

Academic Blueprint System—Academic Year 2026/2027

University of South Carolina Salkehatchie

Outcomes for AY 2025-2026. USC Salkehatchie is a regional Palmetto College campus. As such, we follow the Palmetto College goals listed below. USC Salkehatchie metrics are addressed annually in the South Carolina State Agency Accountability Report (last submitted: September 2025).

1. Enrollment.

USC Salkehatchie saw a 4% increase in enrollment in 2025-2026. Our six active sports teams carried full rosters. Salkehatchie is regularly visible in schools and the community, and applications are higher than this time last year. We have increased the number of community class offerings, including a music class and continuing Salk You!

2. Student Retention and Success.

Our student success has improved over the last year and measures are in place to continue to increase those numbers. Our three-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen in the 2021 cohort was 30.4%, up 40% from the previous year. Also, this past spring, Salkehatchie had 144 associate degree graduates, and 13 bachelor's degree graduates through our partnerships and Palmetto College. There are 8 students enrolled in the upper-level BSN program, in partnership with USC Beaufort. Twelve students are expected to graduate with Leadership Distinction (an increase from 4 the last two years), and five students were awarded PURE grants. Thirty-two students began their Early College cohort experience this year. Nineteen students continued into their sophomore year and will graduate this spring. The WORC grant supported one paid STEM internship and four paid STEM ambassadors. Ninety-four individual students were awarded \$98,750 in institutional scholarships. There were 97 students who received SC Life Scholarships totaling \$455,000. and 2 students received SC Palmetto Fellows Scholarship totaling \$7,500. We've maintained a low student-to-faculty ratio of 15-to-1. We hired an Assistant Dean for Enrollment and Student Success. A review and evaluation of EdSights data, local Student Satisfaction Survey, the CCSSE, and an Early Alert system are underway.

3. Faculty.

Four faculty members successfully submitted a post-tenure review. One faculty member was recognized with the Office of the VP Research Service Award. Five were awarded PURE grants as summer mentors for students. Funding for professional travel funds remains at \$35,000. Salkehatchie faculty presented research at five international conferences, 16 national conferences, and 22 other conferences/academic presentations. Seven peer-reviewed articles were published, nine grants received, and fourteen creative works were produced. Salkehatchie faculty participate in leadership roles and as committee members across Palmetto College including PC Faculty Senators, the Provost's PC Advisory Committee, PCC Assessment Committees, PC Faculty Senate Academic Advisory Committee, and PC Policy Advisory Committee.

4. Commitment to Service.

USC Salkehatchie maintains close connections with our five-county service area, especially the Allendale and Walterboro communities. Our field sports-baseball, softball, and men's soccer-are located on the Allendale campus and our gym sports- men's and women's basketball and women's volleyball-compete in the Walterboro campus gym. Students pursuing their BSN complete their clinical rotations within our service area and beyond. Our faculty logged 989 hours of community service. Salkehatchie houses many public resources, including two iCarolina Community Learning Labs, (one on each campus), the Carolina Theatre, and the Salkehatchie Hut. Our iCarolina labs also serve as SC Department of Employment and Workforce Connection Points, which provide workforce resources. We have created meaningful partnerships with community organizations and institutions that enhance the educational experience. Our local chamber, Southern Palmetto Chamber of Commerce, utilizes our Allendale iCarolina Lab and the Carolina Theatre for the Propel Business Lab, a mutual partnership which facilitates an entrepreneurial program for community members. We host regional economic development meetings, Lowcountry Healthcare staff meetings, SC Department of Commerce meetings, and grant writing workshops sponsored by the SC Office of Rural Health. Several state and national history exhibits have been presented on our Allendale campus through collaboration with the Allendale Historical Society and SC Humanities. Salkehatchie Scholarly Research

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Forum is open to the public and highlights both faculty and student research. The Carolina Theater hosts productions brought by the Allendale Rural Arts Team, the Allendale County School District, and other community groups. USC Salkehatchie offers a Salkehatchie Leadership program, focused on developing leaders in the region.

5. **Organizational and Financial Health.**

The campus has reorganized slightly to strengthen its organizational health. This AY, the campus hired an Assistant Dean, Director of Educational Partnerships, Athletic Director and 3 staff, 4 faculty members, 7 staff in Enrollment and Student Success, 3 STEM bus staff teachers, and 2 maintenance/grounds staff. Current searches include Director of Communications, Marketing & Alumni Relations, Director of Business Operations, STEM Program Manager, 3 faculty members, and Student Life Coordinator. The campus sets a goal of maintaining a 3 months' reserve in A funds which would be \$2,033,966. Actual carryforward A fund balance is \$3,583,335. Physical and technological enhancements to the campus continue and include ongoing renovation of the Student Commons and Conference Center, the Allendale athletic complex, updating irrigation, and updates in the gym/locker rooms.

6. **AI Forward.**

Palmetto College has offered several AI workshops including Teaching with ChatGPT. The iCarolina Lab has offered public workshops for individuals and businesses.

Goals for AY 2026-2027 – Priorities reflect USC Palmetto College Strategic Plan (2024-2029)

Priority 1: Grow enrollments and advance student success.

1.1 Drive enrollment growth

- Maintain or increase overall headcount and FTE.

1.2 Promote teaching and research excellence

- Maintain range or increase number of full-time faculty, number of faculty awards, and number of scholarly publications and presentations

1.3 Foster staff development

- Maintain or increase the number of PCCSS Senators and number of participants in Salkehatchie Staff Organization.

1.4 Drive student success

- Maintain or increase number of AA/AS degrees awarded and the number of four-year partnership graduates
- Maintain or increase the number of students engaged in research and/or earning GLD.
- Maintain or increase the number of athletic teams and/or recognized clubs.

1.5 Empower diverse students, staff, and faculty

- Maintain or increase the number of international students
- Maintain or increase the number of cultural events on campus

Priority 2: Deliver world-class experiences for students, internal colleagues and external partners

2.1 Optimize services and processes

- Maintain or increase the number of active capital/campus improvement projects.

2.2 Promote organizational and financial health

- Maintain a 3 month balance in the A Funds

2.3 Enhance giving and fundraising efforts across PC campuses

- Maintain or increase the number of donations.

Priority 3: Impact education attainment and workforce readiness

3.1 Impact our community

- Maintain or increase the number of community service hours by faculty
- Maintain or increase the number of community events on campus.

3.2 Increase transfer and pipeline partnerships

- Maintain or increase the number of student internships
- Maintain or increase the number of high school partners.

3.3 Expand workforce focused credentials

- Maintain or increase the number of workforce/readiness partners
- Maintain the range of Leadership Salkehatchie participants.

AI Forward

- Increase the number of AI related programs on campus.