



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Scholarships and Grants
Workshop 2012

10:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Agenda

- Legislative Updates
- LIFE/SC HOPE Scholarship
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- SC Need-based Grant/LTAP
- Transcript Issues reminder

Budget Updates

- Scholarships and Grants: The General Assembly continues to fully fund the state's undergraduate merit-based scholarship programs. A net increase of \$756,382 will fully fund anticipated needs for Palmetto Fellows, LIFE and HOPE. SC's continued participation in the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and SREB programs including student contract programs for Veterinary Medicine and Optometry is fully funded with an increase of \$551,309 in General Funds which were provided to replace a portion of program funds that had been provided in non-recurring funds in FY 2011-12. For the first time in several years, need-based grant programs are increased: a \$4 million increase for CHE Need-based Grant program and a \$1.5 million for S.C. Tuition Grants. Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA) for two-year institutions was increased by \$2.1 million.
- In total, approximately \$344 million is provided in the FY 2012-13 budget for the undergraduate scholarship and grant programs including: \$49.9 million for Palmetto Fellows, \$172.4 million for LIFE, \$8 million for HOPE, \$27.6 million for Need-based, \$49.1 million LTA, and \$31.3 million for Tuition Grants.

Legislative Updates

- **S 1193**, By Rose, **Summary: College and University tuition.** A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 112, TITLE 59 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO TUITION OF POST SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, BY ADDING SECTION 59-112-117 TO LIMIT THE AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF AN INSTITUTION TO INCREASE TUITION AND FEES ABOVE A RATE CALCULATED BY THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX AND THE STATE POPULATION GROWTH, AND TO REQUIRE A REDUCTION IN STATE FUNDS FOR THE INSTITUTION FOR ANY AMOUNT ABOVE THIS RATE UNLESS APPROVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Status: Introduced in Senate and referred to Senate Education

- **S 0833**, By Jackson, Courson, et al. **Summary: Tuition rates for military personnel and dependents**

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59-112-50, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO TUITION RATES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL MAY BE CHARGED LESS THAN THE UNDERGRADUATE TUITION RATE FOR SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENTS FOR CERTAIN COURSES.

Status: Signed into Law on 4/2/2012 - Act 133

Legislative Updates

- **H 4641**, By Daning, Knight, Crosby, Ott, et al **Summary: In-state tuition for military and dependents**

A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59-112-50, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, SO AS TO REVISE THE CRITERIA UNDER WHICH VETERANS WHO ARE HONORABLY DISCHARGED AND THEIR DEPENDENTS MAY RECEIVE IN-STATE TUITION RATES.

Status: DID NOT PASS

- **H 3558**, By J.E. Smith, Govan and Harrell, **Summary: Military service, duty, training or disaster relief.** A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 25-1-2270 SO AS TO REQUIRE ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS OR TAKE MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WHEN AN ABSENCE IS CAUSED BY ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN MILITARY SERVICE, DUTY, TRAINING, OR DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS.

Status: Signed into Law on 5/14/2012 – Act 165

Legislative Updates

H 3558, By J.E. Smith,

"Section [25-1-2270](#). Upon notice from a student required to attend or participate in military service, duty, training, or disaster relief efforts, an institution of higher education which receives state funding, either directly or indirectly, including but not limited to state scholarships or grants, shall excuse the student from attending classes or engaging in other mandatory activities, including tests or examinations, in order for the student to fulfill his military obligations and associated military travel requirements. A student whose absence is excused pursuant to this section may not be penalized for his absence and must be allowed to complete all missed assignments or take missed tests or examinations within a reasonable time of his return from the military service, duty, training, or disaster relief efforts. Each of these institutions of higher education shall determine what constitutes a reasonable time to make up the assignments, tests, or examinations missed by reason of military service on a case by case basis, taking into account the individual student's schedule and academic responsibilities. The provisions of this section must be liberally construed and shall apply in the same manner and without distinction to a student's status as a member of the active component, reserve component, or National Guard."

