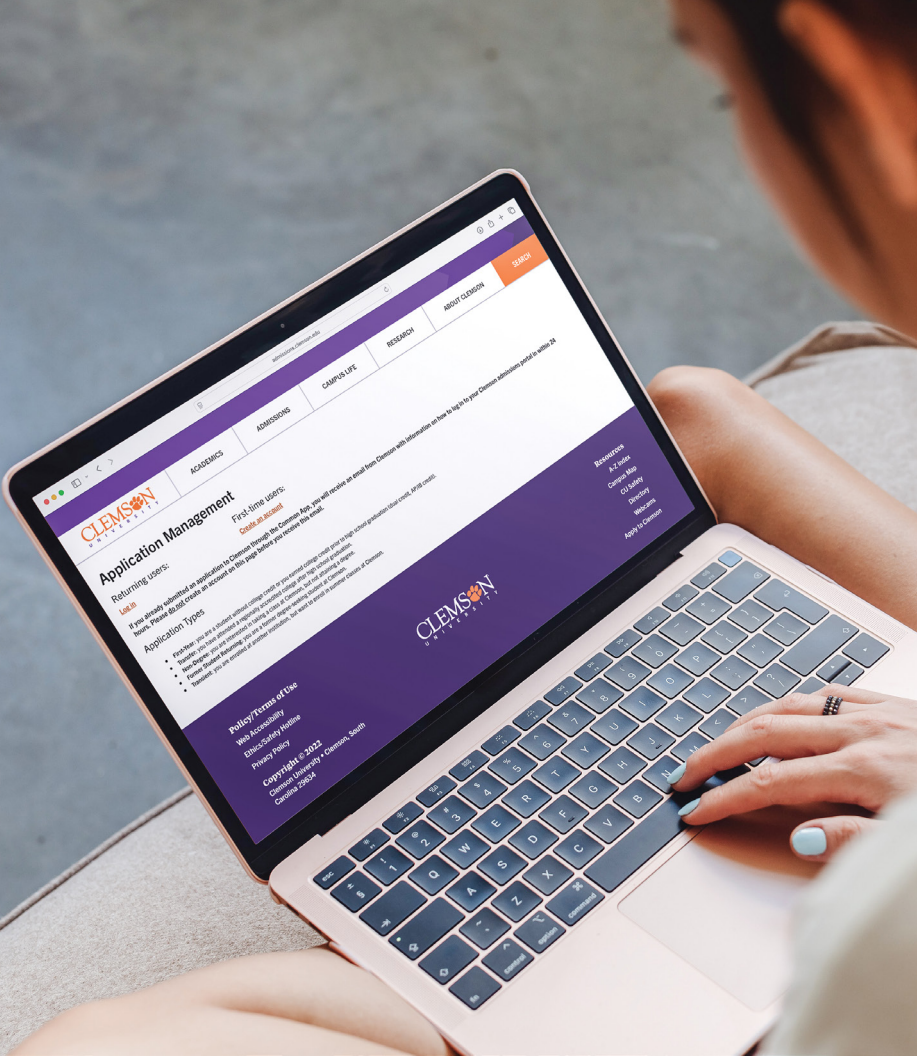


2025/2026

COUNSELOR GUIDE

CLEMSON  N



HOW TO APPLY

Q: A STUDENT WANTS TO APPLY. WHAT'S NEXT?

Students can apply as Early Action or Regular Decision.

To apply Early Action, students should submit their application by October 15 and required materials by November 1 (including the Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record). Decisions will be released in mid-December.

To apply Regular Decision, students should submit their application by January 1 and required materials by January 10 (including the

Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record). Decisions will be released in mid-February.

Applying online is quick and easy, and Clemson has three ways to do it.

1. Apply directly through Clemson University at clemson.edu/apply.
2. Use the Coalition Application, Powered by Scoir at app.scoir.com/app/signup.
3. Apply through the Common App at commonapp.org.

