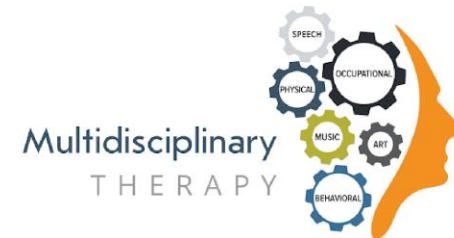


AUTISM CONNECT 2026

April 7th

Thank You!



TO ALL OF OUR PLATINUM SPONSORS!



SCIPSEC

**SOUTH CAROLINA INCLUSIVE POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION CONSORTIUM**

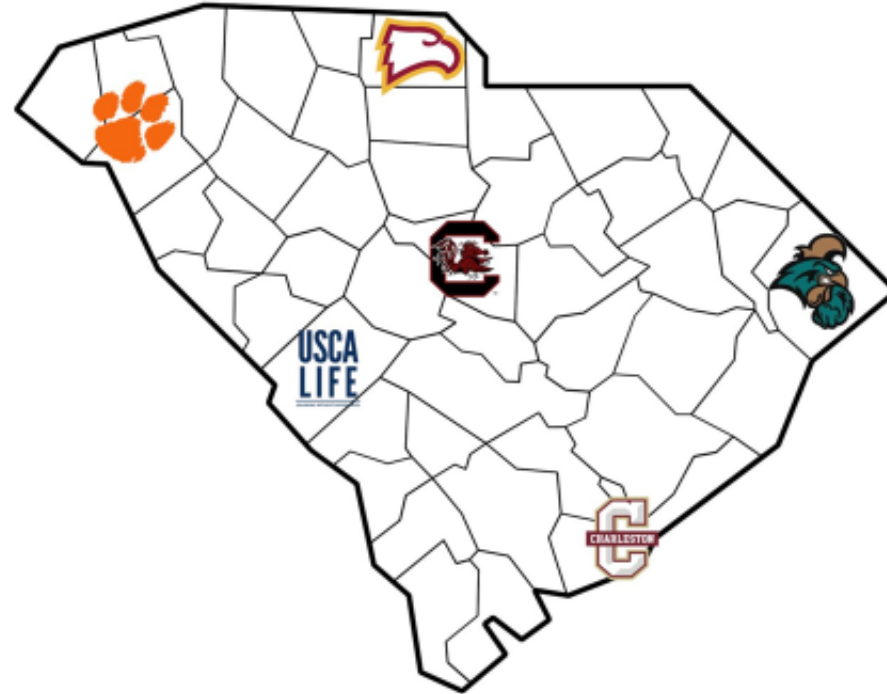
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SCIPSEC

In 2022, the South Carolina Inclusive Post-Secondary Education Consortium (SCIPSEC) was officially formed.

This consortium, housed at the Center for Transition Research and Leadership, within the Department of Educational and Developmental Science at the University of South Carolina, currently represents six current IPSE programs within six different institutes of higher education across the state of South Carolina.

