



# **New Graduate Student Orientation**

**Tuesday, August 5, 2025**

# Presentation Overview

- Icebreaker
- Academic Community
- Thornton Student Affairs
- Academic Policies
- Resources & Opportunities
- Welcome Week Events
- DMA Break-Out Session

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# Icebreak-out Rooms

- Name
- Major
- Hometown/where you are coming from
- Share something fun or interesting you did this summer

***“Three distinct divisions, one extraordinary school.”***



**William Kanengiser**

**Sean Holt**

**Rotem Gilbert**

Vice Deans

Department Faculty Chair

Department Coordinator

Department offices by major program

Faculty offices/studios and mailboxes

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## **ACADEMIC COMMUNITY**

**Professor Brian Head**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

*Associate Professor of Practice,  
Classical Guitar & Composition*

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# **Thornton Admission & Student Affairs**

## **TMC 200**

**Phillip Placenti**

Associate Dean of Admission and Student Affairs

### **Administrative Services**

Ligaya Lewis

Madeline Doyle

### **Admission**

Kit Bellamy

Brittany Jimenez

### **International Programs**

Vito Grillo

### **Student Affairs**

Viet Bui

Yesenia Nava

Job Springer

Nancy Wong

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**THORNTON  
STUDENT AFFAIRS**



## Services Provided

- Personalized academic advisement for each semester of registration for all Thornton programs
- Assistance through the registration process
- Help navigate USC and Thornton School policies and processes
- Guidance in accessing campus-wide resources and support

→ *WHEN IN DOUBT . . . ASK US!!*

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## **ACADEMIC POLICIES**

# Academic Standards

- Minimum cumulative GPA for graduation: 3.0
- Complete total number of units required
- Complete non-course requirements
- Minimum passing grade for credit in the department of your major: B
- Minimum passing grade for credit in other departments: C
- Minimum passing grade for MGEE review classes: B-
- All courses must be taken for letter grade

# Music Graduate Entrance Exams (MGEE)

- Different exams required for different majors
- Any exam that is not passed will require a review course in that same subject area
- *TAKE ALL REQUIRED EXAMS! Refer to the MGEE website for exam schedule.*
  - <https://music.usc.edu/students/music-graduate-entrance-exam-mgee/>

# MGEE Completion Policy

All MGEE requirements must be fulfilled within the first two semesters in a graduate degree program.

Failure to fulfill all MGEE requirements by the beginning of the third semester – either through exams or review courses – may delay permission to fulfill degree requirements such as recitals, qualifying examinations, thesis projects, and dissertations, and could have a negative effect on financial aid eligibility.

# Advisement & Registration

Each semester, follow these steps to plan your schedule and register for classes:

1. Schedule an appointment with your advisor through online portal (Advise USC)
2. Prepare for your advising appointment
3. Meet with your advisor and obtain D-clearances
4. Register (using Web Registration)
5. Save your registration confirmation email

# Registration-Related Items

## **Tuition Refund Insurance**

Accept or decline as part of the registration process each semester

## **Individual Instruction Fee**

Added to tuition for each unit of individual instruction

## **Settling Your Bill**

Always settle by 5pm on the Friday before the first day of classes

## **Grade Options**

Do not change the grade option to pass/no pass or audit for any classes. You will not receive degree credit.

# Important Registration Deadlines

## **Deadline to Register and Pay Bill**

Friday before the first day of classes

This semester - August 22

## **Deadline to Drop & Add (regular session)**

Friday of the 3rd week of the semester

This semester – September 12

## **Deadline to Withdraw (regular session)**

Friday of the 12th week of the semester

This semester - November 14



# Verification of Prior Degrees

All graduate students (degree, certificate, and diploma) must verify that they have completed prerequisite degrees.

**Timing:** As soon as possible, but no later than the end of first semester. This can be a very time-consuming process, so get started on it early!

**How:** Log on to MyUSC and visit OASIS for registration restrictions. If you have a degree verification restriction, refer to the Thornton New Graduate Orientation website for instructions.

# International Students

Important issues for international students to remember.

- [Office of International Services \(OIS\)](#) located in Royal Street Parking Structure, Suite 101
- **Immigration Status Verification (ISV) must be completed before registering.**
- Full-time registration required every semester: 6 units (DMA, PhD), 8 units (MA, MM, MS), 4 units (GCRT, ARTD)
- International Student English Examination (ISE) — required only for students in a degree program if specified as a condition of admission
- American Language Institute (ALI) — required for some students based on the results of ISE exam

# **Federal Education Rights & Privacy Act**

## **(aka FERPA or Buckley Amendment)**

- Your academic records are your personal property
- This does not mean on-demand access
- We cannot legally discuss your academic record with anyone who is not you unless you grant permission.
- Permission for others to access your academic records can be granted via the OASIS system (link through your MyUSC page) under “Guest Account History.”

