

SEDAAG State Report: South Carolina

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Summary for the State

Based on recent surveys, twenty-seven institutions of higher education in South Carolina offer geography courses on a regular basis. Two of these institutions, USC-Columbia and Clemson University, offer graduate courses in geography. Only USC-Columbia offers a degree program, though Francis Marion students may earn a degree through a fourth-year cooperative program with USC. USC-Columbia offers the only geography graduate degree program in the state. Statewide, 34 full-time faculty and 25 part-time faculty taught 213 undergraduate and 22 graduate courses with an enrollment of 7,682 (undergraduate) and 347(graduate). At most institutions, large sections of introductory geography or world regional geography courses account for highest enrollments. There are two new full-time faculty members teaching geography in the state.

South Carolina Geographic Alliance

Dr. Chuck Kovacik will end his tenure as Director of the Center of Excellence for Geographic Education\South Carolina Geographic Alliance effective June 30, 2005. The Alliance, however, will be in good hands as Dr. Jerry Mitchell will become the new Director. Jerry joined the Alliance this year as Associate Director. In the last year, alliance membership increased by 11% to 8,360. The Alliance conducted 46 in-service workshops that were attended by 843 K-12 educators and an additional 32 workshops at 12 different teacher-training institutions to 619 pre-service students. A record 498 teachers attended two GEOFEST meetings, and SCGA staff presented before 288 educators at 7 statewide professional meetings. The Alliance produced teaching materials such as full color wall posters and interactive CD ROM discs that are distributed free of charge to participants in its workshops. Over the past four years, SCGA has distributed more than 25,000 wall posters and 15,000 CDs to teachers for use in classrooms across the Palmetto state. The current Alliance project, funded by a National Geographic Society grant, is to develop, print, and distribute 15,000 copies of a 40 page color Atlas of South Carolina to K-12 schools.

Selected Program Updates

Clemson

Geography in the Clemson Department of History and Geography currently has two full-time faculty responsible for geography courses and another full-time faculty member in another department teaches one section of geography each semester. The department offered a variety of undergraduate courses and a graduate section for middle-school teachers over the summer. As with last year, James Miller is on leave as director of the American Research Center in Tunis.

College of Charleston

The College of Charleston continues to build an active geography program. The department offers geography in the department of political science, taught by one full-time faculty member, Dr. Mark Long, and one full-time adjunct, Mr. Max Shaw. They currently have an active search for a second full-time, tenure track geographer. The College is in the initial stages of creating a minor in geography that would make use of geographers housed in a number of disciplines including political science. Courses offered include POLS 104 (GEOG 101) World Regional Geography, GEOG 119 Special topics in Geography (spring 2005, Environmental Geography), POLS 367: Geography of

International Conflict, POLS 305: Urbanization and Urban Geography. In addition, Dr. Long has offered the following special topics courses: Politics and Geography of the EU (also titled Construction of European Space), Political Geography, Politics and Geographies of Food, and Geographies of Nationalism.

Francis Marion University

Dr. Allan Lockyear, Dr. Scott Brown and a part-time faculty member offer a range of regional, political, cultural, and physical geography courses. In the last year, their enrollments totaled about 500 undergraduate students. The department has a minor in geography and a cooperative program with USC-Columbia.

USC-Columbia

The department welcomed three new faculty members in the fall of 2004. Dr. Marcia Caldas de Castro received her degree from Princeton University in 2002; she specializes in demography and health and is currently researching environmental factors relating to malaria transmission in Brazil and Tanzania. Dr. Melanie Feakins received her degree from Oxford University in 2001; her recent work includes a focus on the post-socialist political economy of Poland and Russia. Dr. Diansheng Guo received his degree from Pennsylvania State University in 2003; his research specialties in GIScience include spatial data mining and data visualization.

Three members of the department retired in the last year: Dr. Pat Gilmartin, Dr. Bob Lloyd, and Dr. John Winberry. With their departure the department loses the wisdom and experience of many years of service to department, university, and state programs, as well as the considerable contributions they made to their fields, the discipline, and SEDAAG.

The department's graduate program continues to broaden along with the interests of its students. In residence during spring and fall 2004 are 67 graduate students, 35 pursuing masters degrees and 32 seeking a PhD. During the 2003-2004 academic year, the department conferred degrees on 10 MA students and 2 PhD students. Thirty-four undergraduate students earned BA or BS degrees during the last year. Currently, there are about 70 undergraduate majors.

USC-Upstate

Changes at USC-Spartanburg included a new name for the campus, now known as USC-Upstate. One full-time and two part-time faculty members offer a number of courses with strong enrollment.

**Key Programmatic Indicators
Academic Year 2003-2004**

Institutions Offering Geography Courses	# Faculty		Majors			Enrollment		# Courses	
	Full	Part	PhD	MS	Undg	Grad	UG	Grad	UG
Benedict College		1					100		2
Bob Jones University		3					260		4
Clemson University	2	1					585		16
Coastal Carolina	2						750		18
Coker College	1						20		2
College of Charleston	2						410		12
Columbia College		1					50		1
Francis Marion	2	1					500		20
Furman University		1					50		2
Greenville Tech	1	1					210		8
Lander University		1					60		4
Limestone College		1					20		1
Presbyterian College		1					20		1
Southern Wesleyan		1					20		1
SC State University	1	1					160		6
TriCounty Tech	1						230		8
USC-Aiken	1	1					321		12
USC - Beaufort		2					154		3
USC - Columbia	17	3	32	38	70	347	2672	22	56
USC - Salkehatchie	1						105		5
USC – Upstate*	1	2					475		12
USC - Sumter		2					60		4
Voorhees College	1						60		3
Winthrop University	1	1					390		12
TOTALS	34	25	32	38	70	347	7682	22	213

* Formerly USC-Spartanburg

Bold face indicates program provided updated information Fall 2004. Other programs failed to reply, so data were drawn from previous survey.