Promotional Branding Language

Independent and public institutions of higher learning in this or any other state in the U.S., outside the U.S. or abroad are prohibited from using state scholarships and grants in programs that promote financial aid incentives or packages. **Any mention of state scholarships and grants in these financial aid packages must indicate the scholarship/grant to be separate from the promotional financial aid package,** and reference the state scholarship or grant as a separate financial aid award, provided to the student by the State of South Carolina.

* please be advised that this pertains to billboards and promotional materials as well

Immigration, Residency and LIFE

62-1200.10. Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

A. To be eligible for a LIFE Scholarship, students must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident that meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes whose lawful presence has been verified at the time of enrollment at the institution; and
2. Be a South Carolina resident for in-state purposes at the time of high school graduation and at the time of enrollment at the institution, as set forth by Section 59-112-10,

What does this mean?

Students must have their immigration status verified as either a US Citizen or legal permanent resident before they can be awarded a LIFE Scholarship.

Students must be verified as a SC resident before they can be awarded a LIFE Scholarship.

A student who is not verified as a US Citizen or legal permanent resident, and as a SC resident, prior to their high school graduation and college enrollment can never receive the LIFE Scholarship.

Immigration, Residency and LIFE

“Can you please tell me if this student, is eligible for the LIFE Scholarship based on her H-1 Visa status? She is leaving soon to go back to Nicaragua in June and would like to know if she qualifies for aid before she leaves for the Summer.”

Act 280 SC Illegal Immigration Reform Act

SECTION 17. Chapter 101, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

- "Section 59-101-430. (A) An alien unlawfully present in the United States is not eligible to attend a public institution of higher learning in this State, as defined in Section 59-103-5. The trustees of a public institution of higher learning in this State shall develop and institute a process by which lawful presence in the United States is verified. In doing so, institution personnel shall not attempt to independently verify the immigration status of any alien, but shall verify any alien's immigration status with the federal government pursuant to 8 USC Section 1373(c).
- (B) An alien unlawfully present in the United States is not eligible on the basis of residence for a public higher education benefit including, but not limited to, scholarships, financial aid, grants, or resident tuition."

LIFE Scholarship (Accelerated Programs)

CHE has been contacted by some institutions seeking to develop accelerated bachelor's degree programs. The programs typically have students transferring to four-year institutions after two years, with the intent of finishing their degree within the next year and a half. The typical sequences for the final two years of funding vary, but all seem to have a summer term where the student is attending as a full-time student:

Fall, Spring, Summer, Fall; or
Spring, Summer, Fall, Spring.

Each of these sequences allow the student to receive 3 traditional terms of funding, and one Summer term. Some students are entering the programs under the impression that the LIFE Scholarship can be used towards the Summer term, since it is full-time and deemed mandatory by the institution.

LIFE Scholarship (Accelerated Programs)

When new programs are created on your campus, institutions should:

- 1) Encourage communications among the Academic Affairs and Financial Aid Departments to determine how State funds work within the framework of the program timeline.
- 2) Add language to Financial Aid certification forms to clarify that Summer terms are not covered by LIFE Funds. Have student certify understanding of the funding sequence, and have advisors/recruiters trained regarding the funding sequence.

LIFE Scholarship Mid-Year Start - Eligible

C. Students who are LIFE eligible upon high school graduation and initially enroll in college mid-year (spring term) may be eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship the next academic year, if the student earns a minimum of fifteen (15) credit hours and a 3.0 “LIFE GPA” at the end of the academic year. For subsequent years, the student must meet the annual credit hour requirement and 3.0 LIFE GPA for renewal:

(a) earn a minimum of 45 (or the equivalent) credit hours if entering the fourth semester based on initial college enrollment; or

(b) earn a minimum of 75 (or the equivalent) credit hours if entering the sixth semester based on initial college enrollment; or

(c) earn a minimum of 105 (or the equivalent) credit hours if entering the eighth semester based on initial college enrollment; or

(d) earn a minimum of 135 (or its equivalent) credit hours if entering the tenth semester of an approved five-year bachelor’s degree program based on initial college enrollment.

