

CS 3.8.1 - Learning/Information Resources

The institution provides facilities and learning/information resources that are appropriate to support its teaching, research, and service mission.

Compliance Finding: In Compliance

Narrative:

The University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort) provides learning and information resources through programs and services of the University Libraries, Information Technology Services and Support (ITSS), and the Center for Instructional Technology and Academic Resources that are appropriate to support our mission. The USC Beaufort mission dictates that our campuses bring "...the University of South Carolina's statewide mission of teaching, research, scholarship, and public service to the rapidly growing Lowcountry of South Carolina..." [i]

Out of a possible 207,857 square feet, 109,497 square feet can be described as allocated to research, teaching, and public service space. Facilities that are specifically dedicated to learning resources are below.

Libraries [ii]

USC Beaufort maintains two full-service library facilities: a free-standing 25,000 sq. ft. library building at the South Campus in Bluffton and a 6,633 sq. ft. facility in the Sandstone Building at the North Campus in Beaufort.

The South Campus library offers 46 computer terminals for student and patron use, a rare book collection with original documents for research, a foreign language lab, a collaborative computer center, a classroom, a conference room, and a cyber cafe. The North Campus Library offers 15 terminals for student and patron use, a "Beaufort College" collection of books relating to South Carolina, and a State Documents collection. Both libraries contain small-group student study rooms, distance education rooms, and curriculum labs for students enrolled in the Early Childhood Education degree program. The libraries are wireless environments and are protected by CheckPoint's state-of-the-art RFID security system that also offers self-checkout options for students and patrons.

Via subscriptions to over 120 electronic databases, the library offers direct access to the full texts of over 200,000 journal titles and other periodicals. The library's resources are available in varied formats, including 30,000 electronic books, 138 print journal titles, 8,961 micro-texts, 10 newspapers in print, 6,063 state government documents, 1,340 A/V items, and a digitized collection of 19th century images of Native Americans and soldiers in the American West. Full-text databases and electronic books are accessible around the clock via the library's secure proxy server.

As part of the University of South Carolina System, the library also provides students and faculty with access to the USC System's 3.1 million books, 3.9 million microform items, and 24,000 current serials in print. With Interlibrary Loan (ILL) services the collections in the state are available to students in a few days.

Technology

Center for Instructional Technology and Academic Resources: Located in the South Campus Library with extended services on the North Campus Library, the Center connects students with the technologies they will need in a technology rich environment in school, work and life through workshops, consulting, Helpdesk, and class specific seminars. During the Fall of 2007, 135 students requested instructional technology help from the center. The center also received 258 requests from faculty in the use of technology for instruction.

Technology Enhanced Classrooms: ITSS has the responsibility for designing, installing and maintaining a wide range of instructional technologies in USC Beaufort's classroom and instructional spaces. All classrooms are equipped with an LCD projector, VCR/ DVD player, laptop connections, Internet access, document camera and an instructor podium. 3 multimedia video conferencing classrooms with all these features, plus additional equipment required by faculty, are also available. USC Beaufort ITSS staff members provide training and assistance to faculty, staff, and students in the use of University technologies.

Public Access Labs: ITSS provides staff expertise to develop, configure, test, deploy and maintain the operating system, installed applications and network printing for student access with 141 computers in 8 locations across both campuses (Table 1). The operating system image in these labs includes multiple, complex applications running in a secure operating system environment while providing maximum reliability. In close consultation with faculty and librarians, ITSS develops a computing lab image that includes curriculum-related applications needed for each academic year. ITSS staff members actively monitor the lab workstations and printers to ensure all systems are functioning properly.

Table 1 Public Access Computer Facilities

USC Beaufort North Campus	
Library	15 PCs
Sandstone Computing Lab	24 PCs
PAC Lab	24 PCs
OSP	5 PCs
Total	68 PCs
USC Beaufort South Campus	
Library	46 PCs
Hargray Computing Lab	20 PCs
OSP	4 PCs
Café	3 IMACs
Total	73

Collaborative Computing Lab: The CCL is a nine station computing lab with large screen monitors and touch screen monitors with wireless key board and mouse. This lab is equipped with sophisticated digital imaging software with access to digital cameras, scanners, and other capture devices.

Access to Computing Resources: ITSS provides access to a core set of services to faculty, staff and students via an ITSS account that grants single sign-on access to email, Blackboard, a portal, and computer labs. Faculty personal network space for securing and sharing documents is easily available using a mapped drive through a secure on campus network or from off campus using a secure VPN connection. All academic and administrative departments also have shared server space for easy file sharing and storage. Data from the servers are backed up regularly on daily or weekly increments, based on timeliness of data.

Department Specific Facilities

Education: The Education Curriculum Lab is located on the South Campus in Library Room 159 and on the North Campus in Library Room 105. These labs contain public-school textbooks and other instructional materials. Teacher candidates utilize the materials to complete course assignments, practicum and internships.

Nursing: Currently enrolled R.N. to B.S.N. students at USC Beaufort attend the health assessment laboratory classes at the New River Campus of the Technical College of the Lowcountry. This Simulation Lab provides students with clinical decision making scenarios through the use of Vita Simulation Manikins.

The completion of the second floor of the Science and Technology building will add:

- Home Care Simulation (790 SF)
- Two Simulated Classrooms (837 SF and 829 SF)
- 2 ICU Rooms One and Two (204 SF and 209 SF)

Science and Mathematics: The Science and Mathematics department has six teaching laboratories and four research laboratories:

North Campus: Marine Science Building:

- Marine Science Lab 101 - Teaching lab
- Marine Science Lab 200 - Grant funded Research Lab

North Campus PAC

- Chemistry Lab (1080 SF) - Teaching Lab

South Campus Science and Technology Building

- Physics Lab (1020 SF) - Teaching Lab
- Chemistry Lab (1825 SF) - Teaching Lab
- Biology Lab 1 (1120 SF) - Teaching Lab
- Biology Lab 2 (1120 SF) - Teaching Lab
- Microscopy Lab (Cell culture) - Research Lab
- Molecular Biology Lab - Research Lab
- Multi-user Lab - Research Lab

Other: Undergraduate credit courses are taught at two off-campus locations, the Marine Corp Air Station (2060 SF) and the Marine Corp Recruiting Depot at Parris Island (1600 SF), both located in Beaufort. At each location, two classrooms are provided for USC Beaufort instructional needs.

USC Beaufort is responsible for the management of Pritchards Island, a barrier island off the coast of Beaufort County owned by the USC Development Foundation. The island is staffed with one full-time manager to coordinate the use of the facility for research.

Leased space at the Pineland Station facility on Hilton Head Island provides 1380 SF of space for the Office of Community Outreach. Continuing education, non-academic credit courses, are offered at this location.

Supporting Documentation

- [i USC Beaufort Mission](#)
- [ii USC Beaufort Libraries](#)