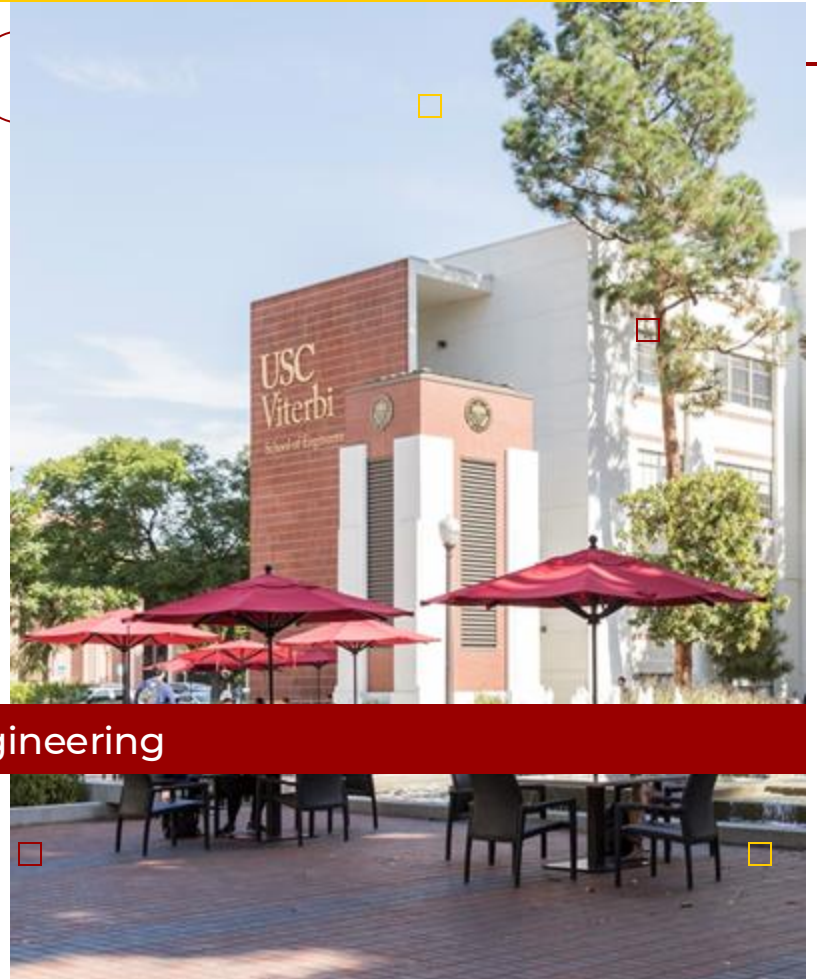


Fall 2026 Academic Webinar

Department of Aerospace & Mechanical Engineering



Agenda

- 01 Department Introductions
- 02 Degree Requirements
- 03 Registration Information
- 04 Contacting Your Advisor
- 05 Important Dates & Next Steps
- 06 Resources
- 07 Frequently Asked Questions and Q&A

Department Introduction

MS Degrees

- 11 MS Degrees
- 2 Combined Degree Programs
- Most Popular: MS ME and AE

Research

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Robotics
- Design
- Combustion & Heat Transfer
- Bio-Inspired Engineering

Students

- ~500 MS Students
- 2/3 on campus
- 1/3 DEN

Faculty

- 27 Tenure/Tenure Track
- Research and Teaching Faculty
 - 12 Professors and Lecturers
 - 18 Part Time Lecturers

AME Student Affairs Team



Lauren Terazawa
Student Services
Specialist



Christine Hsieh
Student Services
Specialist



Rosie Melendez
Student Services
Associate



Ellecia Williams
Director

Academic Advising

Advisors support the academic journey of students by providing resources and program requirement information, which contribute to the students' understanding and overall academic success.

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday
9:00AM - 5:00PM

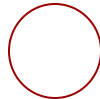
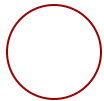
Viterbi Student and Academic Services (VSAS)

- DEN@Viterbi
- Reduced Course Load (RCL)
- Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- Optional Practical Training (OPT)
- Program Extension (PE)
- Leave of Absence (LOA)

AME Advising

- Registration Inquires
- Course Planning
- Personal Wellness
- Academic Performance Concern
- Course withdrawal plans
- Engagement opportunities

▪
▪
▪



Advising at Viterbi

Viterbi views advising as a collaborative partnership between students and advisors.



