

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION	HR Division of Human Resources
POLICY NUMBER	HR 1.24
POLICY TITLE	Recruitment and Appointment of Classified, Unclassified, Research Grant, and Time Limited Employees
SCOPE OF POLICY	USC System
DATE OF REVISION	September 30, 2026
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Vice President for Human Resources and Organizational Excellence
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE	Division of Human Resources

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PURPOSE

This policy communicates the uniform system for filling vacant classified and unclassified full-time equivalent (FTE), research grant, and time-limited positions within the University of South Carolina.

DEFINITIONS

Class: A group of positions sufficiently similar in the duties performed; degree of supervision exercised or received; minimum requirements of education or experience; and the knowledge, skills, and abilities required that the Division of State Human Resources applies the same State class title and the same State salary range to each position in the group.

Classified Position: A position that has been assigned to a classified State title and a State class.

Demotion: The assignment of an employee by the appointing authority from one established position to a different established position having a lower State salary range or, for employees in positions without a state salary range, assignment of a lower rate of pay to the employee except when the employee's job duties also are decreased for non-punitive reasons.

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): A position authorized by the General Assembly

which is expressed as a numerical value as a percentage of time in hours and of funds.

Internal Job Posting: A job posting for which only current employees of the University of South Carolina in FTE, Time-Limited and Research Grant positions are eligible to apply.

Position: Those duties and responsibilities constituting a single job.

Promotion: The assignment of an employee by the appointing authority from one established position to a different established position having a higher State salary range or, for positions without a State salary range, having a higher rate of pay.

Reassignment: Movement within an agency of an employee from one position to another position having the same State salary range, or the movement of a position within an agency which does not require reclassification.

Reduction in Force (RIF): The procedure used by the university to eliminate or reduce a portion of one or more filled FTE positions in one or more organizational units within the University due to budgetary limitations, shortage of work, organizational changes, outsourcing or privatization.

Research Grant Position (RGP): A type of non-FTE position, which is funded by federal grants, private foundation grants, research grants, medical school practice plans, individual private gifts, externally generated revenue for service testing agreements and grant generated revenue or a combination of these funding sources. RGP employees are not covered employees.

Time-Limited (TL): A full or part-time non-FTE position hired to fill a position with time-limited project funding approved or authorized by the appropriate State authority, and who is not a covered employee.

Unclassified Position: A position that has been assigned to an unclassified State title.

POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the University of South Carolina to ensure qualified individuals, both internal and external applicants, receive full and fair consideration for classified and unclassified FTE, research grant, and time-limited positions. Vacancies will be filled by those applicants who are best suited to perform the duties and responsibilities of the positions. Current employees are provided with an equal opportunity to explore and seek other positions for career advancement. The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, disability, ethnicity, familial status, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other protected category under applicable law

as outlined in policy. [CR 2.00 Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination](#).

A. Responsibility

The Division of Human Resources is responsible for administering the policy on appointment, reassignment, and promotion of classified and unclassified FTE research grant, and time-limited employees.

1. On the Columbia campus, the Office of Talent Acquisition is responsible for recruitment, advertising, and testing as applicable.
2. At the Comprehensive Universities and Regional Palmetto Colleges the campus Human Resources Officer is responsible for recruitment, advertising, testing as applicable, and screening applications.

B. Vacant Positions

All vacant positions for principal officials, to include the University President, the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, and university officers having the rank of Vice President or Chancellor or equivalent rank, will be filled through open recruitment.

All other vacant positions will be filled through open recruitment except as follows:

1. When a position can be filled from existing employees within the organizational unit in which the vacant position resides. In these cases, an employee may be promoted not more than one organizational level above the employee's former level. The division, school, college, or campus may require internal approvals for these exceptions and the employee must be qualified for the position.
2. When the division, school, college or campus determines the job can be filled internally, the position can be posted through the internal posting mechanism. See Section C.: Staff Internal Postings.
3. When an employee is reassigned from one position to another position in the same market range within a division, school, or college on the Columbia campus or within a comprehensive institution or Palmetto College campus.
4. When an employee is reassigned for reasons related to the ADA, or other extenuating circumstances.
5. When an employee, in lieu of a Reduction in Force, is moved to a vacant position.
6. When an employee is demoted to another position.
7. When the position is an athletic coach or an unclassified employee in the athletic department.

