VISITOR INFORMATION

College Office Hours
Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Most offices are closed Saturday and Sunday.

Information and Assistance
General information: 843.805.5507 | www.cofc.edu

Emergency Assistance
From an on-campus phone: 3-5611
All other phones: 843.953.5611
There are 23 emergency call boxes located throughout the campus.
The call boxes are available for requesting a campus escort, reporting
an emergency, or requesting assistance in an emergency.

Parking
Parking is available in the garage on St. Philip Street between
Vanderhorst and Calhoun streets, in the garage located on St. Philip
Street between George and Liberty streets, and in the Wentworth Street
Garage (on St. Philip Street between Wentworth and Beaufain streets).

QUICK FACTS*
• State-affiliated institution
• 9,820 undergraduate students
• 1,398 graduate students
• States represented: 50
• Countries represented: 75
• Average class size: 20
• Student/faculty ratio: 13:1
• Majors: 49
• Minors: 79

* For statistical information, please see the Planning and Reference
Guide at http://ir.cofc.edu

The College of Charleston and The Graduate School of the College of Charleston are
committed to providing leadership in the attainment of equal opportunity for all persons
regardless of race, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or other legally protected
classification. This effort is in compliance with all federal and state laws, including Titles VI
and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section
503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 as
amended. Inquiries should be directed to the Office of Human Relations and Minority Affairs,
College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina 29424-0001.
Welcome to the College of Charleston,
South Carolina’s public liberal arts and sciences institution of higher education located in a city renowned for its extraordinary history and vibrant culture.

A LITTLE HISTORY
The College of Charleston is the oldest institution of higher learning in the state (founded in 1770 and chartered in 1785) and the 13th oldest in the nation. It was also the first municipal college in the country (the City of Charleston assumed responsibility for its support in 1837). More than a century later, in 1970, the College joined the S.C. state system and began its greatest growth phase. Today, approximately 9,800 undergraduates and more than 1,700 graduate students are on campus.

A LOOK AT US TODAY
The College of Charleston prepares its graduates to be citizens of the world. By applying the concept of diversity to the professional and liberal arts experience, students of all backgrounds, races, countries, and cultures are introduced to academic programs with an international and intercultural content.

You will notice when you arrive that the campus is an elegant blend of classical, colonial, antebellum, Victorian, and modern architecture. The College’s facilities, while preserving a sense of history, are still technologically state-of-the-art.

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT US
The College of Charleston is recognized for the exceptional experience it offers. We encourage our students to customize their education by combining diverse majors, minors and concentrations with study abroad, undergraduate research opportunities, and internships. Our preeminent faculty give them individual attention and they enjoy experiential learning opportunities that normally are available only at the graduate level. It is easy to see why the College’s graduates make the transition into professions or graduate programs so successfully.

Fun fact
In the mid-twentieth century, when the College was small and private, the student body attended “convocations” in ALUMNI HALL (the main meeting area on the second floor of Randolph Hall). Men sat on one side and women on the other. During these morning services, the president would lead the students in prayer, at which time students were required to stand and turn around, thus keeping their “prayers down South.”
Let’s begin at the heart of campus – the Cistern Yard.

The large grassy oval in front of Randolph Hall is called the Cistern. The Cistern was constructed in 1857 to help control the problem of rainwater flooding the basement of Randolph Hall and to provide water for fighting fires. Later, the Cistern was covered and planted with grass, and today it is a favorite study spot for students.

Randolph Hall is the large, imposing structure on the northern side of the Cistern yard and for many years was the main academic building on campus. The center section, with a grand portico and Corinthian-style columns, was built in 1828. Named for Harrison Randolph, who was president of the College from 1897 to 1945, it is one of the oldest college buildings still in use in the United States.

Randolph Hall has survived earthquakes, hurricanes and war. Its scars are evident by the cracks and dings in its façade. During the Civil War, though it was out of normal bombardment range from Federal artillery, one shell reportedly struck the east wing of the building and another fragment crashed through the library roof. According to legend, a cannonball crashed into a table at which languages professor William Hawkesworth was seated.

