

NFO | NEW FACULTY ORIENTATION

AUGUST 28, 2026 | Pastides Alumni Center

Schedule At a Glance

8:15 a.m.	Networking Breakfast with Academic Leaders <i>Ballroom</i>
9:00 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks <i>Ballroom</i>
9:50 a.m.	Getting Started at USC: Resources, Connections, and Traditions <i>Ballroom</i>
10:10 a.m.	Break & Transition
10:20 a.m.	Breakout Session I <i>See Breakout Session Guide for options & locations</i>
10:50 a.m.	Break & Transition
11:00 a.m.	Breakout Session II <i>See Breakout Session Guide for options & locations</i>
11:30 a.m.	Break & Transition
11:40 a.m.	Breakout Session III + Key Takeaways and Next Steps <i>See Breakout Session Guide for options & locations</i>
12:20 p.m.	Networking Lunch & Resource Fair <i>Ballroom and Foyer</i>
1:00 p.m.	Palmetto College Session <i>Ballroom 1A</i>

Welcome and Purpose

Welcome to the University of South Carolina!

We are delighted to welcome you to the USC faculty community.

New Faculty Orientation is designed to help you get off to a successful start by connecting you with colleagues, university leaders, and campus resources while introducing practical strategies to support your teaching, research, and professional success.

Today you will:

- Connect with fellow new faculty and university leaders
- Learn about resources that support teaching, research, and student success
- Explore practical strategies and useful services through interactive breakout sessions
- Build relationships that will support you throughout your career at USC

Be sure to explore your Faculty Resource Folder throughout the day. It contains guides, contact information, and QR codes for many of the offices and services featured during orientation. Keep it nearby during your first semester as a quick reference guide.

We hope today's conversations are just the beginning of a rewarding and successful career at USC.



Scan to access the New Faculty Orientation webpage

- Presentation slides
- Faculty Resource Folder
- Additional resources and follow-up materials

Thank You to Our Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our donors, whose commitment to faculty excellence helps make New Faculty Orientation possible. Their investment contributes to a vibrant culture of teaching, research, and professional growth at the University of South Carolina.

New Faculty Orientation Agenda

Welcome & Getting Started | Ballroom

8:15 a.m. | **Networking Breakfast with Academic Leaders**

Connect with leadership and fellow new faculty in a relaxed, community-building setting.

9:00 a.m. | **Opening Remarks**

Matt Thatcher, Ph.D. | Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

9:05 a.m. | **University Welcome**

Michael Amiridis, Ph.D. | President, University of South Carolina

9:20 a.m. | **A New Beginning**

Mary Anne Fitzpatrick, Ph.D. | Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

9:35 a.m. | **Becoming Part of USC: Building Your Faculty Community**

Angela Baum, Ph.D. | Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

9:50 a.m. | **Getting Started at USC: Resources, Connections, and Traditions**

Matt Thatcher, Ph.D. | Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

10:10 a.m. | **Break & Transition**

Breakout Sessions & Connections

10:20 a.m. | **Breakout Session I**

Participants choose one of the following:

- **Teaching and Learning at USC** | Ballroom
- **Technology and Computing at USC** | Ballroom 1A
- **Research and Scholarship at USC** | Ballroom 1B

10:50 a.m. | **Break & Transition**

New Faculty Orientation Agenda

Breakout Sessions & Connections

11:00 a.m. | Breakout Session II

Participants choose a second session from the following options:

- **Teaching and Learning at USC** (repeated) | Ballroom
- **Technology and Computing at USC** (repeated) | Ballroom 1A
- **Supportive Classroom Environments at USC** | Ballroom 1B

11:30 a.m. | Break & Transition

11:40 a.m. | Breakout Session III + Key Takeaways and Next Steps

Participants choose a third session, followed by key takeaways and next steps led by CTE instructional designers.

- **Research and Scholarship at USC** (repeated) | Ballroom
- **The Columbia Community** | Ballroom 1A
- **Supportive Classroom Environments at USC** (repeated) | Ballroom 1B

12:20 p.m. | Networking Lunch & Resource Tables

- Enjoy lunch with fellow faculty
- Browse resource tables
- Complete your Resource Passport
- Enter the door prize drawing
- Take pictures with Cocky, USC's feathered mascot!

