

Patton Byars serves as Student Body President for the University of South Carolina. He is a Junior from Lexington, South Carolina and is majoring in Political Science and has been on the University of South Carolina Dean's List since arriving on campus. Patton plans to work in public policy and government relations upon graduating.

Patton is proud that he grew up in a family full of Gamecock Alums. As a third generation Gamecock, Patton attended numerous Carolina football, basketball, and baseball games. Patton always knew he wanted to be a student at the University of South Carolina. His lifetime admiration for the University helped inspire him to give back to the school once he became a student. In fact, he got involved in Student Government his very first week on campus as a freshman.

As a freshman Patton served as a member of the Legislative Action Network team (LAN), which is a part of Student Government's greater Government Relations Team. In this role Patton first met then Secretary of Government Relations, Reedy Newton. When Reedy decided to run for Student Body President, Patton joined her campaign's executive team. After Reedy was elected Student Body President, Patton was asked to serve as her Chief of Staff. As the Chief of Staff, he was responsible for overseeing the day-to-day activities for the executive branch of student government. One year later Patton was asked to continue in this executive role as Chief of Staff for the incoming Student Body President, Emmie Thompson. Patton is also a member of the Phi Delta Phi prelaw fraternity on campus.

Patton worked off campus as a page for South Carolina Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey for over two years. Patton now works part time for a Columbia based consulting firm where he helps coordinate public affairs projects and assists with political campaigns. Patton has been actively involved in the Saint Thomas More campus ministry where he regularly attends Catholic bible study.

Patton is passionate about enhancing the 4-year student experience for every Gamecock. He will advocate for public and private investments leading to more development of key infrastructure projects like a new student union, more modern housing for freshmen and upperclassmen, as well as providing more consistent and reliable Wi-Fi. Patton will push for free water bottles in the student section at Williams Brice Stadium, efforts to improve campus safety advancing more pedestrian walking protocols, and more accessible game day shuttles. Patton will provide quarterly office hours (with free pizza) open for students to air their concerns about life as a student. Patton encourages students to get more involved in all aspects of their university because he believes in our motto "Forever to Thee."