

Frequently Asked Questions 2011

TUITION, EXPENSES, AND FINANCIAL AID FAQ

1. Who should I contact about Financial Aid questions?

The Financial Aid Office is the only office on campus that will be able to assist you with Financial Aid questions. You may contact them at 803-313-7068 or usclfa@mailbox.sc.edu.

2. How much are tuition/fees at USCL?

The 2010-2011 Tuition and Fees for full time USC L students (less than 75 credit hours) are \$2,736.00 each semester, and the part time rate is \$228.00 per credit hour. The amounts for 2011-2012 will be updated soon. Please visit usclancaster.sc.edu/busoffic/tuition.htm for more information.

3. Where do I go to pay my tuition/fees?

a) **Pay by Mail** - check, money order or credit card information (MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card) to USCL Business Office, P.O. Box 889, Lancaster, SC 29721-0889.

b) **Pay On-line** - If financial aid equals or exceeds tuition and fees, may pay on-line using the VIP system. If financial aid does not exceed tuition and fees, may pay on-line using MasterCard, American Express, or Discover Card. A convenience fee of 2.5 % will be added to cover the cost of processing. To pay on-line, direct your web browser to: <http://vip.sc.edu>.

c) **Walk-in Payments** - Walk in payments are accepted during Registration only. Cash, debit card, money order and MasterCard, American Express, and Discover Card accepted.

d) **eCheck** - There is no convenience fee when using eChecks. The eCheck option uses secure web transmission for electronically deducting payments directly from a personal checking account using VIP. Your bank routing and account numbers are required when making eCheck payments. Direct your web browser to <http://vip.sc.edu>.

4. Do I have to apply for LIFE scholarship?

No you do not apply for LIFE scholarship; however, you must be a South Carolina resident and we must have a final high school transcript showing that you received a 3.0 or better GPA on a 4.0 scale. however you will need to complete the Federal Application

for Free Student Aid (FAFSA). You may complete in online at www.fafsa.gov or you may stop by the financial aid office to pick up a copy. We recommend that you complete and file your FAFSA by April 15.

5. How do I know what Financial Aid I'm eligible for?

In order to receive state or federal financial aid, you must complete the FAFSA. Upon completion your financial need will be assessed. You may complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov <<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>> . You may stop by the financial aid office to pick up a FAFSA web worksheet. The priority deadline for aid is April 15, but applications are accepted throughout the year. Applications must be completed by August 1st in order to have aid available for the start of the Fall Semester. Awards are made beginning in June and notifications are sent by e-mail to those who have a valid USCL e-mail address, and by mail to those who do not.

6. When will I receive my Financial Aid?

You will be awarded Financial Aid in the Summer, but if you are expecting to receive an overage check, it will not be available any sooner than 10 days before the beginning of classes. Overage checks are mailed, or can be picked up during the registration period of the fall and spring semesters.

7. How do I use my Financial Aid to pay my tuition/fees

To use your financial aid to pay your tuition and fees, you must log-on to VIP and apply your financial aid payment to your tuition and fees.

8. What if my Financial Aid does not cover all of my tuition/fees?

If your financial aid does not cover all of your tuition and fees, you will need to pay the balance that you owe via one of the payment methods from question 3.

9. What if my Financial Aid covers more than my tuition/fees?

If your financial aid covers more than the cost of your tuition and fees, then you will receive the balance in an overage check that will be mailed to you. Most students use overage checks to buy books, but it may be used to pay for any costs related to attaining your education.

ADMISSIONS AND FORMS FAQ

1. Where do I send my Immunization Records?

You should send your immunization records to the USCL Admissions Office, Attention: Amanda English.

2. Where do I send my Residency Forms?

You should send your residency forms to the USCL Admissions Office, Attention: Megan Catoe, Thomas Monroe, or Jennifer Burrack.

3. Where do I fill out Transfer Forms?

Transfer and Change of Campus forms can be picked up at the Admissions Office.

4. When and how will I know when my Admissions Status is completed?

You are encouraged to contact Megan Catoe, 803.313.7149, mmcatoe@mailbox.sc.edu; Thomas Monroe, 803.313.7081, monroetj@mailbox.sc.edu, or Jennifer Burrack, 803.313.7053, knightj2@mailbox.sc.edu concerning your admissions status. Once you are an accepted student, you will receive an acceptance package in the mail.

ORIENTATION FAQ

5. During Orientation, when will I register for my classes?

You will meet with your academic advisor during the second portion of your selected orientation date. It is during this time you will register for your Fall classes.

6. During Orientation, when will I take placement tests?

You will take placement tests in Foreign Language and English on your selected orientation date. The Mathematics placement test is administered online. You will receive information concerning this test once you register for Orientation.

7. Where should I stay if I'm coming to Orientation from out of town?

The Jameson Inn: (803) 283-1188

Kilburnie Inn: (803) 416-8420

Super 8 Hotel (803) 283-1200

8. What should I bring with me to Orientation?

You should bring the print out of your math placement scores, a picture id, the make and model of your automobile, your automobile's tag number, and the name in which your automobile is registered.

9. Are parents welcome at Orientation?

Orientation is designed for USC Lancaster students. However, parent orientation is scheduled during the evening of each orientation session in June, July, and August.

10. How long will Orientation last?

Make arrangements to attend Orientation from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. It is very important that you take off work and do not schedule any other appointments during this time. Orientation is the only time in which the entire campus will be totally devoted to addressing your needs and concerns about entering USCL.

11. What does the Orientation fee cover?

Your Orientation fee covers your Student Handbook, Orientation t-shirt, Lunch during Orientation and Parent Orientation.

