCY
SOCY

2025
33 Transfer Tracks
AESP ENGR
BIOL
BIOL
BIOL
CHEM ENGR
CIVIL ENGR
COMP ENGR
COMP SCI
CRJU
EARLY EDUC
ELECT ENGR
ELEM EDUC
EXSC
GEOG
GEOG
HOSP
HOSP
HOSP
INT INFO TECH
INT INFO TECH
INDUS ENGR
INFO SCI
INTL STUD
MASS COMM
MECH ENGR
MID EDUC
POLI
PSYC
PUBH
RETL
RETL-FASHION
SOCY
SOCY

New for 2026: SOWK & BIOL

Direct Transfer Track Progression

DIRECT TRANSFER TRACK OUTCOMES

Program	Cohort	% Graduated in 2 Years
Early Childhood Education	2022	50%
Elementary Education	2022	60%
Computer Science	2023	50%
Criminal Justice	2023	62.50%
Mechanical Engineering	2023	67%
Public Health	2023	50%
Sociology	2023	50%

*** This data reflects students in our Midlands Tech Direct Transfer Tracks.**

DIRECT TRANSFER TRACK OUTCOMES

Mechanical Engineering has seen substantial improvement, increasing from 12.5% to 67% from 2021-2023

Biological Sciences shows steady year-to year growth in completion rates increasing from 9% to 45% from 2021-2023

Criminal Justice also showed strong outcomes with 62.5% of the MTC 2023 cohort graduating USC within two years.

TRANSFER DATA

National Data

- In the United States, about one-third of college students transfer at least once before earning a degree. Multiple studies and higher education organizations place the number around 35%- 38%.
- Nearly 102 million students transferred colleges in the Fall of 2024.
- Transfer students made up about 13% of all non-first-year undergraduate students in 2024.
- Average institutional “transfer out” rate across the US colleges is roughly 18%.
- Community (two-year) college to four-year university transfers are one of the most common pathways.

State Technical Schools Data

Fall 2023	Numbers	Percentage
Applied	834	
Admitted	586	64%
Enrolled	405	69%

Fall 2024	Numbers	Percentage
Applied	1048	
Admitted	750	71%
Enrolled	437	58%

Fall 2025	Numbers	Percentage
Applied	1018	
Admitted	677	66%
Enrolled	484	71%

MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE



GREENVILLE TECHNICAL COLLEGE



QUESTIONS



UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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To schedule a virtual advising training session to inform your advisors of the many transfer resources USC has on their website, scan the QR code and complete the information sheet.



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THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TODAY'S PRESENTATION

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