Q: WHAT GIVES STUDENTS THE BEST CHANCE FOR ACCEPTANCE TO CLEMSON?

For first-year applicants, the following factors are considered for acceptance:

Academics

Clemson Tigers seek a challenge. The most important factor in admissions decisions is a student's high school academic record. First-year applicants are required to self-report their high school transcripts through the Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record (STARS). We also use GPA and class ranking as expressions of high school performance.

Other considerations include the types of courses taken (college preparatory, honors, AP, IB, dual enrollment) compared to the courses available and the student's pattern of performance in those courses. The vast majority of our applicants present transcripts with college preparatory, honors and AP coursework with competitive GPAs.

Community Engagement

Clemson Tigers get involved in the community. Students who get accepted into Clemson take their passions further. Their service-minded outlooks guide them into leadership positions in clubs, organizations, volunteer activities and/or jobs. We want to see students who can balance high academic performance with team leadership, awards and accomplishments.

Background and Opportunities

Clemson Tigers can come from anywhere. Not everyone has the same opportunities, and at Clemson, we want to offer a place where students from any background have the chance to succeed. We want a student body with varied experiences, knowledge and talents, so when

reviewing a student's performance, we'll consider them within the context of what was available at their school.

Unique Stories

Clemson Tigers have a story to tell. Students can submit an optional personal statement with their application to let us know if there are specific circumstances that have impacted their academic or extracurricular performance. We want to hear about the skills, experiences, challenges and triumphs that have shaped them into the people they are.

(OPTIONAL) Test Scores

Clemson has a test-optional policy. While students are not required to submit scores for admission review, this policy does not represent a devaluation of standardized tests. Our goal is to make the best admissions decisions possible, and we continue to acknowledge that standardized tests can be useful in that process.

Review important dates and deadlines.

Check clemson.edu/admissions/applying-to-clemson/freshman-students.html to find this information.

Complete the application.

Submit the application through the Clemson Application, Coalition Application, Powered by Scoir or the Common Application. No preference is given to any application in the admission review process.

Pay the application fee.

There is a \$70 application fee. Clemson accepts all major credit cards. If a student cannot afford to pay the application fee, they should fill out the financial sections of the application completely. This information will determine if students meet the level of need that we can approve by policy for a fee waiver. If students have other hardships concerning the application fee, please reach out to the Clemson University Admissions counselor for their state at clemson.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/contact-us.html.

Clemson participates in the following need-based fee waivers: College Board, ACT and the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC).

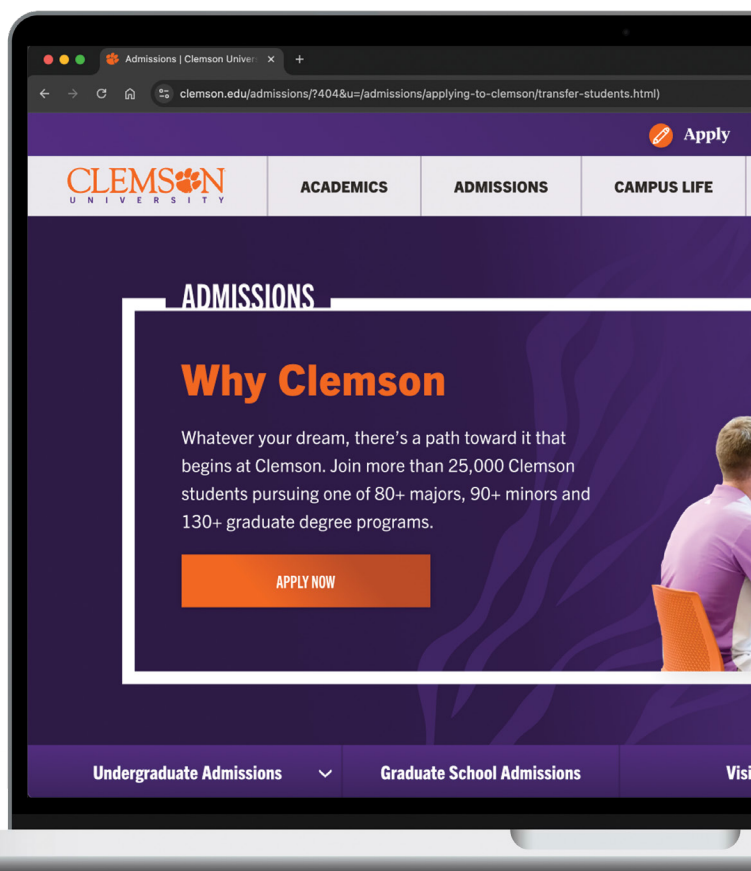
(OPTIONAL) Request test scores be sent from The College Board or ACT.