8. When the position is a research grant position for a post-doctoral fellow.

9. When a search firm is utilized to facilitate the search.

Note: When a search firm is utilized to facilitate a search, the advertisement is typically not advertised using the University applicant tracking system, but through the search firm's applicant portal. However, the recruitment plans are consistent with best practices. Contact the Office of Talent Acquisition for details on acquiring a search firm.

10. When an emergency situation exists requiring the vacancy to be filled immediately, certification of the emergency must be made to the Division of Human Resources and approved by the President or designee waiving the posting requirement at the institution and State level.

C. Staff Internal Postings

The Division of Human Resources recognizes the importance of career growth for its employees and is committed to providing equal opportunities for advancement. In providing these opportunities, limiting recruitment to internal applicants through the internal posting process is acceptable to encourage career development and upward mobility. In aligning with the University's non-discrimination goals, the internal posting process will ensure all eligible employees are made aware of and have the opportunity to apply for open positions before considering external applicants.

Internal postings may be ideal when USC process or procedural knowledge is essential, or when a promotional opportunity exists and there is a sufficient pool of qualified applicants available within our internal workforce.

1. Only current USC employees in FTE, Time-Limited and Research Grant positions will be considered as internal candidates. The employee must be employed by the university at the time of the offer.
2. Internal postings must be approved by the Division of Human Resources. The request to post internally should be indicated on the posting when submitted to HR Recruitment. If approved, the posting must be advertised internally for a minimum of five working days. Internal postings will be posted at the University level to ensure all eligible employees are aware of internal job opportunities and have the opportunity to apply.
3. An equitable and fair interview and selection process must be conducted as outlined in this policy. References must be conducted on the finalist to check work performance unless the current supervisor is the hiring manager. Once an employee is selected for a position, the hiring manager, employee and current supervisor should work together to determine an appropriate time frame in which the employee should transition to their new position. At a minimum, a two-week transition period should be provided.

D. Anti-Discrimination

No one will be appointed to a position on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, disability, ethnicity, familial status, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other protected category under applicable law as outlined in policy [CR 2.00 Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination](#).

The university hires only U.S. citizens or individuals who are legally authorized to work in the United States. Appropriate verification of eligibility is required; for non-U.S. Citizens, the hiring unit must consult with the Office of International Student and Scholar Support. USC participates in the federal E-verify program.

E. Qualifications and Compensation

1. An applicant appointed to a classified or unclassified position must meet minimum requirements.
2. New appointments will be made at the minimum salary for the advertised rate unless the applicant's qualifications for the position exceed the minimum requirements of the position. All starting salaries must be approved by the Division of Human Resources prior to extending an offer of employment.

F. Interviewing for Reassignment or Promotion

Current university employees may be given reasonable time away from the job to interview for another university position if arrangements are made in advance with the supervisor. If such arrangements are not made, the employee must use appropriate leave.

G. Minimum Age Requirements

The University of South Carolina abides by all State and Federal laws governing the minimum age of workers.

H. Recruitment

1. Recruitment for and appointment to positions will be undertaken only for positions which have been approved, budgeted and classified. Administrative approval to establish or fill positions is subject to change depending upon budgetary or other considerations.
2. Recruitment Sources

The University of South Carolina uses a variety of recruitment sources to attract a broad range of qualified applicants. These sources include, but are not limited to:

- a. Vacancies from all USC campuses are advertised on USC Jobs at <http://uscjobs.sc.edu>. Job openings and closings are updated daily. Applicants can check the status of their applications online.
- b. The Division of State Human Resources advertises vacancies from all state agencies at <http://www.jobs.sc.gov>.
- c. All staff positions are listed by the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce at <http://jobs.scworks.org>.
- d. The Office of Talent Acquisition normally engages and retains the services of online publications that advertise USC Columbia Campus positions once they are posted on USCJobs. Departments may advertise in additional journals, newspapers, online, and specialty publications. The department must notify the Office of Talent Acquisition or campus Human Resources Officer of advertisements placed outside of USC Jobs to review for approval.
- e. Information about vacancies may be shared with colleges, universities, professional schools, placement agencies and community organizations.

