

SEARCH PROFILE:

DIRECTOR OF THE SCHOOL OF
INFORMATION SCIENCE



South Carolina

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The University of South Carolina, Columbia, invites applications and nominations for the position of Director of the School of Information Science. The school is part of the College of Information and

Communications, which also includes the School of Journalism and Mass Communications. The director reports directly to the dean of the college.



THE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1801, the University of South Carolina (UofSC) is the flagship institution of the University of South Carolina System - the leading educator for the state, serving more than 52,000 students across eight campuses. It is located in the capital city of Columbia, SC, which boasts a community of approximately 800,000 residents, multiple Fortune 500 companies, and a thriving arts scene.

The University of South Carolina is a globally recognized, high-impact research university committed to a superior student experience and dedicated to innovation in learning, research and community engagement. Founded in 1801, the university offers more than 300 degree programs and is a top-tier Carnegie Foundation research institution. More than 50,000 students are enrolled at one of 20 locations throughout the state, including the research campus in Columbia. With 60 nationally ranked academic programs including top-ranked programs in international business, the nation's best honors college and distinguished programs in engineering, law, medicine, public health and the arts, the university is helping to build healthier, more educated communities in South Carolina and around the world.

More than 35,300 students enrolled at UofSC Columbia in fall 2021, hailing from more than 90 nations. UofSC is one of the oldest public universities in the country and the first state university to be supported continuously by annual state appropriations. It is one of 56 public universities in the US to earn both the top research classification

and the community engagement classification from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. In fall 2021, UofSC had a record-breaking number of applicants and welcomed its second largest class in the history of the institution.

The flagship campus includes sixteen colleges and schools with 922 tenured faculty, 270 tenure-track faculty, and 621 professional-track faculty, many of whom have earned significant recognition, placing the university in the top 5% of public universities in the nation for the number of national faculty awards received. UofSC is a Carnegie Tier I Research Institution with research expenditures exceeding \$200 million in 2020 and in 2021, researchers at the university secured 20 sponsored awards of \$1 million or more each. Among the 114 research centers and institutes hosted by UofSC, there are five prestigious centers for research excellence that receive more than \$96 million in federal funding.

UofSC was ranked in the top 3% in the nation for the number of African American graduates by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* in 2014. It has been cited as providing the nation's best first year experience among public universities (*U.S. News*) and for being rated a best value public college by *Kiplinger's, Inc.* and *Forbes*. Ranked by the *U.S. Department of Education* in the top 10% for its public university graduation rates, UofSC boasts a six-year graduation rate (2013 cohort) of 77% and a FTFT retention rate of 89% (2018 cohort).

UNIVERSITY MISSION: COLUMBIA CAMPUS

The primary mission of the University of South Carolina is the education of the state's citizens through teaching, research, creative activity, and community engagement. At the heart of its mission lies the university's responsibility to state and society to promote the dissemination of knowledge, cultural enrichment, and an enhanced quality of life.

The University of South Carolina serves a diverse population of students with widely varying backgrounds, career goals, and levels of aspiration. The university offers over 320 degrees at the bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and professional program levels, affording students the most comprehensive array of educational programs in the state. Opportunities for personal and career development are provided to the citizens of South Carolina through outreach and continuing education activities. The university provides additional opportunities for associate degrees through Fort Jackson and through the oversight of regional Palmetto College campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, and Union).

Through classroom and laboratory instruction delivered in a variety of face-to-face and distance learning formats and modalities, degree programs are offered in the following areas: arts and sciences; business; education; engineering and computing; hospitality, retail, and sport management; information and communications; law; medicine; music; nursing; pharmacy; public health; and social work. The depth and breadth of its graduate programs distinguishes the University of South Carolina from all other institutions of higher learning in South Carolina.

Recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as a top research and community engaged institution, nationally ranked in start-up businesses, and conferring over 30% of all bachelor's and graduate degrees awarded at public institutions in South Carolina, the university has a profound relevance, reach, and impact on the people of the state. The University of South Carolina works to provide all students with the highest-quality education, including the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for success and responsible citizenship in a complex and changing world through engagement in nationally and internationally ranked research, scholarship, community outreach, and artistic creation.





COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

At the University of South Carolina, we strive to cultivate an inclusive environment that is open, welcoming, and supportive of individuals of all backgrounds. We recognize diversity in our workforce is essential to providing academic excellence and critical to our sustainability. The university

is committed to eliminating barriers created by institutional discrimination through accountability and continuous process improvement. We celebrate the diverse voices, perspectives, and experiences of our employees.