Clemson has adopted a test-optional policy. Applicants are not required to submit a standardized test score to be considered for admission to Clemson. If a student chooses to submit test scores, they must be sent electronically by the respective testing agency. We will automatically update their application file with any new test scores we receive by our application deadlines.

Clemson does not require the SAT or ACT essay. Students are asked to self-report test scores on the application as well as have official scores sent by the testing agency. Clemson super scores both the ACT and the SAT.

- Clemson's institutional code for the SAT is 5111.
- Clemson's institutional code for the ACT is 3842.
- Complete the Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record (STARS).

All first-year applicants are required to self-report their high school transcripts. After submitting their application, students will access the STARS system through their Clemson admissions portal. We strongly encourage students to have an unofficial copy of their transcript available when completing the STARS.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: HOW DOES CLEMSON EVALUATE STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES (SAT OR ACT)?

Clemson has adopted a test-optional policy. Applicants are not required to submit a standardized test score to be considered for admission to Clemson.

If a student chooses to use test scores, the scores must be submitted electronically by the respective testing agency. We will automatically update students' application files with any new test scores we receive by our application deadlines.

Clemson does not require the SAT or ACT essay.

Clemson University super-scores both the SAT and the ACT. For the SAT, this means that the overall total SAT score will then be derived by taking the highest of the evidence-based reading and writing/math scores. The super composite ACT score is calculated as the average of the best ACT English, reading, math and science subject scores.

Q: DO STUDENTS HAVE TO INTERVIEW WITH SOMEONE TO BE ADMITTED?

Clemson does not require an interview for admission; however, we encourage students to go to clemson.edu/visit, where they can register for a campus visit, take a virtual tour and learn about different ways to connect with Clemson.

Q: WHAT IF STUDENTS ARE UNSURE OF THEIR MAJOR?

Applicants are required to select a major on their application, but exploratory studies (formerly called undeclared) is an option for students who are not yet sure what they want to study. The good news is that we offer more than 80 cutting-edge degree programs. Check out the Degrees Site at clemson.edu/degrees to connect students' interests and aptitudes with a possible major and future career.

Q: DOES CLEMSON ACCEPT AP CREDITS?

Yes. Advanced Placement (AP) credit is awarded to students earning grades of 3, 4 or 5 on the College Board Examinations. Clemson University strongly endorses the AP program and consistently ranks among the top colleges and universities in the nation in the number of students reporting AP grades.

Q: DOES CLEMSON HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR AP, IB OR DUAL-ENROLLMENT COURSES?

AP, IB and dual-enrollment offerings vary widely from school to school, so we look at coursework in the context of what was offered at an applicant's high school. Future Clemson Tigers shine by accepting the challenge when AP, IB or dual-enrollment classes are offered in high school.

Students should visit Transfer Course Equivalency at clemson.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/course-transfer-information.html to gauge how many AP, IB and dual-enrollment courses translate to Clemson credit.

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE

More than 2,000 of Clemson's most academically competitive students call our Clemson University Honors College home. The Honors College combines the strengths of a public, land-grant university with those of a highly selective small college. Outstanding students take specialized courses taught by our best professors and participate in a wide range of innovative learning experiences on campus, across the nation and around the world.