Advisors support students' academic journey by:

- Guiding students through policies, processes, and academic planning
- Providing guidance on program and degree requirements
- Connecting students with other campus offices and resources when needed

Actively engage in their education by:

- Familiarize with the University Catalogue
- Review STARS Report regularly to track degree progress
- Track Holds

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02

Degree Requirements

USC Catalogue

The USC Catalogue is the official university source for important information regarding policies, procedures, degree, and graduation requirements

The Catalogue is updated every academic year - it is important to ensure that you are reviewing the Catalogue that is relevant to your academic year (catalogue year).

<https://catalogue.usc.edu/>

Catalogue Search

Entire Catalogue

Search Catalogue

☐ Whole Word/Phrase

[Advanced Search](#)

[Catalogue Home](#)

[About USC](#)

[Administration](#)

[Admission and Orientation](#)

[Tuition and Fees](#)

[Academic Calendar](#)

[The Schools and Academic Units](#)

[Programs, Minors and Certificates](#)

[Programs by School](#)

USC Catalogue 2025-2026

USC Catalogue 2025-2026



Policies

The university lists academic policies that students must comply with in order to graduate with their degree program.

GPA	Graduate students are required to maintain a B average (3.0 GPA) while enrolled in a master's program. Both in their <u>applied</u> and <u>overall</u> GPAs.
Passing Grade	Minimum of a C or better. Pass/No Pass option is NOT allowed.
Continuous Enrollment	All students must be enrolled in fall and spring terms. Summer is optional. Must request Leave of Absences for fall or spring (maximum 4)
Time Limit	Graduate students have 5 years to complete their degree program.
Academic Integrity (link)	There are serious consequences to cheating and plagiarism.



03

Registration



Course Load

- **Part-time status:** 1-4 units
- **Full-time status:** 8 units
 - Not required for domestic students
 - International master's students must be in 8 units
- **Maximum number of courses each semester:** Varies by program

Students must register for at least 1 course each fall and spring semester to satisfy continuous enrollment.

Course Load Considerations

Course load may vary based on:

- Work status and duties
- Financial aid/ scholarship requirements
- Personal responsibilities
- Student health insurance

Be aware that the number of units you are enrolled in each semester can affect financial aid, student health insurance, visa status, etc. Speak to the offices you are associated with to discuss your enrollment status plans with ample time.

Fall 2026 Course Recommendations

How many courses do I take per semester?

- Full-time: Two courses (7-10 units)
- Part-time: One course (3-4 units)
- International Students: A minimum of 8 units of degree-applicable coursework is required.
- Check out AME 550 (1 unit) if you need an extra unit.

See First Semester Registration Guide for fall course recommendations and program overview

Applied Mathematics Course

Choose one from any of these 4 unit classes

:

- **AME 525 Linear Algebra in Engineering Science**
 - Fall and Summer
 - Students with a limited background in basic linear algebra are encouraged to choose this option.
- **AME 526 Partial Differential Equations from Engineering Applications**
 - Spring and Summer
 - For students with solid linear algebra who want a deeper differential-equation background.
- **AME 540 Probability and Statistics in Engineering Science**
 - Fall
 - For students who have a strong background in linear algebra and PDEs, or who want more probability/statistics.

Prerequisites and Waivers

▼ ASTE-571: Solid Rocket Propulsion

Fundamental concepts, implementation and applications of solid rocket propulsion. Propellants, performance, ballistics, structures and systems used for space launch vehicles, sounding rockets and rocket motors.

PRE-REQUISITES: ASTE-575



Section	Session	Type	Units	Registered	Time	Days	Instructor	Location	
28490 R	048	Lecture	3.0	6 of 30	07:00pm-09:40pm	T	Reese, David	RTH105	<button>Add to myCourseBin</button>
28491 D	034	Lecture	3.0	1 of 40	07:00pm-09:40pm	T	Reese, David	DEN@Viterbi	<button>Add to myCourseBin</button>

A **prerequisite** is a course that needs to be taken **prior** to the desired class.