STRATEGIC PLAN AND PRIORITIES

The University of South Carolina is one of the fastest-growing flagship universities in the nation with cutting-edge research initiatives to highly personal student services, and top-ranked academic programs to top-ranked athletics teams. UofSC recognizes the value of being agile during times of change and is

committed to properly serving its students, community and state well into the future. The current strategic plan was created to identify priorities that will propel the University of South Carolina to future successes. See [University of South Carolina Strategic Plan](#).

THE COLLEGE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

The College of Information and Communications embraces our ability to know where and how to store and find information, how to analyze and synthesize it, and how to deliver it across today's infinitely broad communications spectrum. The college is home to two nationally recognized flagship schools providing outstanding education, research and service. As such, it is one of only a few universities to combine its communications and information science programs, two rapidly evolving – and converging – fields united by a shared belief that information accessibility and integrity is the cornerstone of a strong democracy. The college has approximately 1,800 undergraduates, 550 graduate students, and over 100 faculty and staff members. New assets available to faculty and students in both schools include a social media insights lab and a biometric and UX lab—both are designed to study issues related to data, media and their impact on society.

MISSION STATEMENT

In an accelerated world where messages precede meaning, information is abundant, but understanding is scarce. Founded on the belief that an informed citizenry must be discerning, the CIC equips students with the skills necessary to effectively and ethically interpret and deliver communications within shifting social, economic, and political contexts. Fusing the once siloed fields of communications and information

sciences, our diverse students and faculty are learning to interpret data, discover meaning, create content, and convey ideas in a digitally connected world.

VISION STATEMENT

CIC is a model of interdisciplinary and experiential learning, honing the practices and applications that foster innovation and promote civic engagement.

VALUES STATEMENT

At the University of South Carolina College of Information and Communications, we fulfill our mission and achieve our vision through our:

- Devotion to a high ethical standard
- Commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Respect for universal access and freedom of speech
- Belief in a mission of service that engages and empowers communities
- Embrace of an innovative approach to all we do

In acting on these beliefs, we unceasingly seek to be:

- Visionary, enterprising and agile
- Honest, trusted and civically minded
- Passionate, dedicated, personal and collaborative

AT A GLANCE

<p>2 Schools</p> <p>Journalism and Mass Communications Information Science</p>	<p>65 Faculty Members</p>	<p>1,801 Undergraduate Students</p> <p>550 Graduate Students</p>
<p> Programs</p> <p>5 Undergrad Minors 7 Undergrad Majors 1 Sports Media Concentration 6 Master's 2 Certificates 1 Specialist</p>	<p>18,405 Alumni</p>	<p>Student to Faculty Ratio</p> <p>33:1 Entire College</p> <p>27:1 Undergraduates</p>

THE SCHOOL OF INFORMATION SCIENCE

The School of Information Science has dramatically expanded its academic and community outreach programs to match the rapidly evolving information landscape. Long a highly regarded professional program for librarians and media specialists, the school has added undergraduate and doctoral programs and is recognized as a leader in distributed learning with classes on campus and online across the state and across the country. The School of Information Science, fully accredited by the American Library Association (ALA) and approved by the CAEP, offers a [Bachelor of Science degree in Information Science](#), a [Masters](#) and [Ph.D. program](#) in Library and Information Science, and multiple post graduate programs including a degree certificate in [health communication](#), a [Certificate of Specialized Study in Information Science](#), and a [Certificate in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#). The school also offers a [Specialist in Library and Information Science](#) degree.

Located on the campus's historic Horseshoe, the School of Information Science has a faculty of 16 and a staff of 5. It has nationally recognized programs in school library media, youth services, and cultural heritage informatics. Since its inception, the school has emphasized the use of information technology as a vital component of library and information services. With over 3,000 alumni, it has both an active alumni association and fellows program. Integral to the university's mission as a public university is to serve the educational needs of the community and state. Pursuant to that mission, the school of Information Science is a literacy champion through its engagement with the [South Carolina Center for Community Literacy](#) and [Cocky's Reading Express™](#), reaching children and schools across the state.

The Master's of Library and Information Science is ranked 17th overall, 7th in School Library Media, and 9th in Services for Children and Youth by *U.S. News & World Report*. These rankings are for 2023. The school's library and information science master's program is also ranked 5th overall by Best College Reviews; 10th overall by Best Schools; 7th by Best Colleges; and 6th by College Rank.

OUR MISSION

The University of South Carolina School of Information Science's mission reflects our commitment to encouraging excellence in research and teaching; creating leaders committed to diversity and public service; promoting creativity; and encouraging the development of innovative practices that contribute to

the creation of knowledge, advance cultural heritage stewardship, and improve our understanding of the important roles that libraries, information, and technology play in an empowered global society. The school's responsibility to the State of South Carolina also lies at the heart of this mission, as does the broader intention to enhance literacy and promote social equity around the world.