First-year Fall 2024 incoming Honors student stats:

- Top 2 percent average high school class rank
- 4.00 average unweighted GPA
- 1430 average SAT score

Q: WHEN ARE STUDENTS NOTIFIED IF THEY'VE BEEN ACCEPTED?

Students who apply Early Action and submit their application by October 15 and required materials by November 1 will receive a decision in mid-December. Students who apply Regular Decision and submit their application by January 1 and required materials by January 10 will receive a decision in mid-February.

Students who apply Early Action will receive either an admit, defer or deny decision. If a student receives a deferred admission decision during Early Action, their application will automatically be considered for Regular Decision.

After January 1, applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until May 1.



SUMMER PATHWAYS

There are several paths for admission to Clemson apart from the traditional Fall acceptance. Students admitted to the Summer term are required to complete one of the four offered Summer programs to continue at Clemson for the following Fall term:

SUMMER START

Starting Clemson in the Summer semester sets many of our students up for success in their college careers. Summer Start gives students a chance to get to know a select group of peers, Clemson's campus and faculty members who can serve as mentors. Plus, they can earn up to 6 credit hours toward their Clemson degree, all before the rush of the Fall semester begins.

Students can indicate an interest in the Summer Start pathway on their application and find more information about the program at clemson.edu/admissions/summer-start/index.html.

GLOBAL START

Global Start is one Summer pathway option for incoming Clemson students. Students participating in Global Start would earn credit for one 3-credit-hour Global Challenges course during Summer II (July).

They spend one week on campus settling into college life and then travel with a peer cohort, faculty member and staff mentor to an international location for more than one week. This experience is exclusively for first-year students admitted to Clemson for the Fall or Summer terms and fills up quickly. Visit clemson.edu/study-abroad/getting-started/global-start.html for more information.

STEM START

One resource Clemson offers for first-generation college students is STEM Start — a Summer semester program that allows in-state first-generation STEM (science, technology,

engineering and mathematics) students the chance to familiarize themselves with campus, get to know faculty and staff mentors, meet other incoming students and take advantage of professional development workshops and events across the Upstate.

The best part? Tuition, housing, meal plan and all programmed activities during this Summer session are FREE for accepted students.

For more information, go to clemson.edu/admissions/summer-start/specialty-programs/stem-start/index.html.

PEER/WISE EXPERIENCE

Programs for Educational Enrichment and Retention (PEER) and Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) offer a Summer semester program for incoming students interested in STEM majors and careers. This experience is designed to prepare students for success over their next four years at Clemson and beyond.

It's a great way for students to get a head start on their college career, explore the STEM pathways available at Clemson, earn course credit, and meet like-minded students before the Fall semester starts.

Eligible students must be enrolled in a major within the College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences and must have either completed the Clemson Math Placement Test with a score of 65 and/or have an ACT score of 27 or above or an SAT Math score of 640 or above.

For more information on the program, see clemson.edu/cecas/departments/peer-wise/prospective_students/peerwise-experience.html.

OTHER PATHWAYS

Bridge to Clemson

Students admitted to the Bridge to Clemson program (clemson.edu/admissions/bridge) will begin their Clemson Experience by taking courses at Tri-County Technical College for their first year.

Bridge students live on Clemson's campus and have access to Clemson activities and services. Bridge students are assured a seamless transition to Clemson if academic expectations are met (completion of 30 credit hours with a 2.5 GPA).

Students have until May 1 to pay a deposit to commit to the Bridge program. There is no separate application for the Bridge program. Students are referred through the Clemson admissions process.

Transferring to Clemson

Transferring to Clemson (clemson.edu/admissions/applying-to-clemson/transfer-students.html) can be a great option for students who may want to take some college-level courses at another two- or four-year institution before attending Clemson.

If a student attends any regionally accredited college after high school, they will apply as a transfer student. If their only college coursework was taken while in high school and prior to graduation, they would apply as a first-year student.