On August 31, 1886, Charleston was struck by a major earthquake, and Randolph Hall was among the most heavily damaged buildings in the city. Fortunately, classes were not interrupted and Randolph Hall was returned to its grandeur by 1894.

Hurricane Hugo, which struck in September 1989, also left its mark. Randolph Hall lost much of its roof, and water damaged the east tower and sections of the second floor. More noticeable was the loss of ten stately oaks that had originally been planted in the Cistern Yard in the 1850s. The College replaced them with the largest oaks it could obtain – one of which was donated by that year’s graduating class.

The other structure facing the Cistern is Towell Library. Built in 1855 as the first campus library, it presently houses the Office of Admissions and Adult Student Services. The Greek Revival-style building, embellished with Italianate details, is named for Edward Towell ’34, a former chemistry professor, dean and acting president of the College.

On the opposite end of the Cistern yard is Porters Lodge, which faces George Street. This Roman Revival-inspired building was constructed in 1850 and was the home of the College’s porter, or custodian. Colonel Edward White, the architect of the U.S. Customs House and a College trustee, designed the lodge and some of the additions to Randolph Hall. The Greek inscription “Know Thyself” appears on the George Street side of the archway. This often-quoted phrase is inscribed on the Oracle of Apollo at Delphi, Greece, and dates back to the sixth century B.C. During the Civil War, Porters Lodge was used to house a fire engine, and the notches that were carved to make room for the engine’s shafts are still visible. Today, Porters Lodge contains faculty offices.

In 1972, the three buildings on the Cistern (Randolph Hall, Towell Library, and Porters Lodge) were designated National Historic Landmarks by the National Park Service.

Fun Fact 2

Books need quite a bit of room. **Towell Library** held approximately 45,000 volumes. By 1970, the collection had grown significantly, so the College built the Robert Scott Small Library, which held roughly 450,000 volumes. The newest facility (Addlestone Library) has a holding capacity of one million volumes.

Fun Fact 3

For years, **Porters Lodge** was the residence of the school janitor, who was allowed to keep his cow and other livestock in the Cistern yard. In 1854, students filed a formal complaint stating that “the presence of the Janitor’s Cow in the Campus interfered with the gymnastic exercises and was regarded as a nuisance.” Although the College archives do not reveal what happened next, there were no further complaints.
STEP 2 | TURN LEFT ONTO GEORGE STREET AND CROSS ST. PHILIP STREET.

SOTTILE THEATRE is the large brick building located between St. Philip and King streets. Major events such as Spoleto Festival USA and College of Charleston events such as the International Piano series, the May commencement ceremony for The Graduate School of the College of Charleston, and a number of student-sponsored programs take place in the theatre.

Sottile Theatre’s exterior is constructed of American bond brickwork, with oversize panels decorated in a Flemish brick pattern. Classical urns featuring Jupiter heads adorn the parapet that extends along the George Street roofline.

STEP 3 | CONTINUE ON GEORGE STREET AND CROSS KING STREET.

The F. Mitchell Johnson Physical Education Center is located another block east on George Street. The JOHN KRESSE ARENA in the Johnson Center is where the men’s and women’s basketball teams and the volleyball team play. The SILCOX PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH CENTER is adjacent to the Johnson Center.

STEP 4 | WALK BACK TO ST. PHILIP STREET AND TURN LEFT.

To your left are the GEORGE STREET APARTMENTS (coed, for upperclassmen), a public parking garage and the LIBERTY STREET RESIDENCE HALL (coed). The College’s cafeteria, Liberty Street Fresh Food Company, is on the first floor on the Liberty Street side of the building.

Fun fact 4
When it was completed in 1922, the SOTTILE THEATRE was the largest theater in the state, seating more than 2,000. Originally named Gloria Theatre, it was constructed as both a vaudeville house and a movie theater. By 1935, when traveling vaudeville shows largely came to an end, the venue served mainly as a movie house until 1975.

