

## Blueprint for Academic Excellence FY2024-25

## I. Enrollment Growth & Curricular Innovation

SMART Goal	Results
la. Increase undergraduate enrollment to 1,850 in Fall 2024 and 2,000 in Fall 2025.	<ul> <li>Increased undergraduate enrollment by 14% to 2,014 students for Fall 2024, exceeding goal of 1,850 by 9%.</li> <li>New sports media BA has more Fall 2025 applications than any existing CIC major.</li> <li>Updated Fall 2025 undergraduate enrollment goal to 2,075, or 3% increase.</li> <li>Increased deposits for Fall 2025 by 13% over prior year as of February 11, 2025.</li> </ul>
lb. Increase graduate enrollment to 560 in Fall 2024 and 600 in Fall 2025.	<ul> <li>Increased graduate enrollment by 6% to 510 students for Fall 2024.</li> <li>Updated Fall 2025 graduate enrollment goal to 525 students, or 3% increase.</li> </ul>
Ic. Submit BA in Communications for BOT and CHE approval by December 2024.	<ul> <li>Submitted BA Communications Fall 2024 and currently in final stages of CHE approval with anticipated start date Fall 2025.</li> </ul>
Id. Finalize academic pathways with MTC and USC Beaufort by January 2025.	<ul> <li>Finalized 2+2 programs with MTC in the areas of BSIS and Mass Comm.</li> <li>Developing 3+1 program in Advertising.</li> <li>Exploring 4+1 graduate degree pathways with USC Beaufort to Master's of Library and Information Science and Master's of Mass Communications.</li> </ul>
II. External Funding & Sponsored Research	Deculto
SMART Goal Ila. Increase external research awards to \$2M annually by 2027.	Increased external grant proposals from \$1.5M in 2023 to \$4.4M in 2024.      Increased external grant awards from \$691K in 2023 to \$1.2M in 2024.
Ilb. Continue support for faculty training by hosting 10 training events in FY25.	<ul> <li>Hosted nine events to promote research including interdisciplinary workshops, research symposiums, lab demonstrations, and international scholars.</li> </ul>
llc. Continue internal seed grands of \$15K+ in FY25.	<ul> <li>Provided \$18K in college funding to support faculty and doctoral student research impacting AI and society.</li> <li>Provided \$6K in startup funding for two faculty completing Propel program. Three faculty are expected to complete the program next year.</li> </ul>
Ild. Conduct strategic hires for new faculty with proven track record of securing external funding.	<ul> <li>Hired two faculty members (one with external grants and one who has strong potential) this year. Will search for two externally funded Presidential hires next year.</li> </ul>

## III. Collaboration & Strategic Partnerships

SMART Goal	Results
Illa. Continue development of executive education sports center with HRSM.	<ul> <li>Progress made with HRSM sport partnership. Hires in progress and first professional development workshop to be offered April 2025.</li> </ul>
IIIb. Conduct four strategic faculty hires supporting AI, UNESCO, and business journalism.	<ul> <li>Currently searching for two AI strategic hires and a business journalist.</li> <li>UNESCO chair and Baldwin chair hires on hold for now to focus search committee efforts on existing searches.</li> </ul>
Goals for 2025-2026	
Objective	SMART Goals
I. Enrollment Growth & Curricular Innovation	<ul> <li>Increase undergraduate enrollment 3% annually to 2,075 in Fall 2025 and 2,137 in Fall 2026.</li> <li>Increase graduate enrollment 3% annually to 525 in Fall 2025 and 541 in Fall 2026.</li> <li>Offer 5 BA Communication courses in AY25-26.</li> <li>Achieve 30% yield for admitted freshmen by Fall 2026.</li> <li>Enroll 10% of undergraduate students in accelerated master's programs by Fall 2026.</li> <li>Increase outreach to first generation students through 3 dedicated events.</li> <li>Implement AI certificate requirement in all primary introductory courses by Fall 2025.</li> <li>Increase enrollment in CIC summer study abroad to 125 students in 2026 and 135 students in 2027.</li> </ul>
II. External Funding & Sponsored Research	<ul> <li>Initiate search to hire funded faculty to lead South Carolina Center for Community Literacy.</li> <li>Initiate searches to hire two funded faculty per Presidential hiring allocations.</li> <li>Increase cross-college research collaboration resulting in \$500K increase in external funding.</li> <li>Increase research funding from existing faculty to reach \$2M annually by 2027.</li> </ul>
III. Collaboration & Strategic Partnerships	<ul> <li>Increase CIC HRSM Sports Center professional development participation to 5 offerings per year with 50+ participants each.</li> <li>Develop executive master's in sports media and management by Fall 2027.</li> <li>Continue working with industry and professional contacts to brand the college as a leader in Al.</li> </ul>