- Depending on the class, students can request a waiver.

Process for Prerequisite Waiver:

- AME Classes: Email the instructor explaining your experience and knowledge, and if approved, forward their approval to amegrad@usc.edu.
- Once you pass a higher-level course, you may not enroll in its waived prerequisite.

Each department may have its own unique process. Visit their department website for more information.

D-clearance

- A “D” listed after the section number indicates that D-clearance (permission) is required before you can register for the course.
- A section number without a “D” does not require clearance, so you can register immediately.

AME 502 - Modern Topics in Aerospace Design

3.0 Units | Available Seats: 41

Current topics in Aerospace Engineering are addressed by a number of industry panelists. Students, under panelists' supervision and guidance, complete independent research reports and briefings. Recommended preparation: AME 261, AME 441, AME 481 or equivalents. Genuine interest in design of flight vehicles. Open only to Senior, Master, and Doctoral students.

Restrictions: This course is open to the following class levels: Doctoral Student, Master Student and Senior. This course is open to the following school: Andrew and Erna Viterbi School of Engineering.

SECTION	UNITS	TYPE	SCHEDULE	LOCATION	INSTRUCTORS	SYLLABUS	REGISTERED	DETAILS
28970 D	3.0	Lecture	Fri, 12:00-2:30 pm	Sign In to View	Jayanth Kudva	Not Available	4 / 30	View More
28860	3.0	Lecture	Fri, 12:00-2:30 pm	Sign In to View	Jayanth Kudva	Not Available	5 / 20	View More

Requesting D-clearance

D-clearance for Viterbi courses is done through myViterbi.

- Outside of Viterbi: visit department website for directions

On-Campus Section

For OC and DEN@Viterbi students:

- Request d-clearance through **MyViterbi**>> D-clearance Request Manager >> Select Department
- Processing timeline is 3-4 business days.

DEN@Viterbi Section

DEN students

- Some classes may require d-clearance. More information to come
- Request d-clearance through **MyViterbi**>> D-clearance Request Manager>> **DEN@Viterbi** D-clearance Request
- This is only visible to DEN@Viterbi students
- Processing timeline is 3-4 business days.

Requesting D-clearance

- Advisement Appointment System
- Apply for an hourly position to support a class (eg. Grader, etc..)
- **D-Clearance Request Manager**
- DEN Petition Request Form
- Directed Research
- Graduate Academic Verification Form for Program Extension
- Instructional Software Distribution
- Internship Course Request Form
- Learning Environment Services Manager
- Optional Practical Training Graduation Verification Form
- Out of Sequence
- Placement Exam Registration (EE)
- Pre-Req Waiver Request Manager
- Progressive Degree Program
- Purchase Order Request Tool (PORT)
- Secure Document Uploader
- Temporary Removal of Verification of Degree Holds
- VASE Program Certificates
- Viterbi Service Desk
- Withdrawal Request
- Women in Engineering Mentorship

Requesting D-clearance: On-Campus

To request D-Clearance for an **On-Campus section**, select the department from the links below:

- Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering
- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Computer Science and Data Science
- Daniel J. Epstein Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- The Mork Family Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science

Note: If the department you wish to request D-Clearance from is not listed above that means this system is not active for those classes at this time. Please contact your student advisor to find out when D-Clearances will be available for that department. D-Clearance requests for courses outside of Viterbi are managed by that department. Please contact them directly.

Requesting D-clearance: DEN@Viterbi

D-Clearance Request Manager

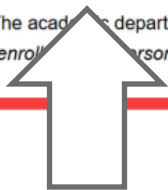
DEN@Viterbi D-Clearance:

To request D-Clearance for a DEN@Viterbi section, click on the **DEN@Viterbi D-Clearance Request** link below.

The link will list all DEN@viterbi course sections for all academic departments.

DEN@Viterbi D-Clearance Request

****Important:** The academic department links below are intended solely to request D-Clearance for on-campus sections. Students who enroll in an in-person section must adhere to the in-person course instructions, policies, and requirements.