Fun fact 5
Our students are great supporters of the College’s athletics teams – packing KRESSE ARENA to the rafters during basketball and volleyball seasons and filling the stands at the baseball stadium at Patriots Point. We invite you to come out and root for the home teams. You may discover that your blood runs maroon and white.

Southern Conference, NCAA Division I
School Mascot: Cougars    School Colors: Maroon and White

Men’s Teams
- Baseball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Soccer
- Swimming/Diving
- Tennis

Women’s Teams
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Equestrian
- Golf
- Indoor Track
- Outdoor Track
- Sailing
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming/Diving
- Tennis
- Volleyball

Co-Ed Teams
- Cheerleading
- Sailing
STEP 5 | CROSS LIBERTY STREET.

The J.C. LONG BUILDING is on the other corner of St. Philip and Liberty streets. Constructed in 1970, it houses classrooms, computer labs and faculty offices.

Next to J.C. Long on Liberty Street is the BEATTY CENTER. Home to the School of Business and Economics, it contains classrooms, faculty offices, and a trading desk – a high-tech room where students get hands-on experience while they track the movements of stocks on the New York Stock Exchange and other exchanges. Between the Beatty Center and J.C. Long is the TATE CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP.

Continue along St. Philip Street. The SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE is in the building on the corner of Wentworth Street.

STEP 6 | TURN RIGHT ON WENTWORTH STREET AND CONTINUE ONE BLOCK TO GLEBE STREET.

The building on the corner of Glebe and Wentworth streets is the SYLVIA VLOSKY YASCHIK JEWISH STUDIES CENTER. The building houses Jewish studies program offices and the state’s Jewish Historical Society, a Judaica library, a student lounge for the Jewish Student Union/Hillel, as well as general faculty offices and conference rooms.

STEP 7 | CONTINUE ALONG GLEBE STREET.

The oldest building on campus is the PRESIDENT’S HOME AT 6 GLEBE STREET, which was constructed in 1770 as the parsonage of St. Philip’s Church. Today, the Georgian-style building, listed as a National Historic Landmark, serves as the home of the College of Charleston president.

STEP 8 | WALK BACK TO WENTWORTH STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

FRATERNITY ROW is located between the N.E. MILES EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER and GLENN MCCONNELL RESIDENCE HALL, on the corner of Wentworth and Coming streets. More than 200 male and female students live in McConnell.

STEP 9 | TURN RIGHT ON COMING STREET AND WALK TO GEORGE STREET.

SORORITY ROW is on Coming Street between Wentworth and George streets. The STERN STUDENT CENTER is on the right-hand corner of George and Coming streets. The student center is named for Ted Stern (president of the College from 1968 to 1979). It contains a fitness center, an indoor swimming pool, a game room, student lounges, the Office of Student Life, and a number of student organization offices. The Stern Center Food Court is located on the first floor. The RITA LIDDY HOLLINGS SCIENCE CENTER, which houses faculty offices and science laboratories, is on the opposite corner of George and Coming streets.

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**Fun Fact 6**

In 1785, the Reverend Dr. Robert Smith established a successful academy in the basement of his house at 6 GLEBE STREET and immediately transferred his 60 students to the College when he became the first principal – or president – of the institution in 1789.

**Fun Fact 1**

Look closely at the gate leading to the front entrance of 6 Glebe Street. It is a fine example of the beautiful wrought-iron work you will see around the campus and throughout the city. This gate includes the miter and crozier of a bishop in its center medallion – a fitting symbol for Smith, who became the first Episcopal bishop of South Carolina in 1796.
Before the College joined the state higher education system in 1970, the campus was defined by Green Street, College Street, St. Philip Street, and George Street. In the early 1970s, the College closed Green and College streets to city traffic and created brick walkways now called Greenway and College Street, respectively.