LIFE Scholarship Mid-Year Start - Ineligible

Students who fail to meet the initial academic eligibility criteria to receive the LIFE Scholarship upon high school graduation, and who initially enroll in college mid-year (spring term) may be eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship beginning in their second Fall term of college attendance at an eligible institution, if the student earns a minimum of forty-five (45) credit hours and a 3.0 “LIFE GPA” by the end of the prior academic year. The student may be eligible to receive the maximum number of terms of eligibility based on initial college enrollment.

LIFE Scholarship Mid-Year Start - Ineligible

Please be advised that ineligible for the LIFE Scholarship upon high school graduation does include students who complete GED programs.

Students who are mid-year SC HOPE recipients will be treated the same as LIFE eligible students (15 credits, 3.0 LIFE GPA).

LIFE Scholarship Terms of Eligibility

62-1200.5 (Definitions)

AA. “Initial college enrollment” shall mean the first time the student enrolls into a postsecondary degree-granting institution after high school graduation, completion of a GED/Adult Education Program or completion of an approved home school program. The terms of eligibility and the annual credit hour requirement are based upon initial college enrollment and continuous enrollment. This means that students must adhere to the 30 credit hour requirement even if they have a break in enrollment. Any break in enrollment (excluding summer) will also count against the terms of eligibility.

LIFE Scholarship Terms of Eligibility (remediation)

- I. Credit hours earned during the student's first two term(s) of remedial/developmental enrollment will not be used to determine remaining Scholarship eligibility at the completion of remediation unless the student has completed at least twelve credit hours of non-remedial/developmental coursework each term of enrollment. **First-time entering freshmen attending an eligible two-year institution or technical college who enroll in fewer than twelve credit hours of non-remedial/developmental, including at least three hours of remedial/developmental courses during the first term(s) will not be eligible for Scholarship funds during this period.** The student's initial college enrollment will begin after a maximum of two terms of remediation at an eligible two-year or technical college only. The student will be eligible for the Scholarship for the term following completion of remediation if the student was eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship upon high school graduation. If the student requires more than one academic year of remedial/developmental coursework, then he/she will not be eligible for the LIFE Scholarship the term after completion of remediation. If the student was not eligible for the Scholarship upon high school graduation, the student must meet the conditions set forth in Section J below in order to gain the LIFE Scholarship.

LIFE Scholarship Terms of Eligibility

- Gap year - Students may take as much time off between high school graduation and initial college enrollment as they wish. The student can earn college credit through the Summer term immediately after high school graduation. However, their clock begins to tick afterwards if they earn credit.
- Students placed on waiting lists and taking coursework, or students who take additional terms at a two-year institution to finish coursework will not have their terms of eligibility adjusted. They are held to the same standard of 4 consecutive terms at a two-year institution, and 8 consecutive terms at a four-year institution.

LIFE Scholarship - Disabilities

62-1200.35. Students with Disabilities: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

B. The institutional Disability Services Provider must provide written documentation to the Office of Financial Aid prior to each academic year verifying that the student is approved to be enrolled in less than full-time status or earn less than the required annual credit hours. The institution is responsible for retaining appropriate documentation according to the “Program Administration and Audits” Section.

LIFE Scholarship - Disabilities

The documentation for a reduced course load must be on file in the Financial Aid Office in order for the student to be held to fewer than an average of 30 credit hours each year.

CHE staff would not recognize a course load that is applied retroactively to a prior term or academic year.

Please be advised that must meet the 14 credit hour requirement for the LIFE/PF Enhancement criteria (14 credit hours).