To learn more about how credits transfer to Clemson, visit the Transfer Course Equivalency List found at clemson.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/tcel.html.

WHAT TO DO AFTER APPLYING

Clemson will provide updates on the status of the application via email, but students can also view their application status and updates by visiting their Clemson admissions portal at admissions.clemson.edu/portal/status.

This portal will have the most up-to-date information about their application and missing or fulfilled checklist items, as well as space to upload optional documents, like the personal statement, register for virtual events and more.

Submit the Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record (STARS)

Clemson University requires first-year applicants to self-report their high school transcripts. Students who are admitted to Clemson will be required to send official transcripts prior to enrollment.

Submit Standardized Test Scores (OPTIONAL)

Clemson has adopted a test-optional policy. Applicants are not required to submit a standardized test score to be considered for admission to Clemson. However, if students would like their scores to be reviewed, please request that they be sent directly from the testing agency and allow seven to 10 business days for them to be added to their application file.

Complete the FAFSA

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available in October at fafsa.gov. The amount of need-related aid for which

a student is eligible is determined by the information they supply annually on the FAFSA. To be considered for need-based aid, applicants must also submit the FAFSA to the federal processor by January 1.

Explore Financial Aid Options

There is no separate application process for the majority of scholarships and aid at Clemson. Students who want to be considered for academic recruiting scholarships must apply for admission and submit all required materials by January 10.

Students should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at clemson.edu/financial-aid for additional information. Students will receive an email notification about their financial aid award package in the Spring.

If additional aid is needed, there are federal and private loan options or a Tuition Payment Plan available. Find out more at clemson.edu/finance/student-financials/billing.html.

NEED TO EDIT AN APPLICATION?

Students who need to change their major, edit their personal information, change their application term or withdraw their application should visit their Clemson admissions portal.

FINANCIAL AID

Clemson University is among the top schools in the country for best value according to both *U.S. News & World Report* (2025) and *The Princeton Review* (2025).

Financial aid is usually awarded on the basis of need to supplement the amount students and their parents can contribute to college expenses. The University also awards some scholarships based entirely on academic merit. For more information, visit clemson.edu/financial-aid.

FEDERAL AID

The first step to receiving federal aid is to fill out the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA) online (fafsa.gov). This must be completed to receive any federal aid (grants, loans, work study). The FAFSA priority deadline is January 1, 2026. The 2026-2027 FAFSA can be completed beginning in October 2025. Students enrolling early in a Clemson Summer program also need to complete the 2025-2026 FAFSA by June 30, 2026.

CLEMSON SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS

The Office of Admissions automatically reviews each applicant to Clemson for scholarship eligibility (no additional scholarship application required). High school performance, test scores and financial need are all considered when awarding scholarships. Incoming first-year students must apply for admission and submit all required materials by January 10 to be considered.

Students who choose not to submit test scores will still be considered for academic recruiting scholarships. If students are submitting test scores, they need to be received by Clemson by January 10. Merit scholarship packages will be communicated to students in spring 2026. To be eligible for federal and state-based aid, we encourage students to complete the FAFSA located at fafsa.gov by January 1.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

All requirements for eligibility, renewal and enhancement listed below apply to the 2024-2025 academic year and are subject to change based on review by the S.C. General Assembly.

PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is the state's premier scholarship, valued at \$6,700 for the first year and \$7,500 for subsequent years. To receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, students must apply through their high school guidance counselor and meet all of the following academic requirements:

- Be ranked in the top 6 percent of the high school class
- Score a minimum of 1200 SAT or a 25 on the ACT composite
- Earn a 3.5 GPA on the uniform grading scale

Alternative criteria for Palmetto Fellows Scholarship are:

- Score a minimum of 1400 SAT or a 31 on the ACT composite
- Earn a 4.0 GPA on the uniform grading scale

In order to renew the scholarship, students must:

- Earn 30 credit hours each academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer). Please note that AP/IB classes do not count in credit hours for renewal.
- Earn a 3.0 GPA at Clemson University

LIFE Scholarship

The LIFE Scholarship is valued at \$5,000 per year. To receive the LIFE Scholarship, students must meet two out of three of the following academic requirements:

- Graduate in the top 30 percent of their high school class
- Score a minimum of 1100 on the SAT or a 22 on the ACT composite
- Graduate with a minimum 3.0 GPA on the uniform grading scale

There is no application process for the LIFE Scholarship. Students will automatically be reviewed and awarded the scholarship by Clemson. To renew the LIFE Scholarship, students must:

- Earn an average of 30 credit hours per academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer) from all colleges attended. AP/IB classes do count in credit hours for renewal.
- Earn a 3.0 GPA at Clemson University

Hope Scholarship

The Hope Scholarship is valued at \$2,800 and is nonrenewable. To receive the hope scholarship, students must graduate with a minimum 3.0 GPA on the uniform grading scale. After the initial award year, eligibility may be established for the LIFE Scholarship.

Palmetto Fellows/LIFE Scholarship STEM Enhancement

Students may qualify for the enhancement after their first year if they complete 14 credit hours of approved math and science courses prior to the start of their second year. Students must also be in an approved STEM enhancement major. AP/IB courses will count toward the enhancement requirements (but not the credit renewal requirements for Palmetto Fellows Scholarship).

- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship will increase to \$10,000 per academic year.
- LIFE Scholarship will increase to \$7,500 per academic year.

Private Scholarships

Students can learn about the availability of private scholarships by checking with high school guidance counselors, religious institutions, community organizations and their parents' employers. There are also

a number of private scholarship resources available online at clemons.edu/financial-aid/types/scholarships/private-scholarships.html. Students can continue to search for private aid throughout the year.

LOANS

Federal Direct Loans

Federal direct loans are educational loans for which the student is the borrower.

- Maximum first-year loan amount is \$5,500.
- Part of the amount can be subsidized (interest accrues after graduation), which is based on financial need as determined by the FAFSA; the rest will be unsubsidized (interest accrues during school).
- Interest rate for 2024-2025 is 6.53 percent (subject to change for future years).
- Borrower must complete entrance counseling and sign a loan agreement (MPN) online at studentloans.gov.

Federal Direct PLUS Loan

Federal Direct PLUS Loans are educational loans for which the parent is the borrower.

- Maximum loan amount is up to the remaining annual cost of attendance.
- Interest rate for 2024-2025 is 9.08 percent (subject to change for future years).

Parent borrower must be creditworthy, complete an application and sign a loan agreement (MPN) online at studentloans.gov.

QUESTIONS ABOUT FINANCIAL AID?

Talk with a member of our staff. Email finaid@clemons.edu or call 864-656-2280. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ESTIMATED COSTS

S.C. Resident Full Time (per year)

Tuition and fees*:	\$15,554
Housing and food (approximate):	\$13,284
Books, supplies and course materials (approximate)**:	\$1,456
TOTAL:	\$30,294

Nonresident Full Time (per year)

Tuition and fees*:	\$40,866
Housing and food (approximate):	\$13,284
Books, supplies and course materials (approximate)**:	\$1,456
TOTAL:	\$55,606

Other Expenses

Estimated personal/transportation:	\$5,452
Estimated computer cost**:	\$2,694

*Assumes health and other mandatory fees (required for all full-time students) and average lab fees. Major enrichment fees apply to some majors and can range up to \$2,500.

**All students are required to own a laptop computer. For details, go to clemons.edu/laptop.

All figures are for the 2024-2025 academic year and are subject to change.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT APPLICATION TIMELINE

August 1

Application opens

Fall

Recommended time frame to submit at least one set of scores for the SAT or ACT. Students should list Clemson so we can receive their scores. This is optional.

SAT code is 5111.

ACT code is 3842.