I. Advertising Positions

1. All vacant positions covered by this policy must be advertised on USC Jobs, the university's online application system except where noted in Section B.
2. Due consideration must be given to all qualified applicants who apply through USC Jobs.
3. Positions must be advertised initially for at least five working days.

All advertisements must carry a non-discrimination/equal opportunity statement. Whenever possible the advertisement should contain the statement,

“The University of South Carolina does not discriminate in employment opportunities or decisions for qualified persons on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, disability, ethnicity, familial status, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other protected category under applicable law as outlined in policy [CR 2.00 Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination](#).” In instances where words are limited or costs are prohibitive, the advertisement must at minimum state that the “The University of South Carolina is an Equal Opportunity Institution.”

J. Receipt of Applications

1. Applicants must complete an online application to be considered for a position. Applications must be received by the posted closing date.
2. Applications for employment, letters of application, resumes, oral or written inquiries, e-mails, or placement credentials received directly by departments are not valid applications for employment and will not be retained or considered for future vacancies.

K. Screening of Applications

1. Applications must be screened against the advertised minimum qualification requirements. Applicants who do not meet the advertised requirements should not be considered for interview and cannot be hired.
2. In addition to the minimum requirements, preferred qualifications may be used as an additional screening tool to assist in selecting the best candidate for the position.

L. Interviews

1. Interviews provide information about the specific duties and responsibilities of the position and provide applicants the opportunity to describe their qualifications.
2. Information solicited from an applicant during the interview or through a reference check must be relevant to the duties and responsibilities of the position without reference to age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, disability, ethnicity, familial status, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other protected category under applicable law as outlined in policy [CR 2.00 Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination](#).
3. Interviews must be conducted in a professional manner and must not include unlawful or inappropriate questions.
4. A reasonable number of applicants provided through USC Jobs must be interviewed.
5. Those interviewed must be the most qualified of the applicants.
6. Job reference checks and background checks must be conducted in accordance with university policy [HR 1.90 Job Reference and Background Checks](#).

M. Selection

1. The administrative head of each department has the authority, responsibility and accountability for the selection of employees.
2. The hiring unit has the responsibility to document the search and maintain the official search file for the position.
3. The person to whom the position is offered must be selected only from those applicants who meet the minimum qualifications and are provided through USC Jobs or the search firm.
4. A hiring proposal, including any salary above the minimum advertised rate, must be submitted to and approved by the Division of Human Resources prior to extending an offer.
5. The offer must be made on the basis of the person's qualifications to perform the duties of the position.
6. No applicant will be selected solely on the basis of age, ancestry, citizenship status, color, disability, ethnicity, familial status, gender, gender identity or expression, genetic information, military status, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or any other protected category under applicable law as outlined in policy [CR 2.00 Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination](#).
7. Selection decisions are subject to review by university, state or federal agencies including, the Associate Vice President for Civil Rights and Title IX or campus designee, the South Carolina Human Affairs Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Department of Labor, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, and the Office for Civil Rights.

PROCEDURES

Procedures and general guidance related to this policy can be found on the Division of Human Resources website at <http://hr.sc.edu/>.

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

[ACAF 1.00 Recruitment and Appointment of Tenured, Tenure-Track and Non-Tenure-Track Faculty](#)

[ACAF 1.01 Recruitment and Appointment of Academic Administrators](#)

[CR 1.00 Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment & Sexual Misconduct](#)

[CR 2.00 Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination](#)

[HR 1.39 Disciplinary Action and Termination for Cause](#)

[HR 1.45 Reduction in Force](#)

[HR 1.90 Job Reference and Background Checks](#)

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
January 31, 2019	Updated to new format Renamed to better describe content and to provide parallel structure to other policies Allow internal postings for current employees Change name of organizational units Update statement of non-discrimination Clarify Information Removal of Procedures
August 13, 2020	Updated EEO statements.
June 15, 2021	Codified standard practice of requiring open recruitment of positions at VP level or higher to include all principal officials as designated in university bylaws.
January 11, 2022	Added an exception to the posting requirement for post-doctoral fellows in research grant positions
May 23, 2023	Updated to include expanded requirements for internal postings; updated the EEO statement
September 18, 2024	Updated to comply with the new State Human Resources Regulations.
March 5, 2025	Updated for compliance.
September 30, 2026	Updated EEO statements. Updated Office of International Services with the Office of International Student and Scholar Support