

Name: _____

Year in School: _____

Major/Minor: _____

Date: _____

Student Engagement Plan

Welcome to the Student Engagement Plan (SEP)! Students who fully engage in their academic and social experiences within and beyond the classroom are generally more satisfied and likely to succeed. Additionally, the University of South Carolina provides students with a number of resources that can help them to become more engaged on campus. The purpose of the SEP is to help students become better acquainted with campus resources and understanding high-impact practices that can help them maximize their undergraduate experience.

SEP PART 1: A Pathway to Discovering High-Impact Practices and Campus Resources

At the University of South Carolina, **high-impact practices** are active learning opportunities that are highly beneficial for enhancing students' undergraduate experiences. Through USC Connect, students can gain educational experiences beyond the classroom and develop skill sets that are critical to their success in college and after graduation. USC Connect includes five different "pathways" of engagement:

Community Service: There are a number of opportunities to give back to the greater Carolina community. Students can participate in monthly Service Saturdays, MLK Service Days, or an alternative break service trip. Additionally, students can enroll in service-learning courses where they will have the opportunity to connect service experiences with academic course outcomes. A full listing and description of service-learning courses available across disciplines can be found at the Office of Student Engagement's website. For further information about service opportunities, please see the Beyond the Classroom Database on the USC Connect website.

Global Learning: A domestic or international study experience can help students develop personally, professionally, and academically by providing opportunities to make new friends and visit a different part of the United States or a country overseas.

Research: Research is as simple as asking a question and finding the answer. The Office of Undergraduate Research helps students answer questions related to their professional field of study or a particular topic of interest and provides them with information about opportunities for research and funding.

Internships: Completing an internship as a student offers great first-hand experience within a major and professional field of interest. There are a number of internship opportunities available within each college and it is important to talk with an academic advisor or the Career Center about planning early. Additional opportunities outside of the Career Center include the "Washington Semester" and the "SC Government." For further information about internship opportunities, please see the Beyond the Classroom Database on the USC Connect website.

Peer Leadership: As a student at USC you have the opportunity to serve as a peer leader. Peer leaders are students who have been selected and trained to offer educational services to their peers. Opportunities for peer leadership include peer education, peer mentoring, peer tutoring/counseling and student leadership within a group or organization. For a list of opportunities, visit sc.edu/studentengagement.

USC Connect Beyond the Classroom Database sc.edu/usconnect/participate
Service-Learning Domestic Study Away Peer Leadership Office of Student Engagement, Patterson Hall, Garden Level 803.777.1945 sc.edu/studentengagement
Study Abroad Legare College, Third Floor 803.777.7557 studyabroad.sc.edu
Office of Undergraduate Research Legare College, Room 223 803.777.1141 sc.edu/our
Department of Leadership and Service Russell House, Suite 227 803.777.7130 sa.sc.edu/communityservice
Career Center H. William Close Building (BA Building) Sixth Floor 803.777.7280 sc.edu/career

SEP PART 2: Student Engagement Inventory

As you fill out this inventory, reflect on your college experience thus far. The goal is to be intentional and selective with your engagement experiences so they have the greatest impact and meet your individual needs over time.

Please circle the appropriate number in regards to each category using the following scale:

	Unfamiliar	No Interest	Some Interest	Interested	Participating
1. Interacting with my professors outside of class on a regular basis	0	1	2	3	4
2. Participating in a practicum, internship, field experience, co-op, or clinical assignment	0	1	2	3	4
3. Doing research in my field of study	0	1	2	3	4
4. Living in a residence learning community with other students who have similar interests such as environmental awareness, languages, the arts, or pre-med	0	1	2	3	4
5. Participating in study abroad for course credit, volunteering abroad, or an internship opportunity or foreign language immersion experience	0	1	2	3	4
6. Participating in a domestic study program such as a faculty-led course or with the National Student Exchange within the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico or Guam	0	1	2	3	4
7. Serving as a peer leader on-campus (e.g., resident mentor, U101 peer leader, orientation leader, academic tutor)	0	1	2	3	4
8. Developing leadership skills by participating in events such as Emerging Leaders Program, LEAP, SLDC	0	1	2	3	4
9. Participating in community service opportunities (e.g., Service Saturdays, MLK Days of Service, or AmeriCorps programming)	0	1	2	3	4
10. Participating in a service-learning class to connect community service experiences with academic course content	0	1	2	3	4
11. Finding employment both on or off campus (e.g., work-study, internships)	0	1	2	3	4
Please circle the number that appropriately describes your level of agreement with the following statements:	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
12. I am aware of the resources to help support my engagement on campus	0	1	2	3	4
13. I am confident that I will get involved in educationally purposeful activities on campus	0	1	2	3	4
14. I am aware of the resources to help support my involvement on campus	0	1	2	3	4

Scores:
Your scores on the Student Engagement Inventory are intended to assist you and your ACE Coach/advisor/instructor with narrowing down engagement opportunities that will be most purposeful for you based on your interests, major and career aspirations. Keep in mind that it is important to be intentional about the timing of certain engagement activities in order to maximize their impact during your time at USC. Additionally, the goal is not to over-commit yourself with a large quantity of activities, but rather focus on the quality of time you commit to meaningful engagement in select areas.