October 15

Early Action application submitted

Submit the undergraduate application for Summer/Fall admission by this date for Early Action consideration.

November 1

Early Action required materials submitted

Submit all required materials, including the Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record (STARS), by this date for Early Action consideration.

Mid-December

Early Action decision release

Admissions decisions are released to students who applied Early Action.

January 1

Regular Decision application submitted

Submit the undergraduate application for Summer/Fall admission and all required materials by this date for Regular Decision consideration.

January 10

Regular Decision required materials submitted

Submit all required materials, including the Self-Reported Transcript and Academic Record (STARS), by this date for Regular Decision consideration.

Mid-February

Regular Decision release

Admissions decisions are released to students who applied Regular Decision.

May 1

Final deadline to apply for Summer/Fall admission and national college decision date.*

*We will notify students by email when we receive their application and keep them updated on the status of their application while it's under consideration. Students can visit their Clemson admissions portal for their most up-to-date status.

FINANCIAL AID

January 1

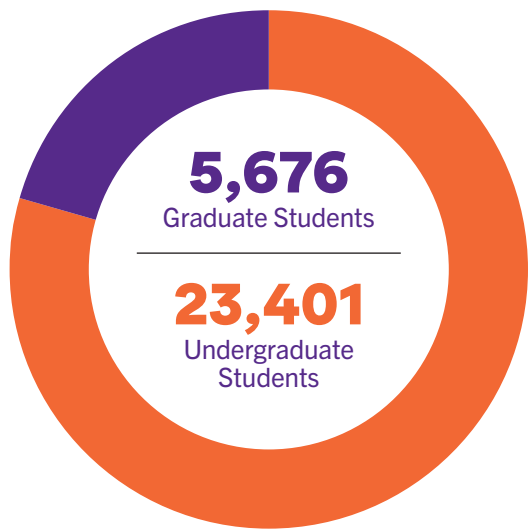
Priority deadline to submit the FAFSA to be considered for state and federal need-based aid.

January 10

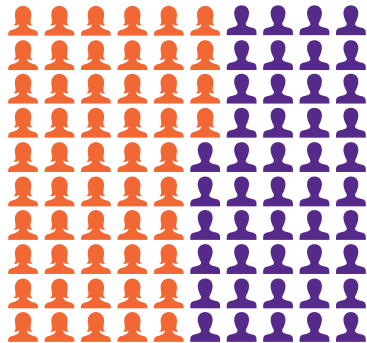
Incoming first-year students must apply for admission by this date and submit all required materials by January 10 to be considered for merit- and need-based scholarships.

BY THE NUMBERS

2024 ENROLLMENT



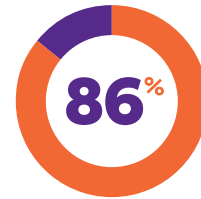
29,077
Total Enrollment



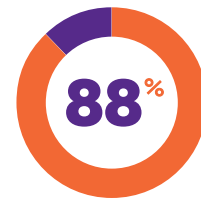
54%
Female

46%
Male

ACADEMICS REPORT



Instructional faculty with a Ph.D.
or terminal degree



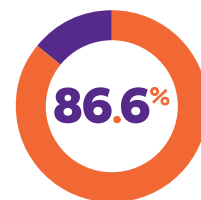
Full-time instructional faculty

16:1

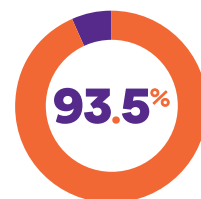
Student-to-faculty ratio

25

Median undergraduate class size



Six-year graduation rate for the 2018 cohort



First-year retention rate for
the Fall 2023 class

2024 FIRST-YEAR STUDENT PROFILE



61,517

Applied



23,586

Accepted



4,880

Enrolled



TEN MOST POPULAR DEGREES

Management • Marketing • Financial Management
Biological Sciences • Psychology • Nursing • Mechanical Engineering
Computer Science • Accounting • Industrial Engineering

