USC Aiken is ranked #1 among the Best Public Baccalaureate Colleges in the South by U.S. News & World Report. This marks USC Aiken's 11th consecutive ranking among the top 3 in this category and its 5th time in 1st place.

Founded in 1961, USC Aiken is a liberal arts institution and functions as part of the University of South Carolina system, combining the advantages of a small institution with the resources of a major university. USC Aiken offers bachelor's degrees in more than 30 areas and 3 selected master's degrees. With an enrollment under 3,300, USC Aiken focuses on personal attention, quality teaching, and an active campus environment. Small classes taught by professors - not teaching assistants - afford students one-on-one relationships with experienced faculty, individual advisement, and research opportunities, all of which are connected to the institution's commitment to helping students achieve academic success. USC Aiken has strong ties with the community and offers a diverse non-credit program of trips, camps, and continuing education for members of the surrounding area.

The Aiken Pacers Community

USC Aiken’s small and active campus environment gives students numerous opportunities to be involved in campus life. Student involvement offerings include community service, Greek life, intramural sports, leadership development programs, and more than 60 clubs and organizations – truly something for everyone. There’s room for almost 1,000 students to live on campus and enjoy the traditional college experience. Our student-athletes, the Pacers, compete in NCAA Division II sports as part of the competitive Peach Belt Conference in baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, cross country, golf, men’s and women’s soccer, softball, men’s and women’s tennis, and volleyball. All students are invited to catch Pacer spirit by attending games and matches for free. Through campus programming, a wide range of activities from comedians to cultural events are planned for students, by students, based on their interests.

Carnegie Classification of Institutional Characteristics

Basic Type
Baccalaureate Colleges--Diverse Fields

Size and Setting
Small four-year, primarily nonresidential

Enrollment Profile
Very high undergraduate

Undergraduate Profile
Medium full-time four-year, selective, higher transfer-in

Undergraduate Instructional Program
Arts & sciences plus professions, some graduate coexistence

Graduate Instructional Program
Postbaccalaureate with arts & sciences (other dominant fields)

Student Characteristics (Fall 2008)

Undergraduate Profile

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Undergraduate Students</th>
<th>3,078</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>2,047 67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>1,031 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>47 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity Not Reported</td>
<td>148 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African American / Black</td>
<td>821 27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian / Alaskan Native</td>
<td>15 &lt;1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian / Pacific Islander</td>
<td>29 1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>55 2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>1,963 64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Geographic Distribution (Degree-Seeking)

South Carolina                      89%
Other US States & Territories       9%
Other Countries                     2%

Age (Degree-Seeking)

Average Age                        22
Percent of Undergraduates Age 25 or Older 14%
A 78% four-year success and progress rate means that 78% of students starting in Fall 2002 either graduated or are still enrolled at a higher education institution four years later.

Counts for the Fall 2002 entering class shown in the graph above.
- 478 First-Time, Full-Time Students
- 204 Full-Time Transfer Students

**Retention of Fall 2007 First-Time, Full-time Students**

First-time students in Fall 2007 that returned for their second year: 69%
Costs of Attendance and Financial Aid

Typical Undergraduate Costs per Year without Financial Aid (Full-Time, In-State Students)

- **Tuition (In-state)**, $7,332
- **Required Fees**, $250
- **Other expenses (books, transportation, etc.)**, $3,790
- **Room & Board (on campus)**, $6,620

**Total Typical Cost of Attendance:** $17,992

The cost to attend University of South Carolina Aiken varies based on the individual circumstances of students and may be reduced through grants and scholarships.

Financial Aid Awarded to Undergraduates

**Annual Need-Based Scholarships & Grants**
- 13% of 2007-08 Actual full-time undergraduates received need-based grants or scholarships; the average award for the year was $1,375

**Annual Need-Based Loans**
- 14% of 2007-08 Actual full-time undergraduates received need-based work-study and/or loans (not including parent loans); the average loan for the year was $8,150

Percent of 2007-08 First-Time Students Receiving Each Type of Financial Aid

- **Any Type of Financial Aid**: 81%
- **Institutional Aid Scholarships**: 26%
- **Student Loans**: 53%
- **Federal Grants**: 34%
- **State Grants**: 8%

NOTE: Students may receive aid from more than one source.
Undergraduate Admissions

Academic Preparation of New Freshmen

Test(s) Required for Admission: SAT or ACT recommended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle 50% of Test Score Range</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>SAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Composite</td>
<td>18 - 22</td>
<td>440 - 540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>17 - 23</td>
<td>440 - 530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>17 - 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reading</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

50% of admitted students have test scores within the ranges listed, 25% have scores above, and 25% have scores below.

High School Background

| Percent in top 25% of High School Graduating Class | 41% |
| Percent in top 50% of High School Graduating Class | 82% |
| Percent of New Freshmen who submitted HS Class Rank | 94% |
| Average High School GPA (4-point scale) | 3.5 |
| Percent who submitted High School GPA | 99% |

Study At USCA

Classroom Environment

| Students per Faculty | 15 to 1 |
| Undergraduate classes with fewer than 30 students | 93% |
| Undergraduate classes with fewer than 50 students | 100% |

Full-Time Instructional Faculty
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Faculty</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Women</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% from Minority Groups</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% with Highest Degree in Field</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Housing
54% of new freshmen live on campus
24% of all undergraduates live on campus

Campus Safety
USC Aiken delivers campus safety through the University’s Police Department, a professional law enforcement organization with officers who are state-certified and protect the campus 365/24/7. Officers are trained to provide emergency response to crimes in progress and all are certified medical first responders. They also provide escort services, parking lot assistance (unlock cars and jump starts), and crime prevention programs at no cost. Examples of these programs include alcohol and drug education, sexual assault awareness, and personal security.

Degrees and Areas of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degrees awarded at University of South Carolina Aiken in 2007-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of study with the largest number of bachelors degrees awarded in 2007-08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration, Management and Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication and Media Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology, General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future Plans of Bachelor's Degree Recipients

Data for graph not yet available
Student Experiences and Perceptions

Institutions participating in the VSA program measure student involvement on campus using one of four national surveys. Results from the one survey are reported for a common set of questions selected as part of VSA. Following are the selected results from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). The questions have been grouped together in categories that are known to contribute to student learning and development. The results reported below are based on the responses of seniors who participated in the survey.

Group Learning Experiences
- 94% percent of seniors worked with classmates on assignments outside of class.
- 56% of seniors tutored or taught other students.
- 22% of seniors spent at least 6 hours per week participating in co-curricular activities such as student organizations and intramural sports.

Active Learning Experiences
- 82% of seniors spent at least 6 hours per week preparing for class.
- 18% of seniors worked on a research project with a faculty member.
- 46% of seniors participated in an internship, practicum, or field experience.
- 61% of seniors participated in community service or volunteer work.
- 6% of seniors participated in study abroad.
- 96% of seniors made at least one class presentation last year.

Institutional Commitment to Student Learning and Success
- 98% of seniors believe this institution provides support for student success.
- 84% of seniors rated the quality of academic advising at this institution as good or excellent.
- 74% of seniors reported that this institution provided help in coping with work, family and other non-academic responsibilities.
- 96% of seniors reported working harder than they thought they could to meet an instructor's standards or expectations.

Student Interaction with Campus Faculty and Staff
- 65% of seniors believed that the campus staff were helpful, considerate, or flexible.
- 86% of seniors believed that faculty are available, helpful, or sympathetic.
- 98% of seniors reported that faculty members provided prompt feedback on their academic performance.
- 80% of seniors discussed readings or ideas with faculty members outside of class.

Experiences with Diverse Groups of People and Ideas
- 68% of seniors reported that they often tried to understand someone else's point of view.
- 93% of seniors reported their experience at this institution contributed to their understanding people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- 63% of seniors often had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity.

Student Satisfaction
- 83% of seniors would attend this institution if they started over again.
- 92% of seniors rated their entire educational experience as good or excellent.
- 89% of seniors reported that other students were friendly or supportive.
Student Learning Assessment at University of South Carolina Aiken

All colleges and universities use multiple approaches to measure student learning. Many of these are specific to particular disciplines, many are coordinated with accrediting agencies, and many are based on outcomes after students have graduated.

Assessment at USCA is the ongoing process of self-improvement by analyzing and evaluating academic programs as well as university services through a variety of methods and measurements. Each academic and administrative unit implements an ongoing assessment program that clearly articulates goals and objectives, measures these outcomes on a regular basis at several points in the program and in multiple ways, analyzes the findings, and uses the results for improvements and adjustments in both services and curriculum.

Pilot Project to Measure Core Learning Outcomes

Colleges and universities participating in the College Portrait measure the typical improvement in students' abilities to think, reason, and write using one of three tests. This is part of a pilot project to better understand and compare what students learn between their freshman and senior years at different colleges and universities.

This university is in the process of collecting and analyzing learning outcomes test results.