ONLINE EDUCATION: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Dr. Cheryl Addy, Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA - AT A GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL 2019</th>
<th>Student Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USC System</td>
<td>52,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USC Columbia</td>
<td>35,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>27,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>5,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional</td>
<td>1,875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmetto Colleges</td>
<td>5,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Universities</td>
<td>12,152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA - AT A GLANCE

• Graduate degree programs at USC Columbia
  • 135 master’s/specialist degrees
  • 64 doctoral degrees
  • 38 certificate of graduate study programs
  • 46 programs with 100% online delivery through USC Columbia
• #1 in SC for faculty research productivity
• Almost half of all graduate students in South Carolina are at USC Columbia
• More than half of graduate degrees in South Carolina are conferred at USC Columbia
• Carnegie Foundation’s top tier designation in both research activity and community engagement

ONLINE GRADUATE EDUCATION AT USC

• Overall, 6 certificates of graduate study, 32 masters programs and 8 doctoral programs.
• Tremendous growth from ~450 graduate students in online programs in Fall 2013 to 1596 in Fall 2018.
• Programs developed over 50 years using various modalities, disparate technical and training resources
• In last five years, effort to upgrade all online courses to Quality Matter standards.
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

• **MS in Speech Pathology** – established as a distance education program when the discipline initially required a masters degree for professional certification

• **Master of Education** – online programs designed to leverage each student’s current employment for practicum experiences

• **Master of Science in Nursing** (four concentrations available) and **Doctor of Nursing Practice**. Investment in faculty development

EDUCATION

• **MEd in Education Administration**
  • Training to become school principals.
  • Supervised by current principal, shadow that work, event planning, professional development

• **MEd in Teaching**
  • Improve own practice within classroom and grade-level teams
  • High flexibility to design program to address practical need at individual or cohort (school) level

• **EdD**
  • Flexibility to address specific needs
  • Continuum of individual project to dissertation
EDUCATION

• Designed with 8-week courses
• Multiple admission points and quick turnaround for applications
• 80% of students are South Carolina residents
• Responsive to external constituents
• Goal to elevate practice both for students and for schools/districts where they work

MS IN SPEECH PATHOLOGY

• Distance education for 25 years
• Three sequential clinical experiences condensed into summers; increased complexity, decreased supervision across them
• Cumulative minimum of 375 clinical hours
• Variety of settings (e.g., school, private practice, adult medical). Strong communication with supervisors and preceptors.
• Simulated clinical experiences within didactic courses – mostly assessment, some treatment. Clinical experiences can both enhance coursework and address gap areas.
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

- Four majors: family nurse practitioner, acute care nurse practitioner, nursing administration, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner (and new program in nurse informatics)
- Immersive experiences, e.g., simulated standard patients
- Focus on clinical skills, professional roles, professional development

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

- Campus leader in universal design.
- College investment in faculty development, internal and external resources to support.
- Clinical Partnership Liaison Coordinator monitors and supports clinical placements, working with preceptors, clinical faculty, program directors.
- Each student must go to multiple locations for different experiences.
COMMONALITIES ACROSS PROGRAMS

• Most students are currently working in the discipline.
• Most students come to campus once per semester or year.
• Practicum experiences have well-established structure and expectations.
• Use of technology: didactic instruction, communication, simulation labs, online exam proctoring
• Interactions of campus faculty with students and onsite perceptions/supervisors

WITH APPRECIATION

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• Crystal Murphree-Holden, Program Director, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Arnold School of Public Health
• Kristen Starnes-Ott, Associate Dean, College of Nursing
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THANKS!

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