2024 TOP FIVE STATES

13,673

South Carolina

1,052

North Carolina

1,013

New Jersey

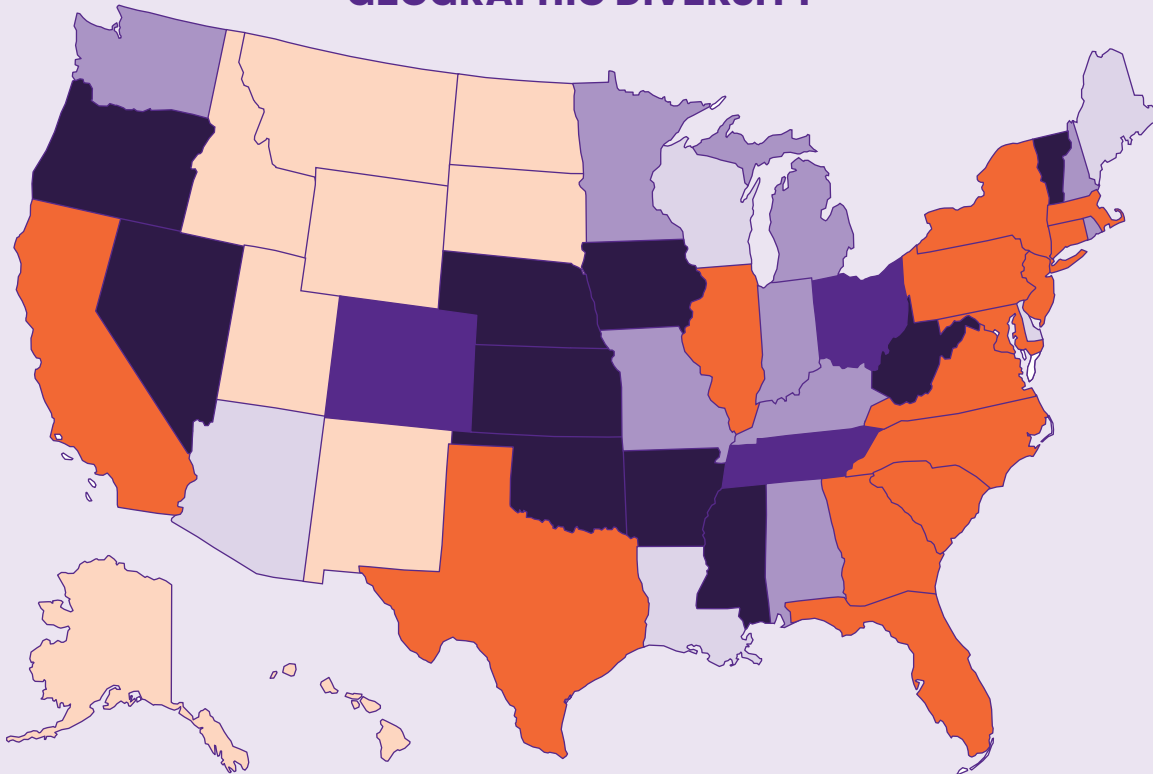
892

Georgia

882

New York

2024 UNDERGRADUATE GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY



250+ 100-250 50-99 25-49 10-24 fewer than 10



VISIT CLEMSON

Clemson offers both in-person and virtual tour options.
To learn more, go to clemson.edu/visit.

CHAT WITH ADMISSIONS.

Our Tiger Cub chatbot is available 24/7, and undergraduate admissions counselors are available for live chat daily.

clemson.edu/admissions or call 864-656-2287

CONNECT WITH A FACULTY MEMBER.

Contact any department of interest directly at clemson.edu/degrees.

APPLY TO CLEMSON.

Find more information at clemson.edu/admissions/undergraduate.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION.

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-  instagram.com/clemsonuniversity
-  x.com/clemsonuniv
-  youtube.com/clemsonuniversity

For more information on anything
Clemson, please visit clemson.edu.