Who We Are

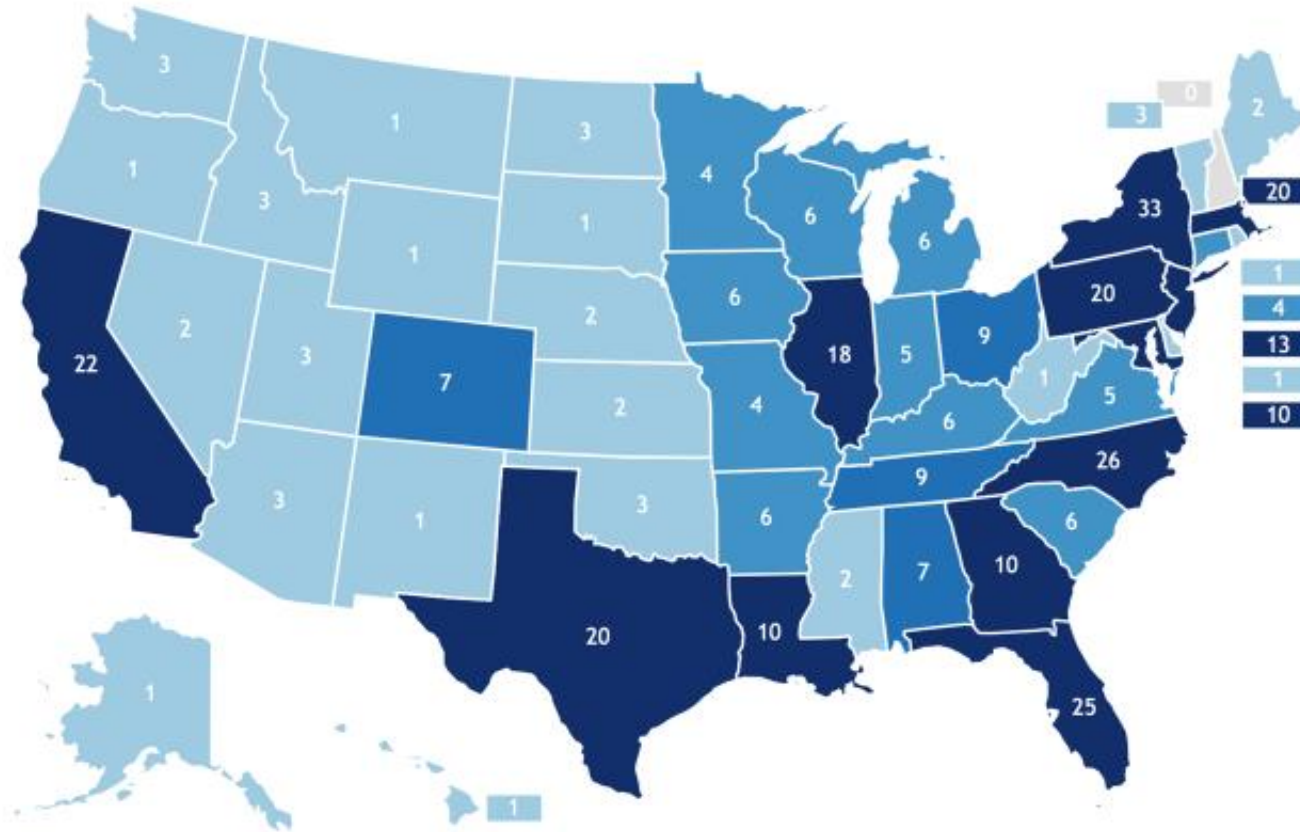



South Carolina has 6 **inclusive postsecondary**

Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE)

- IPSE programs are typically for students without high school diplomas (certificate or SC Employability Credential)
- Most IPSE programs require students to have a diagnosed intellectual disability (ID) for admission (this is tied to CTP funding)

College is an Option





JON WESLEY BARBER

LIFE Student
Clemson University

basketball games,

SCIPSEC

Why IPSEC?

National Data Supporting IPSEs

According to Think College, the national coordinating center for IPSE, these programs have been shown to **significantly improve outcomes for adults with IDD, as on average, they earn higher wages, report higher levels of satisfaction with their social lives, and are employed almost three times** more than the national average of adults with intellectual disability.

Between 2021–2025:

77%

of graduates of SC inclusive
postsecondary education programs
were employed at graduation.

Applying to IPSE Programs in SC



Admission Considerations

Intellectual Disability as Diagnosed by the DSM-V

✓ CarolinaLIFE

✓ CharlestonLIFE

Can be either Intellectual Disability or Developmental Disability

✓ ClemsonLIFE

✓ CoastalLIFE

✓ USCA LIFE

✓ WinthropLIFE

Cross Streets Independently

✓ CarolinaLIFE

✓ CharlestonLIFE

✓ ClemsonLIFE

✓ CoastalLIFE

✓ USCA LIFE

✗ WinthropLIFE

Admission Considerations

Administer Medication Independently

✓ CarolinaLIFE

✓ CharlestonLIFE

✓ ClemsonLIFE

✓ CoastalLIFE

✓ USCA LIFE

✓ WinthropLIFE

Age of 18-26 upon Admission

✓ CarolinaLIFE

✗ CharlestonLIFE

N/A

✓ ClemsonLIFE

✓ CoastalLIFE

✓ USCA LIFE

Maximum age for admission is 30 at time of acceptance

✓ WinthropLIFE

Admission Considerations

Functional Mode of Communication (could include modes other than verbal)

✓ CarolinaLIFE

✓ CharlestonLIFE

✓ ClemsonLIFE

✓ CoastalLIFE

✓ USCA LIFE

✓ WinthropLIFE

Require Student to Be Own Guardian

✗ CarolinaLIFE

✓ CharlestonLIFE

✗ ClemsonLIFE

✓ CoastalLIFE

✗ USCA LIFE

✗ WinthropLIFE

CarolinaLIFE

- Located at The University of South Carolina, in Columbia, SC
- Support provided in 5 domains:
 - Academic Instruction
 - Social Engagement
 - Independent Living
 - Career & Employment
 - Personal Development
- Big campus experience!
- Partnership with The Lantern hotel