- Fours** **You are ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING in this category of activities.**
Focus on: Setting SMART Goals (Part 4) to either build upon current engagement experiences or establish new ones to create more variety and better balance.
- Threes** **You are INTERESTED in this category of activities.**
Focus on: Setting SMART Goals (Part 4) to help you take steps to move from being interested in this category to being actively engaged. Pick a few activities to pursue that will either complement one another or will help you to get a diverse range of experiences.
- Twos** **You have SOME INTEREST in this category of activities.**
Focus on: Making sure that you have a strong understanding of what this category entails, and how it may relate to your future career goals. There is no need to be interested in everything! Just keep in mind that you might become more interested in this later on in college, so understanding the resources available may be helpful to you in the future.
- Ones** **You have NO INTEREST in this category of activities.**
Focus on: Finding at least one or two other areas of interest that might not be of interest to you now but could potentially be opportunities in the future. Also, it is important to recognize that your interests may change.
- Zeros** **You are UNFAMILIAR with this category of activities.**
Focus on the personal reflection questions in Part 3 to reflect on your interests and how to begin pursuing them. Take time to review opportunities found on the Beyond the Classroom Database through the USC Connect website and think about what you might want to learn more about. Meeting with an ACE Coach/advisor/instructor could also help you decide which opportunities might best serve your long-term goals.

Your Next Steps:

- 1) Do some personal reflection about engagement and discuss it with your ACE coach/advisor/instructor/class.
- 2) Learn more about high-impact practices and opportunities for engagement through a variety of campus resources
- 3) Set SMART goals in an effort to find a good balance of engagement activities that will support your career and collegiate goals.
- 4) Use the mind mapping activity to understand the relationships between your activities in and out of the classroom and how they are tied to the Carolina Core and USC Connect

SEP PART 3: Personal Reflection

It is helpful to reflect on your present and past experiences to better understand where your future involvement and engagement beyond the classroom. This reflection will help you to develop a clear plan for engagement at USC by tying in your interests and goals.

- If you are currently participating in college activities, please list each below.

- What's something you've accomplished that you are proud of?

- What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

- What opportunities are you looking for at the University of South Carolina?

- What was a project or activity that you worked on for hours upon hours and lost track of time.

- When was the last time you were really excited about something? What was exciting about it?

Once you have completed your reflection, discuss your discoveries with your ACE coach/advisor/instructor to continue planning how to become more engaged. Use Part 4 to help you design your personal engagement plan.

SEP PART 4: Knowing Campus Resources

The University of South Carolina offers several different areas in which students can participate and become engaged. Becoming familiar with offices and resources on campus can help you find ways to become more engaged while at USC. It will help to visit the websites and do a little information gathering in the areas of interest to you. You may also learn about new things that you had not even considered.

Engagement Category	Opportunity	Office
1. Interacting with professors	Out to Lunch	Student Success Center
	Mutual Expectations Workshops	Office of Student Engagement
	Last Lecture Series	Office of Fellowships & Scholar Programs
	Professors office hours	See professor or instructor
2. Practical experiences	Internships/Co-ops/Job Shadow	Career Center/ College or School of major
3. Research	Undergraduate research	Office of Undergraduate Research
	With professor	See professor
4. Residence learning community	Living & Learning Communities	University Housing
	Resident Mentors	University Housing
	Residence Hall Association (RHA)	University Housing
	National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH)	University Housing
5. Student organizations	Fraternity and Sorority Life	The Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life
	Honor	Student Organizations
	Interest	Student Organizations
	International	Student Organizations, International Programs
	Political	Student Organizations
	Professional	Student Organizations
	Religious	Student Organizations, Carolina Campus Ministries
	Residence Hall Government	University Housing
	Service	Student Organizations
	Sport	Student Organizations, Campus Recreation
6. International Study Abroad/ Domestic Study Away	International study abroad	Study Abroad Office
	Domestic Study Away - National Student Exchange	Office of Student Engagement
	Domestic Study Away- Independent Programs	Office of Student Engagement
	Domestic Study Away Faculty-led courses	Office of Student Engagement
	Maxcy International House	University Housing & International Programs
	EPI Program - Conversation Partners	International
7. Arts on and off campus	USC Theatre and Dance performances	www.cas.sc.edu/THEA
	School of Music performances	www.music.sc.edu
	Longstreet Theatre	http://artsandsciences.sc.edu/THEA/
	Koger Center events	http://koger.sc.edu
	Carolina Productions	www.cp.sc.edu
	Mckissick Museum	College of Arts and Sciences
	Columbia Museum of Art	www.columbiamuseum.org