The Sottile tree, located in front of the WILSON-SOTTILE HOUSE (c. 1890) built by Samuel Wilson, a prominent merchant. This Victorian mansion, characterized by stained-glass windows, carved oak doors with leaded glass panels, multi-colored mosaics patterning the foyer floor, marble mantels, crystal chandeliers, and delicate woodwork, was used as a dormitory after the College acquired it from the Sottile family. Today, it houses the College’s Office of Institutional Advancement.

The HONORS CENTER is the Greek Revival-style William Aiken House (c. 1841) on your right. Honors College students gather here to study, socialize, meet with professors, attend seminars, work on group projects and relax in the upstairs lounge/reading room. This house is named for William Aiken, a former South Carolina governor.

The chapel theatre (formerly the First Christian Church) seats approximately 100. The annex houses the student-run radio station (WCOC), the student newspaper, the literary journal and the yearbook. Take a left onto St. Philip Street and you will pass the AT&T BUILDING (faculty offices and classrooms) on the left-hand side of the street. The Joe E. Berry Jr. Residence Hall, Marcia Kelly McAlister Residence Hall, and Kelly House and Warren Place (also residence halls) are across the street.
STEP 14 | RETURN TO CALHOUN STREET.

One block east down Calhoun Street you will see the COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON BOOKSTORE, located on the street level of the LIGHTSEY CENTER. Here, you will find a wide variety of College of Charleston gifts and apparel as well as textbooks and general-interest books. The bookstore is generally open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Several student services departments (registrar’s office, financial aid, Career Center, disability services) are located in the Lightsey Center.

Directly across the street from the bookstore is COLLEGE LODGE, a student residence.

STEP 15 | TURN RIGHT ON CALHOUN STREET AND LEFT INTO COUGAR MALL.

One of the main entrances to the campus is through COUGAR MALL, located on the right-hand side of Calhoun Street, diagonally across from the Chapel Theatre. The Latin inscription that appears above the wrought-iron gate was taken from Homer’s *Æneid* and means “to remember these things will be a pleasure.” The statue of Clyde the Cougar, the College’s mascot, guards the entrance to Cougar Mall, which ends at the fountain behind Randolph Hall.

MAYBANK HALL, the building on the left side of Cougar Mall, is a classroom and faculty office building.

STEP 16 | WALK THROUGH COUGAR MALL AND TURN LEFT ON COLLEGE STREET (AT THE FOUNTAIN). CROSS ST. PHILIP STREET.

The ALBERT SIMONS CENTER FOR THE ARTS is located on St. Philip Street, across the street from the Cistern yard. Named for Albert Simons, renowned Charleston architect, pioneering preservationist, and former faculty member, the building contains practice rooms, art studios, classrooms, and faculty offices. Student artwork is exhibited on the first floor.

The Emmett Robinson Theatre, recital hall, and HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART are also located on the first floor. Take a moment to enjoy one of the exhibits. For more information on arts events, please visit www.cofc.edu/sota.

STEP 17 | CROSS ST. PHILIP STREET AND RETURN TO THE CISTERN YARD.

We hope this brief tour of the College of Charleston has given you a better sense of the College’s beauty and distinctiveness. If you have any questions or would like more information, please visit us online at www.cofc.edu or call our Office of Admissions at 843.953.5670.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH: AVERY RESEARCH CENTER (located on 125 Bull Street, a few blocks from the heart of campus) is a small museum and archive dedicated to collecting and preserving the unique historical and cultural heritage of African Americans in the South Carolina Lowcountry. Avery Center is open for tours from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Please call 843.953.7609 or go online (www.cofc.edu/avery) for more information.

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**Fun Fact 10**

The HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART at the College of Charleston is one of the most adventurous and innovative venues for the display of contemporary art in the Southeast. It is open to the public Monday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information, go online: www.cofc.edu/halseygallery.

**Fun Fact 11**

Think mud, add volleyball, and you have OOZEBALL. The Student Alumni Associates (SAA) host this event each spring to raise money for the SAA Leadership Scholarship. It is now the largest collegiate mud-volleyball event in the nation.