

Step-By-Step Master's Application Instructions

Ready to Apply

[SPRING AND FALL APPLICATION DEADLINES](#)

Step 1: The Online Application

Complete and submit the [USC Graduate Admission Application](#) (\$90 application fee)

- **Upload Electronic Transcripts.** An official, mailed hard copy or e-transcript is not required for admission to our programs.
 - Submit an electronic copy of official transcripts (.pdf recommended) and other degree related documents through the online graduate application (International applicants, visit USC Graduate Admission's [Country Requirements](#) page for details on required documents).
 - Unofficial transcripts from university student portals are not acceptable
 - If the transcript includes a separate grading scale, make sure it is also uploaded
 - For upload purposes, all transcript related documents for a single school must be submitted as one document
 - If you are admitted, you will be given specific instructions on submitting your hard copy transcripts
- **Self-Reported Test Scores**

We ask that all applicants include self-reported test scores (GRE, TOEFL, IELTS, etc.) in the online graduate application.

 - **Application Tip:** Test scores (and additional test scores) may be added after the application has been submitted. Do not hold off on submitting the application because you are waiting for test scores.
- **CV/Résumé, Personal Statement, Letters of Recommendation**

Instructions for the submission of these materials can be found in the [online graduate application](#).

 - **Note:** Go to our [Program pages](#) to check the application requirements to see which materials are required for admission to the program in which you are interested.
 - **Application Tip:** Letters of Recommendation may be sent in by recommenders after the application has been submitted. Do not wait for letters to be received before submitting the application.
- **USC ID Number**

After you submit the USC Graduate Admission application you will receive a USC ID by email typically within 2-3 days of submitting the online application. You will need to include this USC ID with all submitted materials by mail and with all correspondence with USC. It is important to note that your USC ID is different from the USC CAS ID you will receive when you begin your application. The CAS ID is only required for technical support during the application process and is not issued by the university.

- **Scholarship Consideration**

If your application is received (with an attached transcript) by the scholarship consideration deadline date and all other required materials are received no later than the final deadline date, you will be considered for Viterbi merit-based scholarships.

– **NOTE:** If selected as a finalist, you may be requested to submit additional information.

- **Submitting Multiple Applications**

Instructions can be found on our [FAQ page](#) (Application tab, Item #03).

Step 2: GRE Test Scores Requirement

Submit official, valid GRE scores

- Official GRE scores must be sent electronically by ETS to "U Southern Cal," (**ETS school code 4852**). A department code is not required as all GRE scores automatically go to USC's Office of Graduate & International Admission.
- Valid GRE scores must be dated within five years of the start of the intended application semester. (This is August for the Fall semester and January for the Spring semester.)
- **IMPORTANT:** Only scores received electronically from the testing service are considered official. USC does not accept self-reported test scores or paper scores sent via postal mail for final admit decision purposes.
- The GRE requirement can be waived if you are enrolled in or have completed a USC Viterbi BS program with a GPA of 3.2 or higher or are enrolled in or have completed a USC Viterbi MS or PhD program.

Step 3: English Proficiency Requirement (International students only)

Submit Official TOEFL/IELTS Test Scores. Full information on USC's English Proficiency Requirement (including waiver circumstances) can be found on the USC Graduate Admission [English Proficiency](#) page.

- Official TOEFL/IELTS scores must be sent electronically to USC by the testing service (ETS or IELTS).
- Valid TOEFL/IELTS scores must be dated within two years of the start of the intended application semester. (This is August for the fall semester and January for the spring semester.)
- **IMPORTANT:** Only scores received electronically from the testing service are considered official. USC does not accept self-reported test scores or paper scores sent via postal mail for final admit decision purposes.
- **NOTE:** USC does not accept the ETS iBT Best score.

Step 4: Financial Documentation (International students only)

Submit your Proof of Financial Support documentation and passport copy.

- For information on what constitutes acceptable Proof of Financial Support and find the appropriate program costs, go to the USC Graduate Admission [Financial Documentation](#) page
- **Application Tip:** To avoid unnecessary I-20/DS-2019 processing delays, we recommend submitting the financial documentation and copy of the first two pages of the passport either as part of online graduate application or at least before an admit decision is received. However, because these documents are not required for an application review, they can be submitted after an admit decision has been received.

Post-Application

Decision Notification

The length of time it takes for an application to be reviewed varies by department and degree program. After your application package is complete, it is sent to a graduate committee for review. Once a decision is made, an official decision will be sent to you via your [YouSC Portal](#). If you have questions about application status, please contact [Viterbi Graduate Admission](#).

Note: All required application materials must be received by the respective application deadline to guarantee review for the intended semester.

Admitted

Visit our [FAQ page](#) for answers to common questions asked by newly admitted students including those about: statement of intent, commitment deposit, and deferring admission to another semester.

QUESTIONS?

For questions on application requirements or additional assistance completing your application you may contact us at viterbi.gradprograms@usc.edu or at 213-740-4488. If you need technical support with your application, click on the Contact Us link in the lower left of the online graduate application.