



Mission, Vision and Values

Honoring the timeless principles of the liberal arts and sciences.

The College of Charleston is a state-supported comprehensive institution providing a high-quality education in the arts and sciences, education and business. The faculty is an important source of knowledge and expertise for the community, state, and nation. Consistent with its heritage since its founding in 1770, the College retains a strong liberal arts undergraduate curriculum. Located in the heart of historic Charleston, it strives to meet the growing educational demands primarily of the Lowcountry and the state and, secondarily, of the Southeast. A superior undergraduate program is central to the mission of the College of Charleston.

As a prominent component of the state's higher education system, the College encourages and supports research. In addition to offering a broad range of baccalaureate degree programs, the College incorporates the University of Charleston, South Carolina (UCSC), established by state statute in 1992, which serves as a research institution where the graduate and research programs associated with the College are housed. UCSC provides master's degree programs and anticipates offering a limited number of doctoral degrees should location and need warrant. The College also provides an extensive credit and non-credit continuing education program and cultural activities for residents of the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

The College of Charleston seeks applicants capable of successfully completing degree requirements and pays particular attention to identifying and admitting students who excel academically. The College of Charleston serves a diverse student body from its geographic area and also attracts students from national and international communities. The College provides students a community in which to engage in original inquiry and creative expression in an atmosphere of intellectual freedom. This community, founded on the principles of the liberal arts tradition, provides students the opportunity to realize their intellectual and personal potential and to become responsible, productive members of society.

The Mission Statement (also called the Statement of Purpose) has been approved or revised by the State College Board of Trustees or the College of Charleston Board of Trustees on January 16, 1974; March 12, 1986; January 16, 1991; February 15, 1994; July 13, 2006; July 23, 2014; and August 25, 2014.

Core Purpose and Values

Core Purpose

- To pursue and share knowledge through study, inquiry and creation in order to empower the individual and enrich society.

Values

- EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE that furthers intellectual, creative, ethical and social development through a broad range of programs centered on the liberal arts and sciences.
- STUDENT-FOCUSED COMMUNITY that embraces mutual respect, collaboration and diversity for the welfare of the individual and the institution.
- THE HISTORY, TRADITIONS AND ENVIRONMENT OF CHARLESTON AND THE LOWCOUNTRY that foster distinctive opportunities and relationships that advance our public mission in the city of Charleston, state of South Carolina, and the world.