VISION AND VALUES

From this vantage point, we envision a world in which information, knowledge, access to knowledge, literacy, and the ability to manage complex data are keys to both personal development and success in commerce, government, politics, and education. We strive to be recognized for excellence in teaching and learning, international research, and our commitment to imagining and influencing the future. We encourage and support scholarship, leadership, service, diversity, and outreach within an innovative and accessible program distinguished by collegial support, mentoring, and inclusion. We value research that advances theory and leads to best practices; and we believe that diversity, equality, inclusion, and equity stand at the core of our mission, for without these, we cannot educate, innovate, learn, or grow. Nor can we effectively address the needs of the libraries, information centers, cultural heritage institutions, and communities that look to us for thoughtful academic leadership.

IMMEDIATE GOALS AND PERSPECTIVES

Towards these ends we work to create an environment in which students and faculty thrive and develop the knowledge and skills required to become leaders in a world characterized by rapid technological change and increasing interdependence. We pursue opportunities to build and strengthen relationships with regional and international organizations and world-class institutions. We share in the development of the theoretical and practical knowledge necessary to preserve the past, manage the present, and design the future. We support the advancement of thriving disciplines and interdisciplinary excellence, and we work to develop innovative and flexible solutions that connect people, knowledge, and technology. More broadly, we plan to continue to be one of the nation's best schools for library and information professionals by continuing to excel in teaching, scholarship, and professional service.



THE LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Director of the School of Information Science is responsible for providing leadership and helping to focus the teaching, research, and service missions of the school; for representing the school to a wide range of campus and professional constituencies; and for administering the school's activities and budget.

The new director will demonstrate a spirit of innovation, a participatory leadership philosophy, and a deep commitment to the mission of the university. The next director will be open to input about the future of the college and provide avenues for faculty and staff to participate in its planning and shared governance.

The new director will be able to build on and leverage the many assets of the college. The reputation of the school continues to grow nationally and internationally. Our faculty attend, present and hold leadership positions within leading associations and conferences in the field (ALISE, ALA, IFLA, ASIS&T, iSchool Conference). Faculty continue to engage internationally in research, teaching and service.

A detailed report on the the major accomplishments, challenges and opportunities within both the college and school can be found in [Blueprint for Academic Excellence College of Information and Communications AY2021-2022](#).

In addition to leading strategic planning efforts, the new director will need to address the following priorities:

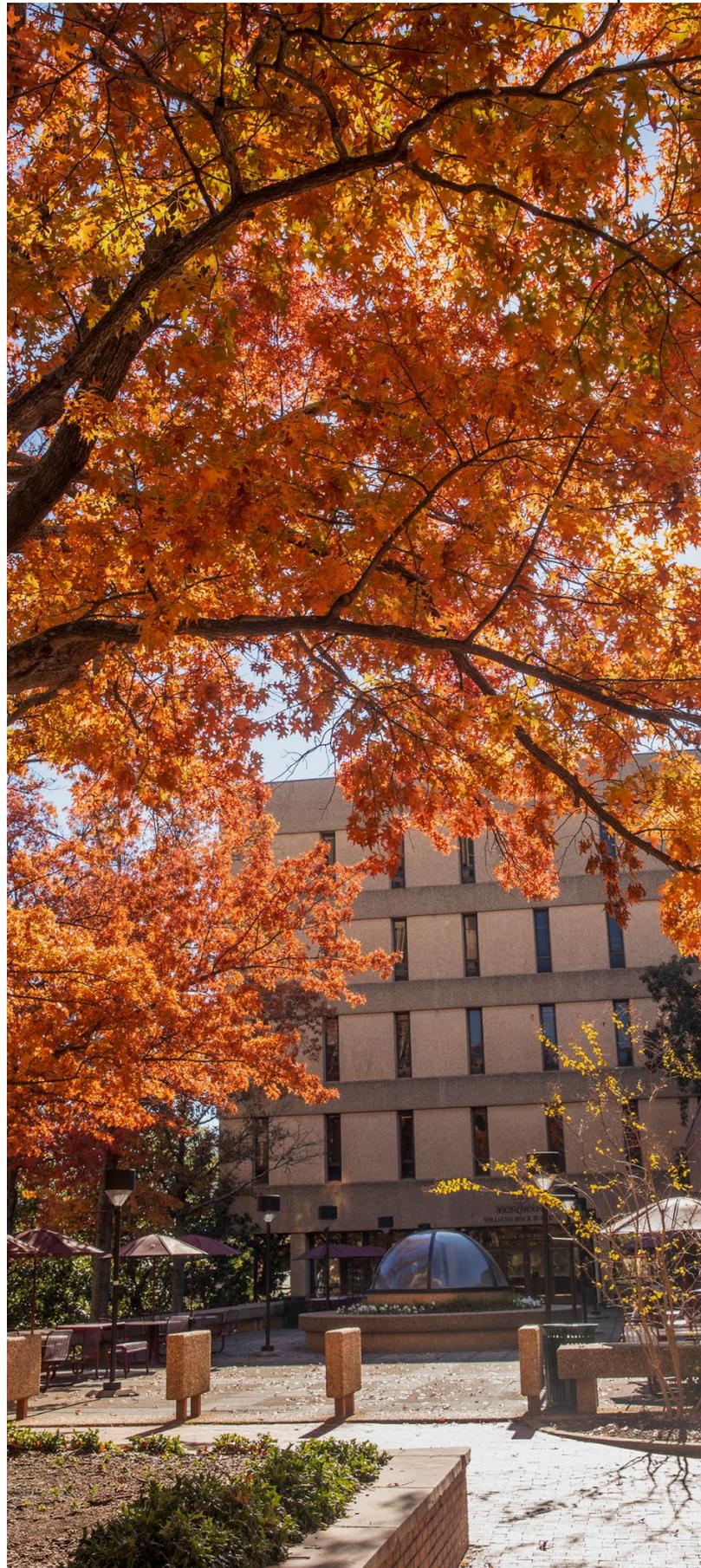
- **Increasing Enrollment:** Whereas the undergraduate program continues to grow, accelerating growth is essential to providing the resources necessary to address the needs of faculty, staff, and students. Similarly, having a growth mindset for existing degrees, certificates, and elective courses.
- **Faculty Workload:** As a result of four years of major curriculum reviews and revisions, an expanded research program, and an increased international reputation, creating and implementing strategies to support faculty in research, teaching, and service is an on-going priority.
- **Curricular Innovation and Leadership:** Support existing degrees while seeking to expand new degree offerings that are compelling, relevant, and aligned with growth.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Work both within and beyond the college to advance research, teaching and service opportunities.
- **Increase External Funding:** Support the work of research faculty to boost growth in both grants and contracts.

QUALIFICATIONS

The director is expected to be a collaborative leader who acts with integrity, possesses the ability to foster collegiality and clarity in the decision-making process, and provides strong leadership to advance the college's commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusive excellence. The director should have the ability to articulate and effectively advocate the school's mission to the students, faculty, alumni, external funding agencies, and other decision-making bodies. The successful candidate will be expected to play a major leadership role in developing strong academic and research programs that enhance the school's quality and reputation.

The candidate will demonstrate:

- A record of university teaching, scholarly and creative activity that satisfies eligibility of appointment to the rank of tenured full professor in an academic program in the college.
- Successful record of administrative leadership experience in positions of increasing responsibility.
- Demonstrated effectiveness in supporting innovative programs and initiatives, including digital learning and the use of technology across the curriculum.
- Fluency in the current and emerging topics in higher education, particularly those that are relevant to information science.
- A clear commitment to academic excellence and student success.
- The capacity to articulate and build consensus around a strategic vision, and the ability to implement policies and initiatives to achieve that vision.
- A commitment to the recruitment and retention of a diverse group of faculty and students and to diversity in all aspects of the university.
- The ability to create productive partnerships across disciplinary and organizational boundaries.
- Dynamic leadership abilities with an understanding of, and appreciation for, faculty mentoring.
- Familiarity with professional accreditation expectations and processes.
- Demonstrated personal and professional qualities of integrity, honesty, open mindedness, forthrightness, and resiliency.





APPLICATION PROCEDURES

This search is assisted by **Academic Search**. Applications should consist of:

1. a detailed cover letter addressing the expectations and qualifications for the position.
2. a current curriculum vitae (CV); and
3. a list of five professional references with contact information and a brief description explaining the working relationship of each to the applicant.

References will not be contacted without the explicit permission of the candidate. All documents should be submitted in PDF format.

Nominations and applications should be sent to UofSCDIS@academicsearch.org. The position is open until filled but only applications received by **October 3, 2022**, can be assured full consideration.

Assisting the University of South Carolina with this search is Senior Consultant Cynthia M. Patterson, cynthia.patterson@academicsearch.org. Nominators and prospective applicants may reach out directly to arrange a confidential discussion about this opportunity.

The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in educational or employment opportunities on the basis of race, sex, gender, gender identity, transgender status, age, color, religion, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, genetics, protected veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

ABOUT ACADEMIC SEARCH

Academic Search is assisting the University of South Carolina in this work. For more than four decades, Academic Search has offered executive search services to higher education institutions, associations, and related organizations. Academic Search was founded by higher education leaders on the principle that we provide the most value to partner institutions by combining best practices with our deep knowledge and experience. Our mission today is to enhance institutional capacity by providing outstanding executive recruitment services, executive coaching, and transition support, in partnership with our parent organization, the American Academic Leadership Institute. For more information, visit www.academicsearch.org.



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