	South Carolina Statehouse	http://www.scstatehouse.gov/visit.php
	SC Railroad Museum	http://www.scrm.org/
	Town Theatre	http://www.towntheatre.com/index.html
	South Carolina State Museum	http://www.museum.state.sc.us/
8. Recreation	Outdoor adventure trips	Campus Recreation-Outdoor Recreation
	Intramurals	Campus Recreation
	Group Exercise classes	Campus Recreation
	Fitness Orientations	Campus Recreation
9. Health	Changing Carolina Peers	Campus Wellness
	Visit Nutritionist	Campus Wellness
	Fitness Assessment/Exercise Consulting	Campus Wellness
	Grocery Store Tours-Nutrition Knowledge	Campus Wellness
	Individual Stress Management Appointments	Campus Wellness
10. Peer leadership	See www.sc.edu/studentengagement for complete list of opportunities (over 50 groups)	Office of Student Engagement
11. Service	Service-Learning classes	Office of Student Engagement
	Service Saturdays	Community Service Programs
	Carolina Service Council	Community Service Programs
	Alternative Spring Break Trips	Community Service Programs
12. Employment	Student Leadership in the workplace	Student Life
	Work-study jobs	Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarships
	On-and-off campus jobs	Career Center
13. Leadership	Emerging Leaders	Leadership Programs
	Leaders Engaging Across Perspectives	Leadership Programs
14. Diversity	Conversation Partners	International Programs
	Maxcy International House	International Programs
	EMPOWER Diversity Peer Educators	Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
	Diversity Dialogues	Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
	Diversity Trainings	Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
	Safe Zone Allies Program	Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
	Student Leadership & Diversity Conference	OMSA, Leadership Programs
	Preston Residential College	University Housing
15. Sustainability	Eco-Reps – Peer Leaders	University Housing
	Green Quad Learning Community	www.housing.sc.edu/rsl/westquad.html
	SAGE: Students Advocating a Greener Environment	www.sageusc.org
16. Financial	Financial Literacy drop-in consultations	Student Success Center
	Financial Literacy seminars & workshops	Student Success Center
17. Faith	Campus ministry organizations	Carolina Campus Ministries
	Local churches	Carolina Campus Ministries
18. Student Media	The Daily Gamecock	Student Media
	Garnet & Black Magazine	Student Media
	SGTV (Student Gamecock Television)	Student Media
	WUSC-FM	Student Media

SEP PART 5: Creating Your Plan for Engagement

Consider the various interest areas you have explored and create goals to help guide your personal engagement at the University of South Carolina. Set **SMART** (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely) goals, list the available campus resources that will help you reach each goal, develop an action plan (specific steps you will take to reach the goal), and set deadlines for completing your action steps. Use this plan as a method to hold yourself accountable and to list the outcome of each action step.

As you work toward achieving your goals you may face challenges along the way. Therefore, it is important to think about any challenges you might face, and the resources or alternatives that exist if you are unable to achieve your goals as originally planned. Perhaps you will discover you need to adjust your goals to meet evolving interests, or once you complete a goal you'll realize it leads to another goal for that same interest area that will take you to the next level of engagement.

Engagement Goal Example:		
Participate in the National Student Exchange (NSE) Program to the University of Washington in the spring 2015 semester.		
Available Campus Resources		
Office of Student Engagement My academic advisor		
Action Steps	Deadline	Check when completed
1. Meet with a staff member in Student Engagement to discuss the program	10/16/2013	
2. Meet with my academic advisor to discuss my participation in NSE	10/30/2013	
3. Talk to my family about NSE over winter break	12/31/2013	
4. Apply to NSE by preferred application deadline	01/31/2014	
5. Interview with Student Engagement staff for NSE program	02/13/2014	
Possible obstacles I may face in trying to reach my goals:		
Financial costs, and making sure it fits in my program of study.		

Engagement Goal 1:

Available Campus Resources

Action Steps	Deadline	Check when completed
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Possible obstacles I may face in trying to reach my goals:

Engagement Goal 2:

Available Campus Resources

Action Steps	Deadline	Check when completed
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Possible obstacles I may face in trying to reach my goals:

SEP Part 5: Integrative Learning Reflection

Integrative learning is an understanding and a disposition that a student builds across the curriculum and co-curriculum, from making simple connection among ideas and experiences to synthesizing and transferring learning to new, complex situations within and beyond campus.

The University of South Carolina is committed to assisting you develop the skills needed to integrate your learning throughout your various experiences in and beyond the classroom.

After having participated in an engagement activity (e.g., job shadowing, service-learning course) it is useful to reflect on how your experience connects to what you're learning in the classroom and to your interests and future career goals. Take some time to reflect on:

- Describe the beyond-the-classroom experience in which you participated. What was memorable?
- After having participated in the experience, what have you learned about yourself that you didn't know beforehand?
- Did you develop any skills or abilities as a result of your participation in this experience (e.g., teamwork, communication skills)? If so, what were they?
- How has what you learned changed your perspective towards being engaged?
- How can you apply what you learned during the experience to any of your classes or to other aspects of your life?

Your Mind Map:

Use this space to create your own mind map that shows the connections between you classroom and beyond-the-classroom experiences. Create something that makes sense to you!

Example:

