

Education

Located in Hartsville, SC, Coker College offers a tranquil and beautiful campus.

Education is the key to the future. From elementary to secondary education and beyond, Florence County prides itself in this philosophy, boasting two major colleges and an educational system catering to the idea that learning is paramount to development. Francis Marion University and Florence-Darlington Technical College, and several other edifying institutions in the area, provide technological as well as intellectual instruction leading students to productive and prosperous pathways.



Florence County operates 21 elementary schools serving grades K-6. Pre-school children are served by the four-year old program in seven of the schools, and kindergarten classes are available in four schools. Florence County has seven high schools and one career center to serve grades 9-12. These schools range in size from 1,200 to 1,500 students, while the career center serves over 1,400 students. These schools are fully accredited by the South Carolina State Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The Byrnes Schools offers their students an engaging program where the children are immersed in learning experiences. Their philosophy challenges students in developmentally appropriate learning experiences throughout the day. The goal is to reach children in all areas of development. It is important to nurture students' social, emotional, intellectual, and physical development every day. The program emphasizes literature, language, music, art, science, and nature. Spanish is offered for all K-12th grade students. Younger children have music, physical education, library, and computer classes each week. The student-teacher ratio is small enough to allow staff the privilege of getting to know the children, their families,



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U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks Coker one of America's Best Colleges.

The Princeton Review rates Coker a Best Southeastern College based on academic excellence and student satisfaction.



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and their individual, ever-changing needs.

Founded in 1908, **Coker is an independent liberal arts college** with over 1100 full- and part-time students. Unique to Coker is the round table teaching style, which facilitates the discussion of ideas and the building of leadership and communication skills. In the National Survey for Student Engagement, Coker College scores higher than the national benchmark for enriching educational experience, active and collaborative learning, and student-faculty interaction.

U.S. News & World Report consistently ranks Coker one of “America’s Best Colleges” and The Princeton Review names Coker a “Best Southeastern College.” The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools gives Coker special commendations for the quality of interaction between faculty, students and staff and the attractiveness of the campus and facilities.

Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) has provided affordable, quality technical education to thousands of Pee Dee area students since 1963. FDTC currently enrolls more than 4,500 curriculum students and registers nearly 20,000 continuing education students.

The main campus consists of eight major buildings on 246 acres. FDTC operates satellite sites in Hartsville, Lake City, Mullins, Darlington County (Cosmetology Center), and in downtown Florence (the Health Sciences Campus). The College’s commitment to the advancement of economic development is reflected in its motto: “Growing the economy . . . one graduate at a time.”

FDTC’s Continuing Education Division has experienced phenomenal growth in recent years and has as its mission to assist businesses and industries in training their workforces for tomorrow’s jobs. The FDTC Online College was the first in South Carolina to offer complete programs via the Internet and has grown to offer more than 110 courses and several associate degree programs.

Francis Marion University is one of South Carolina’s 14 state-supported universities, providing a strong liberal arts based undergraduate education with degrees in the arts, laboratory sciences, business, education and the social and behavioral sciences. They also provide graduate programs in education, business and psychology. FMU is fully accredited and enrolls nearly 4,000 students in an intimate campus environment near Florence, S.C. FMU has the look and feel of a small, liberal arts college

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with all the benefits of a state-supported comprehensive university. They are small enough to afford students personalized attention from faculty and staff, and large enough to let you expand your horizons. For more information, go to www.fmarion.edu.

Limestone College is a regionally accredited, liberal arts, four-year institution established in 1845 as the first woman's college in South Carolina and one of the first in the United States. Although the main campus is located in Gaffney, Limestone offers a block program in Florence, along with 10 other locations in the state, giving adults the opportunity to go back to school and receive an associate's or bachelor's degree.

The Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT) is located on the back of the FDTC campus and provides customers with strategic training and manufacturing technology solutions that maximize workforce productivity in advanced manufacturing environments. The SiMT offers a manufacturing arena (complete with sophisticated CNC technology), a rapid prototyping center, a 3D/virtual reality center, the National Robotics Training Center, an 800-seat auditorium, a conference center, and more. The SiMT serves customers with open enrollment training, on-site training, customized training, manufacturing technology services, manufacturing startup assistance, and consulting services.

Sylvan Learning is the leading provider of tutoring and supplemental education services to students of all ages and skill levels. At Sylvan, their warm and caring tutors tailor individualized learning plans that build the skills, habits and attitudes students need to succeed in school and in life. Affordable tutoring instruction is available in math, reading, writing, study skills, homework help and test prep, including SAT/ACT prep courses and all college prep courses.

The Sylvan Advantage: A tutoring experience that will exceed your expectations.

Beginning with challenging primary educational programs all the way to secondary and post secondary instruction, it is important to meet the demands of a culture whose growth depends upon educational development. Florence County and its students proudly play an important role in this progress.

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