Click **highlighted** link

Account Holds

When logging into Web Registration, holds will be listed at the beginning before continuing to class offerings.

Description
Associated Office
Contact Information

Web Registration

Fall 2026 Classes ▾myInfo ▾myCourseBinmyCalendarTuition Refund InsuranceCheckout

Please note you have the following restriction(s) for the selected term and may not be able to register:

You have a RNR41 restriction, Lacking prior degree verification: You must submit official transcripts from your prior learning experience so that your degree can be verified. You will not be permitted to register in any course work at USC until your prior degree has been verified. Please visit ask.usc.edu for more information..

You may go to ask.usc.edu or call (213) 740-7070 or email degreeprogress@usc.edu to resolve this issue.

You have a COLL11 restriction, Full Payment Required in Advance..

You may go to PSB 100 or call (213) 740-9087 or email collect@usc.edu to resolve this issue.

Continue

Account Holds

Holds can also be found on
Experience USC > My
Academics > Restrictions

The screenshot displays the 'My Academics' page. At the top, it says 'My Academics' with the subtitle 'Get informed on your student records and resources'. Below this is a section titled 'My Fall 2024 Registered Courses' with a link to 'View Other Semesters >'. A note states: 'Changes made to your registered courses in other systems may take some time to reflect in Experience USC.' The course schedule is shown in a grid with columns for days of the week (SUN to SAT) and rows for times (10 am to 2 pm). Courses listed include DES 303, BUCO 450, CS 254, CS 235, and CS 236. To the right of the grid, a sidebar shows student information for Kara Santos, including her USC ID, major/program, and expected graduation date. Below the grid, there is a section for the 'My Fall 2024 Registration Appointment Date Begins: August 23, 2022 at 11:00 AM PST', with links to 'Go to Web Registration', 'View Academic Calendar', and 'Read Statements of Responsibility'. At the bottom right, a blue-bordered box contains a warning icon and the text: 'You have 3 activity restrictions for Fall 2024 semester' and a link to 'View Registration Information >'. A large white arrow points from the text 'Description Associated Office Contact Information' to the course grid area.

My Academics
Get informed on your student records and resources

My Fall 2024 Registered Courses [View Other Semesters >](#)

Changes made to your registered courses in other systems may take some time to reflect in Experience USC.

UTC-07	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TBA
10 am		DES 303 1042L, Lecture Online	BUCO 450 1049L, Lecture TBA 202	DES 303 1042L, Lecture Online	BUCO 450 1049L, Lecture TBA 202	DES 303 1042L, Lecture Online		CRT 245 1049L, Lecture ATK 215
11 am						DES 303 1042L, Lecture Online		CS 235 1049L, Lab 1049 121
12 pm								
1 pm		CS 254 1049L, Lecture KAR 111		CS 254 1049L, Lecture KAR 111				
2 pm			CS 2... 1042L... 1047L... ATK 2... ATK 2...		CS 2... 1042L... 1047L... ATK 2... ATK 2...			

Kara Santos
She / Her / Hers
USC ID: 1804-0914-47
Major/Program: Bachelor of Science,
Expected Graduation: May 2026
1 more active major/program
[Edit Profile](#)

Brightspace
USC's Online teaching and learning platform for students and faculty.
[Visit Brightspace](#)

Advise USC
Visit Advise USC to schedule advisor appointments and create course plans.
[Access Advise USC](#)

AUGUST
23
MONDAY

My Fall 2024 Registration Appointment Date Begins:
August 23, 2022 at 11:00 AM PST
[Go to Web Registration](#) [View Academic Calendar](#)
[Read Statements of Responsibility](#)

You have 3 activity restrictions for Fall 2024 semester
[View Registration Information >](#)

Description
Associated Office
Contact Information

Registration Checklist

Be sure to resolve all registration check list items, as each may impact registration. Resolving or submitting a request for one does not mean it solves all.

Prerequisites	A class that must be completed before enrolling in another course.
Department clearance	Classes with a "D" next to the section number placed by department.
Holds	Restrictions that need to get resolved. Some prevent registration.
Registration Permit	The earliest date and time you are assigned to register for the next term.



