

New student housing development helps address housing shortage

By Katie Cannon

Amidst housing crisis, apartment complex Gateway 737 is expected to be ready for occupancy in August 2025, opening housing to nearly 1000 students.



USC housing crisis

The University of South Carolina offers student housing options for new first year students, as well as continuing sophomores, juniors and seniors. There are 21 different residence halls that are able to house 8,501 freshman, and 7 options for 1,561 continuing students.

As of October 1, 2024, there is a total of 38,516 students currently enrolled here at USC, with approximately 9,200 of those students being new undergraduates.

University housing has been a growing issue in recent years, says senior Lauren Schauer.

“My freshman year I lived in the honors residence hall and moved into 650 Lincoln my sophomore year, then stayed there my junior year as well.” said Schauer

“This past year, unfortunately, Honors was no longer guaranteeing housing for continuing students due to the shortage of housing available and increase in freshmen, so I was pretty much forced to look off campus for options, which was not an easy process.”

Though the Columbia area boasts alternate options for off campus housing, accessibility is still limited.

Additional housing

It's no secret that there is a need for additional housing for university students, says Abby Hawkins, VP of Marketing and Public Relations for Gateway 737.

“Obviously we know that there's a pretty intense lack of student housing here in Columbia and that, you know, the class sizes are getting bigger every year, and housing needs to keep up with that.” Hawkins said.

“We really did a lot of research on ‘what does the university need?’ and ‘what does the university like?’, and it was housing.”

Standing 11 stories tall and holding up to 940 students, Gateway 737 anticipates wrapping up construction in time for the fall semester of 2025, helping meet the demand for student housing in the area.

According to Celeste Holloway, project manager for Holder Properties, the location was an important aspect in the development of Gateway 737.

“We wanted it to be a space where it was walkable to darlin, to the class, but still have a sense of community, of being close to campus. We wanted to be, you know, kind of in the middle of, you know, the other buildings that are kind of surrounded by us. So, we're close to colonial but close to Greek village, within walking distance to Darla- less than a half a mile. So that was very important to the developers.”

Sitting on the corner of Greene and Garden Street, Gateway 737 is about a nine-minute walk to the Darla Moore School of Business, and an 18-minute walk to Russell house.

The development is generating significant student interest, as they are “releasing fast” and nearly 20% of the units are already filled for the 2025 school year.