CAROLINALIFE

ClemsonLIFE

- Located at Clemson University, near Greenville, SC
- 2-year basic program or 4-year advanced program
- Biggest Program in SC & most well-known program nationally
- Big campus experience!
- Partnership with The Shepherd Hotel



CharlestonLIFE

- Located at College of Charleston in Charleston, SC
- 4-year program
- Only program in SC that can accept students without a formal ID diagnosis
- 4 domains of support:
 - Academics
 - Social development
 - Independent living
 - Career development



COLLEGE OF
CHARLESTON
CHARLESTON LIFE™

CoastalLIFE

- Located at Coastal Carolina University near Myrtle Beach
- 4 year program
- 4 domains of support:
 - Academics
 - Career Education and Training
 - Independent Living
 - Social and Community Engagement
- Busy street on campus, so safety skills are important!



● WinthropLIFE

- Located at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, SC
- Smaller program on a smaller campus
- 5 domains of support:
 - Employment
 - Self-determination
 - Health and nutrition
 - Social networking
 - Independent living



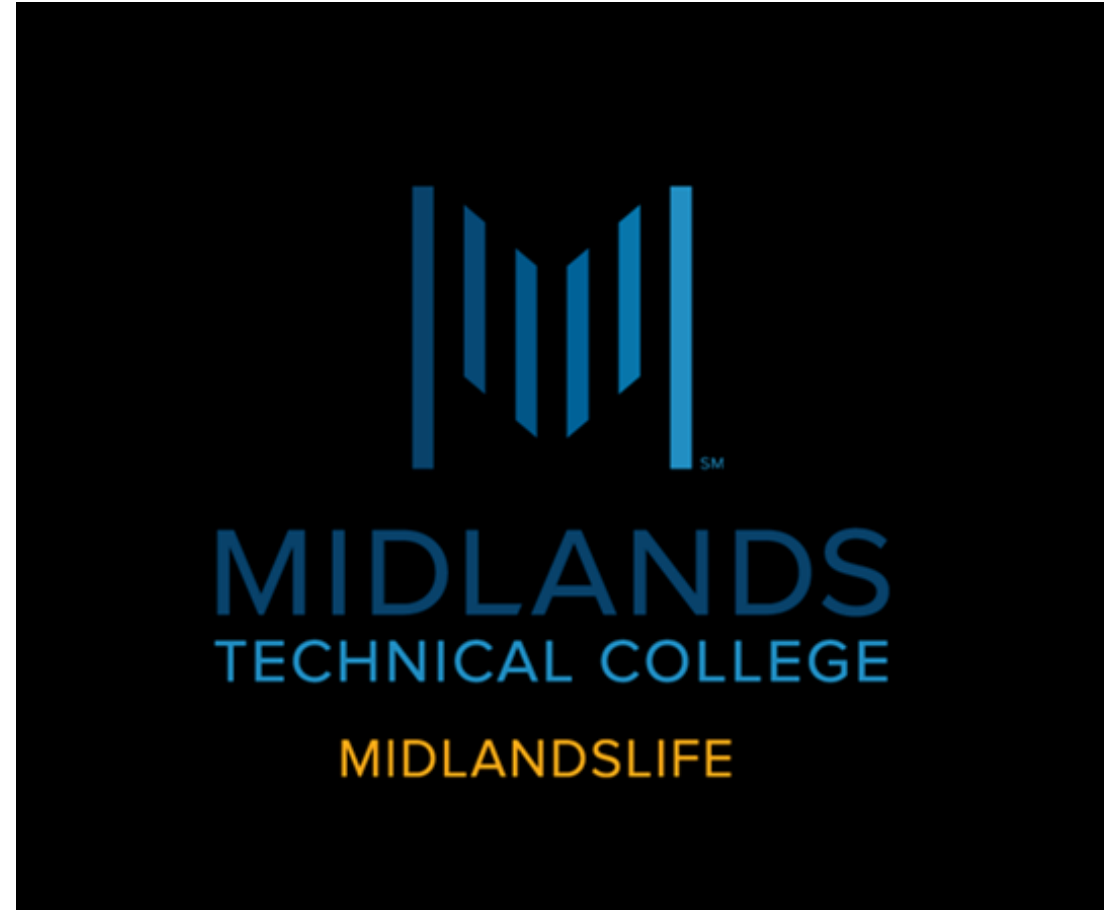
USCA LIFE

- Located at USC Aiken, in Aiken, SC
- 2 or 4 year options
- Smaller campus



MidlandsLIFE

- 8 students will begin in the pilot cohort fall 2026!
- Virtual Information Session to be held September 15th
- Application for the 2027-28 academic year opens October 1st
- 2-year program
- non-residential



Do all IPSE
programs focus on
the same areas?