04

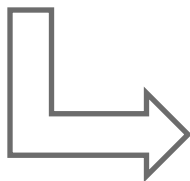
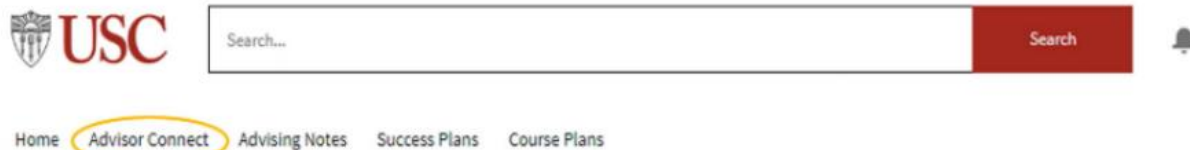
Contacting Your Advisor



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How to Reach Advisors – Create a Case

Experience USC > Advise USC > Create a Case



How to Reach Advisors – Schedule Appointment

Experience USC > Advise USC > Make an Appointment

The screenshot displays the USC Advise USC website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the USC logo, a search bar, and links for Home, Advisor Connect, Advising Notes, Success Plans, and Course Plans. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image of students in graduation gowns with the text "Hello, Alan! Welcome to Advise USC." Below the banner, there are two main sections: "My Tasks" and "My Appointments". The "My Tasks" section shows a folder icon and the message "You're all caught up No Tasks." The "My Appointments" section has a blue button labeled "Schedule an Appointment" and tabs for "Upcoming", "Past", and "Cancelled". Below the tabs, it says "No appointments to show." and "Something on your mind? Schedule an appointment to speak with someone." A red arrow points to the "Schedule an Appointment" button with the text "Click to schedule an appointment".

USC

Search...

Search

Home Advisor Connect Advising Notes Success Plans Course Plans

Hello, Alan!
Welcome to Advise USC.

My Tasks

You're all caught up
No Tasks.

My Appointments

Click to schedule an appointment

Schedule an Appointment

Upcoming Past Cancelled

No appointments to show.
Something on your mind? Schedule an appointment to speak with someone.

Cases vs. Appointment

Case

- D-clearance
- Prerequisite waiver inquiries
- Class conflicts
- Holds (ADM21, ADM41, etc.)
- Request to sign a form
- Waiting for a response on a case

Appointment

- Leave of Absence
- Personal Wellness
- Academic Performance Concern
- Course withdrawal plans
- Moving the conversation from email to appointment

Email communication

When sending an email, please include detailed information about your inquiry to avoid delays.

amegrad@usc.edu

Please include in all communication:

- From USC Email
- Name
- USC ID
- Course section numbers
- Subject line with issue/topic

We encourage respectful and professional communication when interacting with staff and faculty members.

05

Next Steps & Important Dates



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Next Steps

- Review New Student Website
- Activate myViterbi (1-2 days)
- Submit d-clearance requests
- Register for Fall 2026 courses
- Make tuition and fees payment by August 21st to avoid a late fee.

Important Dates

- International Student Session- July 6 (Zoom)
- On-Campus Student Orientation
 - Part 1- August 17 (online)
 - Part 2- August 18 (in-person)
- DEN@Viterbi Orientation
 - Part 1- July 22nd
 - Part 2 - July 27th
- Last day to register and settle without a late fee- August 21
- Fall semester classes begin- August 24th

Click [here](#) for website with this information!!

USC Viterbi School of Engineering NEW STUDENT CHECKLIST(M.S.)

Review the checklists below, as each item may have its own deadline.