1:00 p.m. | Palmetto College Session

Dedicated Palmetto College faculty meeting to connect with the leadership team and fellow Palmetto College faculty. **Location: Ballroom 1A.**

Parking Information

- At the conclusion of today's event, stop by the registration table to pick up a parking validation ticket. When exiting the garage, insert your original parking ticket first, then scan or insert the validation ticket to clear the parking balance.
- Parking validation is valid only for the designated event parking garage and cannot be used in other garages, surface lots, or metered spaces.

Breakout Session Guide

Review the descriptions below to learn more about each session and its location.

Teaching and Learning at USC

Presenter: *Casey Carroll, M.A.*

Join the Center for Teaching Excellence to connect with new faculty colleagues through reflecting on your teaching experience at USC so far and exploring key instructional strategies that can enhance student learning.

Participants will:

- Reflect on your teaching experience at USC so far.
 - Apply key instructional strategies to your teaching.
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Technology and Computing at USC

Presenters: *Rhiannon Mayer, B.S. & Adrian Anderson, M.A.*

Get oriented to core technology systems and support services faculty use for teaching, communication, and day-to-day work. Presenters will highlight where to go for help and practices that can reduce common technology challenges.

Participants will:

- Identify key technology systems and services available to faculty.
 - Locate the appropriate support channels for common technology needs.
 - Recognize practical steps for using university technology effectively and responsibly.
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Research and Scholarship at USC

Presenters: *Lumi Bakos, Ph.D. & Emily Devereux, DPA*

Learn about university resources that support research, scholarship, and creative activity, from getting a project started to finding collaborators and navigating key processes. The session will help new faculty identify where to go for research-related guidance and support.

Participants will:

- Identify research and scholarship resources available to faculty.
- Recognize key university processes and support points for research activity.
- Identify opportunities to connect with collaborators, funding, and professional support.

Breakout Session Guide

Review the descriptions below to learn more about each session and its location.

Supportive Classroom Environments at USC

Presenters: *Kristin Harrell, Ph.D., Mitchell Dallas Herring, Ed.D., & The Student Care and Outreach Team*

Learn how USC supports students academically, personally, and through campus engagement, and how faculty can connect students to the right resources. The session focuses on recognizing common student needs and making effective referrals.

Participants will:

- Identify campus resources that support student success and well-being.
 - Recognize common situations in which a student may benefit from additional support.
 - Connect students with appropriate university services and referral pathways.
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The Columbia Community

Presenters: *Katharine Allen & Heather Bacon-Rogers*

Explore Columbia beyond campus and discover the resources, places, and opportunities that can support your research, professional interests, and daily life while helping you feel more connected to the community. Through Historic Columbia, this session introduces participants to the city's history and culture while highlighting local resources, services, destinations, and opportunities to engage with and learn from the broader Columbia community.

Participants will:

- Identify community resources and places that can support research and everyday life in Columbia.
- Discover opportunities to explore the city's culture, history, and community.

Explore Campus Resources

During lunch, visit our Resource Tables to meet campus partners, ask questions, and discover services that will support your success throughout your career at USC.

- Center for Integrative & Experiential Learning
- Division of Human Resources – Benefits
- First-Generation Center / Graduation and Retention Network (GARNET)
- Global Carolina Division of International Student and Scholar Support
- Historic Columbia
- Office of Access and Opportunity
- Office of Civil Rights & Title IX
- Office of Organizational and Professional Development
- Office of Undergraduate Research
- University Libraries
- USC Campus Store

Resource Passport

1. Visit each resource table to learn about the services available to support you.
2. Ask a representative to initial your passport at each stop.
3. Return your completed passport to the registration table to be entered into the door prize drawing.
4. Winners will be notified via email after the event.



Meet the Center for Teaching Excellence!

Leadership

Matt Thatcher, Ph.D.

Director

Aisha Haynes, Ed.D.

Associate Director and Director, Distributed Learning and Innovation

Rob Grookett, B.A.

Assistant Director, Distributed Learning

Kimberly Seibles, Ed.D.

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Casey Carroll, M.A.

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