12. Is the Orientation fee included in my tuition/fees?

The Orientation fee is a separate payment. It may be paid in the USCL Business Office or mailed to P.O. Box 889; Lancaster SC 29720; Attention Orientation Fee Processor.

GENERAL FAQ

13. Who should I call if I trouble with my VIP username and password?

The USC Help Desk at (803)777-1800.

14. What type of off-campus housing is offered

USC Lancaster does not have campus housing. However, several apartment complexes are available in the area.

Lancer Commons:	(803) 286-6800
Millers Ridge:	(803) 313-5980
Azalea Apartments:	(803) 283-9305
Dalton Ridge:	(803) 286-9776
Woodhaven and Oakhaven:	(803) 286-2185
Watts Reality:	(803) 286-6101

15. How will I know who my academic advisor is?

Your acceptance letter contains the name of your advisor. You will also receive information and meet with your advisor during your chosen Summer Orientation session.

16. How do I change my major?

You must come to the Admissions Office and complete a Change of Major form. Please bring a picture ID.

17. What is my Carolina Card, and when will I use it?

The Carolina Card is your student ID card and is mandatory for all students. It may be purchased in the business office for a fee of \$10. It can be used to make purchases on campus, but only if you have added money to your Carolina Card account. You may do this online through VIP. You may be periodically asked to show your Carolina Card for security purposes, so keep it with you at all times.

18. How much is the parking sticker? When will I get it?

The Parking and Security Fee is \$15. You may pick up your parking sticker in the Business Office after you pay tuition. You may also pick up the sticker at Registration if you have paid your tuition.

19. When can I have my laptop encrypted?

Laptop encryptions will begin the second day of class each semester. You must make an appointment with the IT office to have your laptop encrypted. A signup sheet will be posted outside Hubbard Hall 224. You must have a copy of your Carolina Card or paid tuition bill.

20. Where are the ATMs located?

A Founder's Federal Credit Union ATM is located inside of the Student Center in Starr Hall.

PARENT FAQ

1. How do I remain current with what is happening at USCL?

Ask your student how he/she is doing academically and what he/she is involved with outside of the classroom. It is not in the best interest for your student to contact his/her professors or USCL administrators on his/her behalf. Legally, faculty and staff cannot divulge any information regarding students unless the student has waived his/her FERPA rights.

2. Where can I get more information about Orientation?

Please visit the USCL orientation website located at

<http://usclancaster.sc.edu/studentlife/orientation/index.html> or send an email to usclorie@mailbox.sc.edu.

3. If a student can not attend classes because of illness, accident, or emergency who should be notified?

Each professor of each class the student is enrolled in should be notified. If it is an extreme emergency situation, please contact the Dean of Students, (803) 313-7191.

4. How safe is the campus?

You may obtain campus security data by visiting the following link:

<http://usclancaster.sc.edu/security/index.html>

5. When can my student have their laptop encrypted for the wireless network?

Laptop encryptions will begin the second day of class each semester. You must make an appointment with the IT office to have your laptop encrypted. A signup sheet will be posted outside Hubbard Hall 224. You must have a valid Carolina Card or a bill of paid tuition.

6. What housing is available for my student?

USC Lancaster does not have campus housing. However, several apartment complexes are available in the area.

Lancer Commons:	(803) 286-6800
Millers Ridge:	(803) 313-5980
Azalea Apartments:	(803) 283-9305
Dalton Ridge:	(803) 286-9776
Woodhaven and Oakhaven:	(803) 286-2185
Allison Row:	

7. What do you offer in terms of student health services?

The Gregory Health and Wellness Center is free to all students. Additionally, students are entitled to free cholesterol checks at the Carol Ray Dowling Health Services Building. At this time, USCL does not offer a full or part time nurse practitioner.

8. Is every student assigned an advisor? How often should they meet?

Each student is assigned an academic advisor dependent on his/her major and ability level. Unless enrolled in Disability Services, there is no set schedule regarding when to meet with an academic advisor. Students will need to meet with advisors in order to register for classes. It is also suggested that students meet with advisors if they are encountering academic difficulty or having trouble adjusting to collegiate life.

9. How can a parent know how well the student is doing academically?

Unless the student has waived his/her FERPA rights, the only way to know is to ask the student. Parents will not receive a grade report, and faculty and staff cannot legally divulge this information.

10. Where can the student go for help if things become overwhelming?

All currently enrolled USC Lancaster students are eligible to receive free assistance through USC Lancaster Counseling Services. The goal of Counseling Services is to assist students in clarifying and resolving personal, educational, and career concerns. All counseling is conducted in a confidential and professional setting, providing students the opportunity to explore and evaluate information central to the helping process.

11. When will my student's books be available?

Books are available in the bookstore located in Starr Hall as early as your student's orientation date. You can also order or rent your textbooks on our website at cbamatthews.com/usclanc/.

12. When and where does my student register for classes?

Your student may register for classes at orientation, as long as he/she has taken the online math placement test prior to orientation, the foreign language placement test offered at orientation, and paid the orientation fee. If the student does not attend orientation, registration will be held prior to the beginning of the fall semester. Registration for the spring semester may be completed before the end of the fall semester by meeting with an

academic advisor or in January before the beginning of the spring semester. Registration for summer classes is dependent upon which summer session the student enrolls in. The earlier the student registers for classes the more likely he/she is to get the classes he/she needs and wants.

13. What banks are available for my students?

Founders Federal Credit Union	(803) 283-5900
Wachovia	(803) 286-3321
BBT	(803) 285-8488
First Citizens	(803) 285-7431