BEFORE YOU ARRIVE

- Activate your USC email and NetID.
This is where you'll receive all future emails from USC. [LINK](#)
- Attend Department Academic Webinar.
Get all the info you need to register for courses! [LINK](#)
- Access ExperienceUSC (access available after June 3) [LINK](#)
- Review the [Schedule](#) of Classes and process to register. [LINK](#)
- Review immunizations and screening requirements. [LINK](#)
- Register for the Viterbi Orientation / New Student Welcome [LINK](#)
- Research housing options with USC and non-USC Housing [LINK](#)
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:**
Review USC policies around the International Student Exam (ISE) or Teaching Assistant Exam (ITA). If preferred, you can take the TOEFL or IELTS again to avoid taking the ISE.
Bring all original diplomas and transcripts to prepare for degree verification.
[Attend the International Students Information Session July 6 at 9:00 AM \(PST\)](#) [LINK](#)

AFTER YOU ARRIVE

- Get your USC ID Card [LINK](#)
- Attend Orientation Part I (Online)
August 17, 2026 [LINK](#)
- Attend Orientation Part II (On Campus)
August 18, 2026 [LINK](#)
- Waive USC insurance or add dental coverage (optional) [LINK](#)
- Settle your tuition through USCe.pay [LINK](#)
- Complete Degree Verification (if applicable) [LINK](#)
- Complete Mandatory Training for Graduate Students [LINK](#)
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:**
Complete Immigration Status Verification (ISV)
Review the [schedule](#) of classes and the process to register
Take the ISE or ITA exam (if applicable) [LINK](#)

USC Viterbi School of Engineering NEW STUDENT TIMELINE (M.S.)

To ensure a successful transition to USC Viterbi, we have highlighted these important resources and activities.

ASAP

USC EMAIL

- Make sure to activate your USC email and [NetID](#).
- The Viterbi School and academic department will communicate important information with you via your USC e-mail only.

JUNE 2026

MS ACADEMIC WEBINARS

- The Academic Webinar is an online information session for Master's students where advisors will introduce the department and give you all the information you need to register for courses. Invitation coming soon via your USC email.

JUNE 2026

MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

- The Viterbi Graduate Mentorship Program pairs up new students with a continuing student mentor in the same academic department to help with a smooth transition to USC. Invitation coming soon via your USC email.

JUNE-JULY 2026

NEW STUDENT HOT TOPIC VIDEOS

- A series of videos focusing on various transition topics for incoming students. Topics include: [Academic Advisement](#), [Course Registration](#), [English Proficiency](#), [Career Connections](#), and [Student Engagement](#).

JULY 2026

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SESSION

- This session will provide pre-arrival guidance, an overview of enrollment requirements, and an overview of the different academic verifications Viterbi provides for its international students throughout their program.

AUGUST 2026

ORIENTATION PART I

- A mandatory online immersion experience to introduce key resources and explain immigration policies for international students.
- Opportunities for you to start building your network at Viterbi.

AUGUST 2026

ORIENTATION PART II

- A mandatory in-person experience to get familiar with campus resources and engage with Viterbi faculty, advisors, and students.

06

Resources



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Websites, Portals, and Tools