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## **RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES**

# Music Operations

Booth Hall (BMH 101)

## OBTAIN YOUR 2025-26 MUSIC STICKER

- Grants card-reader access to practice rooms & online scheduling
- Get one at the start of each academic year
- Scan QR code below to sign up for services and access

## LOCKER ASSIGNMENTS

- Visit Music Operations for information



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# Safety and Wellness

## ***USC IS AN URBAN CAMPUS***

- Be cautious
- Be aware of your surroundings
- Know your resources

## **USC Department of Public Safety**

Emergency: 213-740-4321

Non-emergency : 213-740-6000

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

## **USC Lyft Rides Program**

Free car rides within the USC neighborhood; book with Lyft app

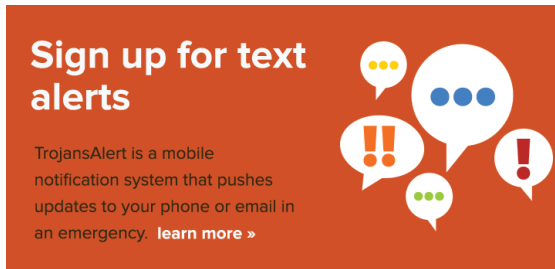
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# Safety and Wellness



## LiveSafe App

<http://dps.usc.edu/services/safety-app/>



## Trojans Alert

<https://dps.usc.edu/services/trojans-alerts/>

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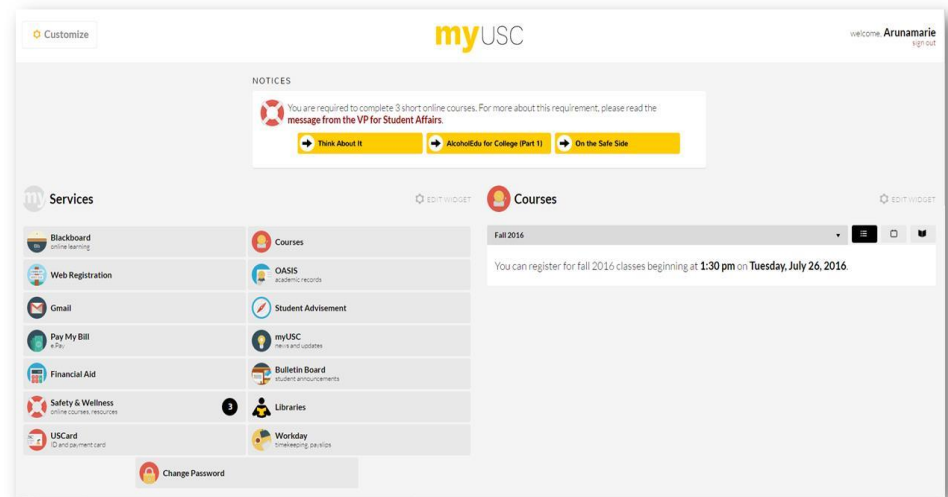
# Safety and Wellness

## Mandatory Online Training Modules

- *Think About It*
- *Staying Safe*

Available on your MyUSC page

<https://sites.usc.edu/pems/>



**DEADLINE: First day of classes on August 25**

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# IMMUNIZATIONS & SCREENING

- Submit proof/documentation to USC
- Deadline is add/drop deadline (Friday of week 3)
- Managed by Engemann Student Health Center
- Failure to submit on time will result in a late processing fee and restriction on next semester's registration
- More information: <https://sites.usc.edu/new-student-health-requirements/>
- Visit mySHR at: <https://usc.edu/myshr> for instructions and submission

# Safety and Wellness

## Musician's Health and Wellness

- Online Resources: <https://music.usc.edu/health-wellness/>
- Information Sessions and workshops

## Mindful USC

- Online Resources: [mindful.usc.edu](https://mindful.usc.edu)
- Classes
- Campus Events

# USC Thornton Community Engagement Program

Unique learning opportunities for young students in our local community and significant service-learning opportunities for our students.



Students from all majors in Thornton are welcome to participate.

<https://music.usc.edu/departments/community-engagement/>

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# Financial Aid

Financial aid application deadlines are very important. Eligibility is re-evaluated each year. Start the application process during winter break.

## **Work-Study Jobs**

Available in various Thornton School offices and throughout USC  
Work Study Job Fair: Friday, August 22 from 1-4pm on Trousdale Parkway (on-campus)

## **Scholarships & Graduate Assistants**

Know the terms and conditions of your award and whether it is renewable. Questions can be directed to [thornton.awards@usc.edu](mailto:thornton.awards@usc.edu).

# **THORNTON NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION & LUNCHEON**

## **Thursday, August 21**

### **11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, Newman Recital Hall**

- New Student Convocation
  - Presentation by Dean King and other school leaders

### **12:30 PM – 2:00 PM, Herklotz Courtyard**

- Informal opportunity to meet faculty, staff, and fellow students
- Lunch will be provided

An email to RSVP for the event will be sent to your USC email address.

# **Next Steps of Fall 2025 Advisement & Registration**

- You should have received an email by now from your advisor with details about when your advisement meeting will take place.
- You will register during or after the advisement meeting as long as you do not have a registration hold (e.g. hold for ISV).

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## QUESTIONS



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**BREAK-OUT SESSION  
for DMA Students**