
NSSE 2016

Student Comments

University of South Carolina Aiken

The final page of the NSSE survey asked students to respond to the following question in an open text box:

"If you have any additional comments or feedback that you'd like to share on the quality of your educational experience, please type them below."

Important:

- Confidential student responses to this question appear on the following pages. Because student comments are confidential, student identifiers are not given in this report.
- These comments appear exactly as the students entered them and **may not be suitable for distribution**. Faculty members, administrators, or other students may be mentioned by name, and comments were not edited for grammar, offensive language, excessive length, or otherwise questionable content.
- Comments are sorted by class, enrollment status, and sex.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
First-year	Full-time	Female	N/a
First-year	Full-time	Female	The food is shit and the professor are too opinionated
First-year	Full-time	Female	I love it her at USCA but I can not stand where I live I would like to say please meet the people you are going to live with before you move from. I learned the hard way and now im stuck with terrible roommates trying to find a new in the middle of the year.
First-year	Full-time	Female	Its often frustrating when I have a class with a proffesor who doesn't care about the students grades or a proffesor that doesn't do their best to teach the students and so the students have to rely on themselves to teach themselves the material opposed to learning it from the proffesor
First-year	Full-time	Female	I think this school is a wonderful one. I am ahead in my educational plans because of the willingness of the faculty to help me succeed. I have discovered new perspectives and have begun to think about life after college. I believe I will be a prepared graduate of the university, whether I decide to attend medical school or graduate school. I am looking forward to working with my PI for research in the continued future, and being advised to make the right decision about my future. I also look forward to a great social sense of accomplishment at the university!
First-year	Full-time	Female	I live 45 minutes away from campus with my family. I go directly from school to work and have little time to socialize. The professors are incredibly helpful, I thoroughly enjoy my experience at this university.
First-year	Full-time	Female	I really enjoy going to class every day here at the University of South Carolina Aiken. The professors are extremely helpful and encouraging. I also like staying in the dorms in which I have made great friends.
First-year	Full-time	Male	Professors should not miss 6 classes in one semester!!

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Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
First-year	Full-time	Male	<p>There are several reasons I chose USCA. When I began applying for colleges, because of my active weekend lifestyle, I wanted a university within commuting distance of home. However, I was not fond of the idea of the large open USC Columbia campus. I was offered a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the CERRA Teaching Fellowship program. I knew that USC-Aiken was joining the list of twelve partner Teaching Fellow institutions, and I was equally excited that USC-Aiken offered Secondary Level Education, so I accepted the fellowship to be in the Fall 2015 inaugural cohort at USCA. When I visited the USCA campus for the first time on Admitted Students Day, I knew instantly in my heart and mind that I had made the right decision to choose USCA. Everyone that day, from professors to faculty and staff, to the Pacesetters made me feel like a person and not like a number as I had felt at other campuses. I liked the idea of a smaller campus where I could get to know everyone, and feel like I could find my niche and make a difference.</p> <p>My favorite thing about USCA is the sincere friendliness and supportiveness of the people here. On how many other campuses can you walk through the centralized hub of activity and walk pass the Dean or Chancellor...and they know you by name...and know you personally for your passions and place on campus? In how many other classrooms on other campuses can you contribute to an intellectual conversation with the professor and fellow peers, versus sitting quietly listening to the lesson in a lecture hall with 300 other students?</p> <p>One undertaking I've plunged into is starting the USCA Shotgun Club for skeet, trap and sporting clays. Throughout high school I shot competitively with the Archery in Schools program as well as with my 4H Shotgun Team for sporting clays, skeet and trap, and this is something I wanted to continue to be involved with at the collegiate level. I held an interest meeting and found others on campus that shoot competitively. The word and excitement about the Club spread beyond campus to the youth shooting community. At a recent statewide youth skeet tournament where I volunteered as referee, I conversed with the senior shooters and coaches; they realized, "You're the President of the USCA Shotgun Club!" I recruited several seniors that day. I aspire to graduate knowing I started a legacy team, like our rival Clemson University Shotgun Team, that will be successful and thrive for years to come. I envision the club as a recruiting attraction for seniors who've been in the youth shooting programs and are looking for a college with a team to continue their passion for the sport.</p> <p>The Assistant Vice Chancellor of Student Life recognized my leadership skills during an Emerging Leaders course I completed as part of my USCA Leadership Certificate program. He recommended me for a top-level job in the Office of the Chancellor of the University, a position held only by one male and one female student. I accepted the offer to replace the graduating male. I look forward to the experiences and interacting with community leaders as a representative of the Chancellor's Office. The School of Education's January 2016 publication included a three-page Student Spotlight highlighting my leadership on campus and in the community. I'm also seeking an SGA Senate seat.</p> <p>I believe in giving back to the programs that I was a part of growing up and that taught me life skills to make me the student leader that I am today and the teacher leader that I will be in a career. I advocate for courses in public</p>
First-year	Full-time	Male	<p>It's really hard to be a freshman nursing major and complete the requirements to be accepted into the program. By this, I mean that most of the pre-nursing classes that are needed to be accepted into the program are always filled so quickly before you can actually sign up for them. This causes students like me to be a semester or 2 behind. When advisors are asked about the situation they cannot help at all and getting an override into a course is nearly impossible.</p>
First-year	Full-time	Male	<p>There are too many parties, and too many people take drugs. A lot of illegal activities are going on behind the scenes. I'm just trying to play soccer and do my work. I also don't quite feel that the soccer team gets along as it should. It's very divided and everyone is judgmental. Even coach. Some teachers can't teach very well.</p>
First-year	Full-time	Male	<p>Like a lot of the professors here, but some of them I do not like.</p>
First-year	Full-time	Male	<p>As a muslim, I wish we have a small room for us to pray. As you know, we have more than 70 people in campus who have to go home to pray and go back to school. We have to pray 5 times a day.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
First-year	Full-time	Male	<p>Nah, I don't really have any other comments that aren't about specific professors, but I have a feeling that I won't be able to move on unless I type something. I guess maybe I should tell you, that I'm thing about maybe getting a doctorate, but indecision wasn't an option, so I just picked master's degree.</p>
First-year	Not full-time	Female	<p>I love the campus it is first of all beautiful , everyone is amazing and they actually care a great experience with me being a freshman.</p>