Experience USC - My Academics

- Holds
- STARS Report
- Grade Report

Experience USC - Advise USC

- Advising Appointments
- Create a case
- Advising Notes

WebReg

- Course Bin
- Register for classes
- Restrictions
- Class availability

myViterbi

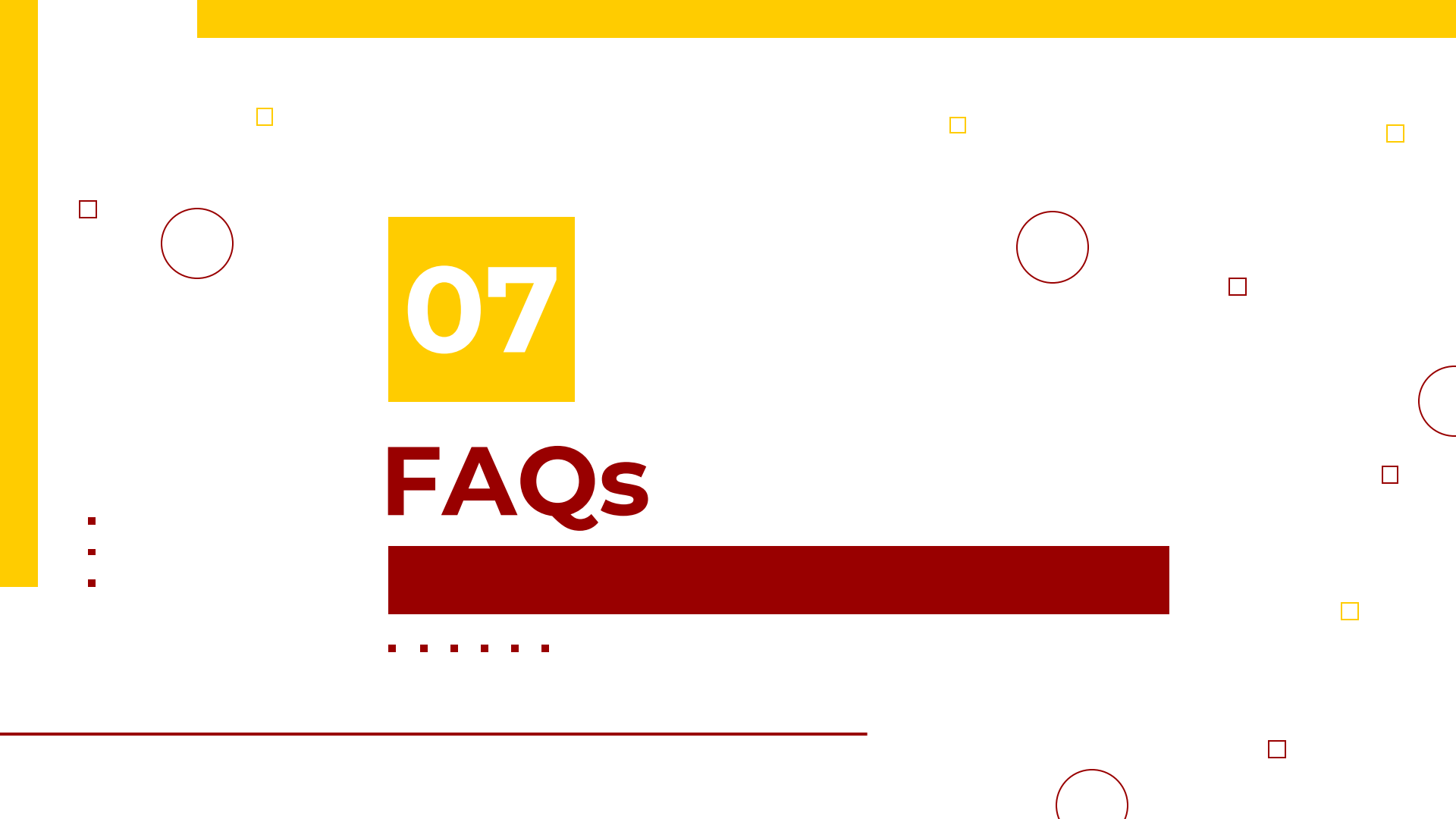
- D-clearance
- Leave of Absence
- Application to Graduate

Schedule of Classes

- Tuition rates
- Semester deadlines
- Syllabi
- Class availability

Department Website

- Requirements
- Information about processes
- Registration resources



07

FAQs



Research

Master's thesis

A Master's thesis is not required. Students interested in pursuing a thesis should speak with their advisor.

590 courses

Students have the option to take Directed Research (590 courses) and work under a faculty member to deliver results for a grade

Other Ways to Get Involved

Volunteering in research labs, projects, or student organizations connected to departments can expand your skills

AME Academic Questions

- Can I transfer graduate units into my program?
 - Yes, up to 6 units with approval.
- • Can I take electives from other departments?
 - Depends on your specific program. See degree requirements for options.
- • Can I change my master's program to another one within the department?
 - Yes, after the first semester with a 3.0 GPA.
- How can I connect with my AME Advising Team.
 - Email amegrad@usc.edu.

Q&A

AME Advising Team

- Email: amegrad@usc.edu
 - Include your USCID
- Website: ame.usc.edu
- Advise USC:
 - Create a case
 - Appointment

VSAS Advising

- Email: vasems@usc.edu
- DEN inquiries: vaseden@usc.edu
- Website: <https://viterbigrad.usc.edu/>
- Viterbi Drop-In Hours:
Mondays June 22 – August 19