- It depends – It is important to do a search for yourself and ask questions to find the programs that meet your needs.

Do all IPSE

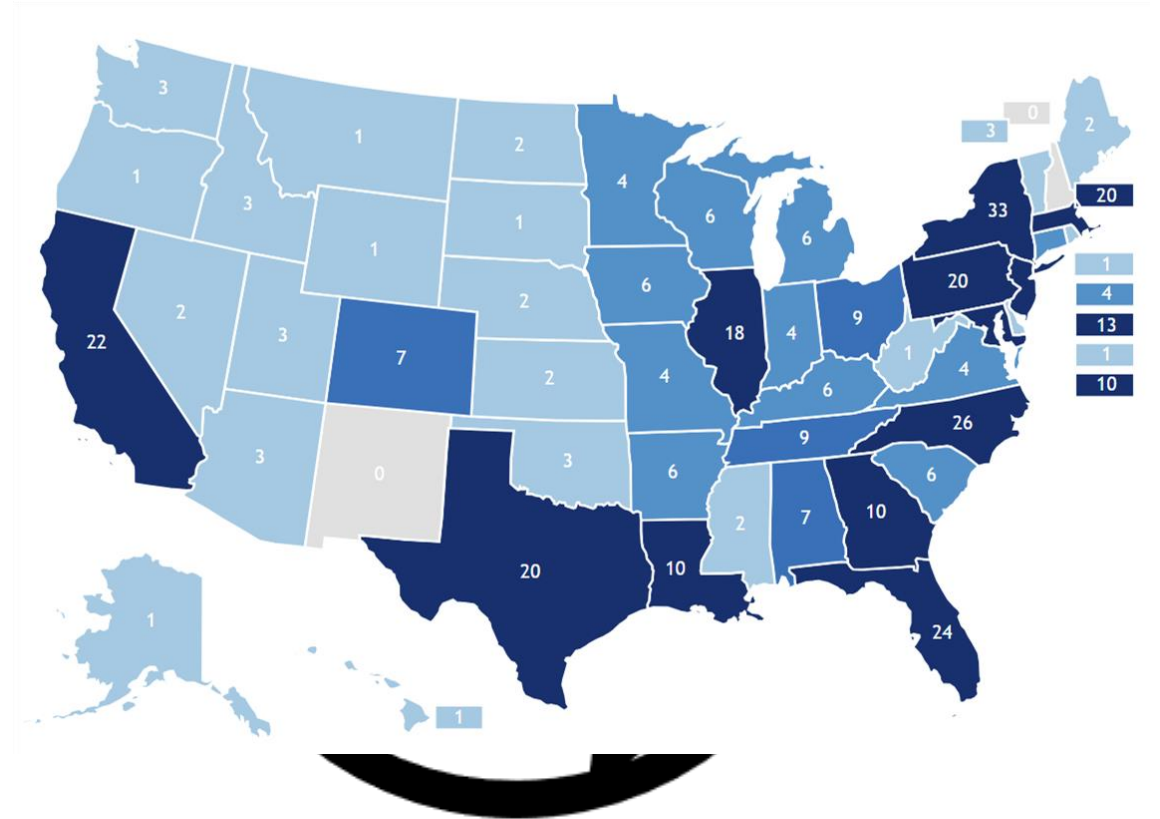
programs support
students in the

same way/at the
same level of
intensity?

- No! Each IPSE program has a unique mode of support. Some have paid staff living in dorms/apartments with IPSE students. Others have no paid staff in a residence hall with IPSE students. Others have variations of this. Ask questions & go visit!

There are SO many programs out there!

- There are 353 IPSE programs in the United States!
- You can use www.thinkcollege.net to search through all the IPSE programs in the United States.



Want more information about IPSE programs in South Carolina?



**Side-by-side Program
Guide Resource**

Questions?



Session Survey



Carolina B 1:30-2:30