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Female	USCA is a great college. I have a Bachelor's from another 4 year institution and I wish I would have gone to USCA for my undergrad.
Senior	Full-time	Female	All advisors should be as effective as mine - he not only helped guide me to the most beneficial classes for my life and career goals, but helped me clearly map out my undergrad game plan and worked hard to help me find financial support. A lot of my friends have not been so fortunate and did not have advisors who guided class choice or even clarified steps to graduation, much less helped with internships or funding.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel like USCA has equipped me educationally with so much information that I will need throughout my life. I love USCA, and I would attend again if I could/needed to. USCA is a fantastic university.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The quality of my experience has been as great as it has because of the biology department. The caliber of these professors are amazing. The professors of other departments (humanities and social sciences) have been hit or miss.
Senior	Full-time	Female	As a former employee of the campus Starbucks I had access to the kitchen facilities within the SAC- they are ABHORRENT and DISGUSTING. I truly cannot believe you serve food to students while it is full of cockroaches. You cannot see them during the day, but when we would close at the end of the night they would be all over the floor in the SAC kitchen in the dark. I will definitely tell (and have told) as many students as possible not to eat at the SAC because of the vermin that exists where food is prepared.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Being an older student, with children. Having access to more night/weekend/online classes would be nice. This school has a few, but most of the classes are for students who are young and can live on campus or very near campus.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Foreign Languages are a requirement for almost all students but there is not enough faculty to support all of the students. Each semester these classes (especially Spanish) fill up quickly. It is almost impossible to take Spanish 101 and Spanish 102 back to back because there is never enough space for all the students that need it. There needs to be a bigger Foreign Language department since this is a graduation requirement. I now have to take this class at a different campus because I can not wait any more semesters and I graduate next year.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel that it should be noted that I attended USCA through their Palmetto College program and all of my coursework through them was completed online. I lived in my own home with my family and I worked full time. All of my volunteer capacities along with the other activities that I participated in were through my own personal organizations and interests. I also feel that I should note that had I attended USCA at an earlier age in my life, I would have lived on campus and I have no doubt that my experience would have been wonderful. They offer many extracurricular opportunities along with the capability to join a sorority or fraternity. I also know that they encourage participation in several student organizations and provide ample opportunities for students to study abroad. While I appreciate being invited to participate in this survey, I do not feel that my responses are necessarily fair nor do they accurately depict the "traditional" college experience because my experience was anything but traditional. It was truly exceptional and I will forever be grateful to USCA and the Palmetto College program for providing me a wonderful opportunity to finish my degree and take the first steps in achieving my dreams.
Senior	Full-time	Female	The Wifi is horrible
Senior	Full-time	Female	I feel that the institution is not geared towards students who are not "traditional" students. As a single mother who works, goes to school full time, has two children (one who is special needs) and has to take care of a sick grandmother and sick parents, ICE event are not something that can easily be fit into my schedule. The time I have between classes is for studying, and the evenings are filled with all of my other obligations. Perhaps you should consider those students that have a life outside of school when deciding ridiculous requirements such as these. There are other issues, but I do not have enough time to mention them all. Please email me to set up a time to discuss them. Thank you. kgarlick@usca.edu

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Female	I am transferring this semester to another college. The reason being is that I find that USC-A is geared for student right out of high school or military/retire patrons. This college does not benefit me in anyway. I have a family and the class schedules does not fit into my work schedule. I understand the purpose of the ICE events, but they should not be apart of a graduation requirements. I do not have time to attend those events. I am a working mother and student. I do not have the time to attend these events, especially when I am already away from my family during the week day. This is another reason why I am transferring to another college. If I had to recommend this school to any of my friends, I probably would, because I enjoyed the time I spent here.
Senior	Full-time	Female	With the questions relating to where I live, I live in Lexington with a family member. The questions seemed to be more directing toward living on campus so I wanted to clarify that I have never lived on campus and was not answering the questions based on any experience with campus living facilities. Every student I have asked, they have stated that almost every student that lives in the dorms goes home every weekend. I don't believe there are many activities for students to do on a regular basis. The universities I have attended previous to USCA had popular activities for students to attend every single day. However, those universities were much larger than USCA so I can understand why USCA would not have many activities for students who are living on campus. I have had great experiences throughout my two years at USCA, so far, with faculty, events on campus, and services around campus related to careers and financial aid. Although I believe this campus is smaller than I prefer, I would attend USCA again if given the opportunity because it has a good nursing program.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I'm a full time –nontraditional-online student at Palmetto College. I'm married, have two children and work full time. I feel that some of the housing questions didn't relate to my particular situation. I would like to take the time to extend accolades to Professor Deborah Hazzard-Robinson. She has done an outstanding job providing quality feedback and has been very responsive to questions/concerns.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Great school and I would recommend people to attend here.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Academic advisors need to be more aware of their students situations and more educated on what they need in order to graduate on time. Whether it be a class or session for them to attend, something must be done. Graduating a year late because of an advisor is not something that I take lightly and I think that things such as application deadlines and such should be told to students by advisors. I have found out several things late because I was not aware of them due to lack of knowledge from my advisor.
Senior	Full-time	Female	There are a few very dedicated, very qualified educators at this institution. There are also educators at USC Aiken who's performance has caused me to question how they got a job at any university. I have questioned more than once my professor's qualifications. Specifically in the communication department. I have had professors who are so overloaded with work load that they have taught the wrong lesson plan. I have had a professor teach a lesson plan that was intended for a different class that she taught on the same day. There are educators who take pride in their work and I have the most respect and appreciation for these people, but the small number of others definitely spoil the exsperince.
Senior	Full-time	Female	Schools sucks. Outdated poorly built overpriced housing. Faculty either great or horrible. Overpriced food and poor quality food. Broken washers and dryers.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I take only online classes. Many of the questions in this survey are not applicable. I answered to the best of my abilities.
Senior	Full-time	Female	I learned a lot more than I thought I would at this institution. I believe that the quality of the professors in the SOE department is what has made this experience really worth coming to USCA.
Senior	Full-time	Female	N/A
Senior	Full-time	Female	I would say my experience at USC Aiken has been great. it has challenged me to be a better student and has also exposed me to students from various cultures and background.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Professor Gélinas, Dr. DeWitt, and Dr. Parr are excellent professors at this University! They were my favorite instructors with their knowledge and love for their profession and studies! They are the reason why I'm proud to graduate from USCA as an EXSC student and would be happy to recommend this school for anyone to venture in the sports science profession.

