

Proposed Guidelines for the use of Access and Equity Funds

Era of Commitment: In February 1988, the Commission approved guidelines for the Access and Equity Program. Implementation of the Program began on July 1, 1989 allowing funds to be awarded to institutions with well-planned activities that (1) flow from the institution's mission and address the recruitment and retention of minority students and employees, (2) meet specific institutional requirements related to the characteristics of students and faculty, (3) are carefully conceptualized, and (4) are linked to guidelines to emphasize the need to achieve campus climates and academic settings that encourage participation and achievement by African American students.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) has over-sight responsibility and serves as the administrative entity for the Access and Equity program for the State of South Carolina. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) has the responsibility of ensuring that all funds awarded to the institutions are in concert with the mission and goals of the State Access and Equity Program.

Considering the current economic situation of the State and considering many programs are experiencing budget cuts, funding expenditures should be for programs that will have a direct influence on a student having access to and obtaining a higher education and programs that foster equity and equal opportunity on the institution's campus.

Committee's Recommendation:

Below for Commission's approval is Student Services and Access & Equity Committee's recommendation for the Guidelines/Criteria for the Use of Access and Equity Funds.

The criteria that will be used in viewing program expenditures for Access and Equity beginning fiscal year 2004-05 are:

- Student and Faculty Recruitment and Retention
- Scholarships
- Unique Programmatic Efforts: programs that help increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in college (Examples would be SAT preparation courses, summer camps, high school to college programs, and institutional and program enhancements).

Funding/Expenditure Guidelines

1. Budgets/Expenditures should include only direct activity costs.
2. All personnel costs should be justified in a budget narrative as essential to the successful implementation of the activity. Do not include fringe benefits for consultants or fringe benefits for student employees.
3. Do not include equipment costs unless they are essential to the implementation of the program/activity.
4. Do not include travel unless it is essential to the implementation of the activity or for activities that will directly benefit the student (i.e. student recruitment).
5. Include Budgets/Expenditures that relate to faculty recruitment and faculty/staff development.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) will audit via campus visit once a year. CHE reserves the right to conduct a non-scheduled audit (with sufficient notification) if evidence is provided to the CHE which substantiates that the institution has not complied with program rules, regulations, or guidelines above.