The University of South Carolina Upstate, in partnership with area two-year colleges, will guarantee admission to USC Upstate for any student who graduates with an AA, AS or selected AAS degree from USC Upstate’s partner schools.

What is Upstate Direct Connect?
Upstate Direct Connect is an exclusive opportunity for two-year colleges partnering with the University of South Carolina Upstate. Any student who graduates with an AA, AS or selected AAS degree from a partner school is guaranteed admission to the University of South Carolina Upstate.

Why should I consider Upstate Direct Connect?
The University of South Carolina Upstate and its partnering two-year colleges want you to have a clear, smooth, worry-free transition to USC Upstate when you are ready to earn your bachelor’s degree. Once you have indicated your participation in the program, the partner two-year college and USC Upstate work together to prepare you for completion of your bachelor’s degree.
Why join before I graduate with my two-year degree?
There are many reasons to join as soon as you decide a bachelor’s degree is your goal. As a member of Upstate Direct Connect, you will have:
• Guaranteed entrance to USC Upstate – Students graduating with AA, AS or select AAS degrees are guaranteed admission to USC Upstate.*
• Accelerated admission to USC Upstate - Provides smooth transition through the USC Upstate admissions process including Orientation, Transcripts, Advising, and Financial Aid.
• Enhanced academic advising – Students receive comprehensive on-site advising from both two-year college and USC Upstate advisors.
• Concurrent admission to selective USC Upstate courses after completing 45 semester hours of credit at partner school.

Do I qualify?
You qualify for Upstate Direct Connect if you are applying for or if you are working on your AA, AS or selected AAS from one of USC Upstate’s partnering two-year colleges.

Is there a fee to join Upstate Direct Connect?
There are no fees to join. You will just need to pay your application fee to USC Upstate.

*Consistent with your two-year college and university policy. Limited access and restricted access programs may require an additional admission process.

How do I get started?
If you are a high school student, start by indicating your interest on your two-year college application. If you’re already a student at a partner two-year college, you can start the process at any time. Here’s how to get started:
• Make an appointment with the Advising Center
• Attend an Upstate Direct Connect information session for specific instructions
• Sign a form of intent to join Upstate Direct Connect

How do I join?
You can indicate your desire to join Upstate Direct Connect at any time during your two-year college career by contacting the Advising Center at your school. If you are a new two-year college student:
• Submit an application to the two-year college and mark the appropriate sections to indicate your desire to join Upstate Direct Connect.
• Submit an electronic application to USC Upstate during the term in which you will complete 45 hours at the two-year college. (The enhanced advising for Upstate Direct Connect students will alert you when it’s time to do this.)
• Provide official transcripts from any other schools you have attended to your two-year college and USC Upstate as well as any other required documents.
• Meet with an advisor before initial registration and at regular intervals to maintain an appropriate academic plan. When you have completed:
  • 15 hours: meet with your two-year college advisor.
  • 30 hours: meet with your two-year college and USC Upstate advisors.
  • 45 hours: meet with your two-year college and USC Upstate faculty advisors and confirm status with USC Upstate.
• Apply for graduation from your two-year college by the published deadline in the term you will complete your requirements. Verify your acceptance to USC Upstate.
Will I have priority for orientation and class registration when I transfer to USC Upstate?
You will be invited to an Upstate Direct Connect Orientation Program which will be scheduled before other new student orientation programs. The orientation program will give you the opportunity to register for classes before other new students, giving you a great selection of courses.

Will I be issued an Upstate Direct Connect identification card?
Upstate Direct Connect identification cards will be issued from the USC Upstate bookstore.

Will I be invited to participate in activities, special events or athletic events at USC Upstate?
USC Upstate will provide a list of activities and special events for you to attend on the campus. Athletic calendars will be published and admission will be free of charge with your Upstate Direct Connect identification card. You will not be allowed to be a member of an athletic team while attending our partner school but are encouraged to come support the Spartans as a cheering fan.

For more information:
Contact your two-year college advisor or visit www.uscupstate.edu.