Class	Enrollment	Sex	Comments
Senior	Full-time	Male	The Palmetto College Program has been a great experience and I would highly recommend it for any student who would like to continue their education while working full time anywhere in the U.S. The program was designed well and implemented with the business professional in mind.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I really enjoy the small school atmosphere at USCA after attending a much larger institution before transferring here (Texas A&M). The small school feel without compromising the quality of education is a rare find.
Senior	Full-time	Male	Would like to know more about job opportunities in the near future. This could have been emphasized more during my attendance in my opinion, but everything else was great overall.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I have loved all of the teachers that I have had, and the biology/geology department is well-taught, well-supplied, and deserves every bit of its reputation.
Senior	Full-time	Male	I enjoy the professors and teachers that taught me at USC Aiken. I am a senior and look forward to graduation. I love the quality experience I got here at college. I think critical thinking should be integrated into more classes.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I attend this University completely online through Palmetto College. Although I answered them, the housing questions did not pertain to my situation and should not be counted as "student engagement". Overall, I have had an excellent experience with this university and am excited to soon be counted among the alumni.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	All my classes are on-line. I feel when it comes to online classes faculty tend to forget that many students are returning adults with full time jobs and children, who wanted a way to finish college that could cater around their lives not create more chaos.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	USCA is a great institution. Faculty and staff are so caring, helpful, trustworthy, and dependable. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else! I'm proud to be a Pacer!
Senior	Not full-time	Female	I am a commuter student who lives over an hour away from campus. I enjoy my university experience at USC-Aiken.
Senior	Not full-time	Female	Mathematical class that are geared toward secondary education majors that are not revolved around engineering students. In addition, an educational staff department that has understanding of the skills and material that are included in the Praxis II (5161).
Senior	Not full-time	Female	A question was asked about my critical thinking being improved by my institution. While my critical thinking has improved since I've been at university, I put that down to personal growth and the knowledge I have gained in my courses, with the exception of the one class actually designed to improve my critical thinking. At USCA, we have a required class called Critical Inquiry. It's billed as a class to help teach students critical thinking skills. That class taught me absolutely nothing. Though the one required reading novel was quite good, the class on the whole was a waste of time. While most other aspects of my education have been positive, that one required class that didn't do any good whatsoever still rather irks me.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I happen to be a full-time employee for a local plant. Being able to devote the time and care to all of my classes was a task. I also have a family, wife and two kids, which did prove to be distracting at times. For the purposes of this survey, the institution did everything possible to make sure that I was able to receive a quality education. These, I feel, are very important factors that should be taken into account.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	I think that the faculty is great and very responsive to students but would like to see more professors give realistic goals. Test can be overloaded with information at times.
Senior	Not full-time	Male	The Dorms need to be reformed and remodeled