Appeals

- The 2012 Appeals Cycle began on May 4, 2012. All appeals materials must be in the office at CHE by no later than 5:00pm on September 28, 2012.
- Students are encouraged to review the Guidelines for Appeal on the CHE website to determine if their circumstance truly meets the definition of an extraordinary circumstance or a traumatic event.
- Students should be advised that their appeal is not guaranteed to be granted, nor is it a guarantee that a decision will be rendered prior to the due date of their institutional bill. Students should make arrangement with the institution for payment.
- The link to the appeals information and application is:

<http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/Appeals/AppealGuidelines.pdf>

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Updates

- PFS 2012-13 Award periods
- Transfers
- Renewal Reports
- SC Need Based Grants/Foster Care Youth

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

PFS

- Late Award process closed June 15th
 - Processing 500+ applications
 - **Notifications will begin in August 2012**
- Early Award:: Designation Forms!
 - Please encourage students to check their email if they are still missing their Designation Form
 - The Commission cannot update their status until we are in receipt of the Designation Form
- Letter to the Presidents
- Transfers
- Potential eligibility for out of state high school students

Renewal Reports

- Requests will begin in ****AUGUST****
- Please use the standard format that is provided- do not deviate or create new forms
- Moving toward a secure site similar to the enrollment data reports
- Email will go out with the instructions

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program LTAP

- Increase for the 12/13 Academic Year
 - The General Assembly provided final approval for a funding increase of \$204
 - Full Time \$1140
 - Part Time \$570
 - \$95/credit hour
- Due to Federal Aid changes, please review to ensure those eligible to receive LTAP are packaged accordingly

South Carolina Need Based Grant

SC NBG/Foster Care Youth-Independent Living

- Self Identifying process
- Complete Foster Care youth Waiver located on our website:
 - http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/NeedBased/files/Foster_Care_Youth_Waiver_Form.pdf
- Once this process is completed it does not need to be renewed annually unless the student transfers to another institution

SC Need Based Grant/Foster Care Youth Reminders

- Please clearly indicate on the invoices those individuals who are Foster Care Youth/Independent Living
- Please make sure to include any funds for Foster Care Youth *in addition* to the base allocation
 - As a reminder, when reporting additional funds it will be coded as “F” for Foster Care Funding/Independent Living
- Once funds are distributed and reconciliations have been made, please submit invoices
 - Preferred invoice submission: A PDF to Gary Glenn at gglenn@che.sc.gov
 - Please do not send multiple copies/versions

SC Public High School Transcripts

ALL transcripts must identify SC UGP GPA

Since all state scholarships and grants are based on the SC UGP, **all transcripts must specifically state “SC UGP.”** Any transcript that states, “Weighted and Unweighted GPA” OR “Total GPA” will not be accepted for the purposes of awarding state scholarships as it must comply with the SC UGP.

SC Public High School Transcripts

SC Public High Schools - PowerSchool

- All final transcripts must be dated/calculated between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and no later than **June 15th**.
- The final grades/ranking cannot include grades earned after the official graduation date of the school year. Summer school grades earned after high school graduation cannot be used in the calculation. The final, official transcript must be in compliance with the policies set forth by the SC Department of Education. According to the SCDE, final transcripts must not state “Work In Progress.” In addition, the heading of the final transcript must state:

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT**

SC Public High School Transcripts

SC Public High Schools - PowerSchool

- All issues regarding the ability to print transcripts should first be referred back to the high school or School District IT Department. If the issue cannot be resolved at that level, the school can then contact Ms. Louise Amos at the SC Department of Education, at (803) 734-8929 or lamos@ed.sc.gov

SC Public High School Transcripts

- Applicable to the public/private schools and Home School Associations that have a ranking policy
 - Ranks all academic classes (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th)
 - Rank includes entire class. If the entire class is not included when calculating class rank, then rank CANNOT be considered.
 - Published Rank
- Out-of-state schools must comply with SCUGP GPA reporting and ranking.
 - GPA Conversion to SCUGP must be attached to transcript
 - If using rank, the entire class must be converted to the SCUGP and a ranking report must be included for the academic year being used to qualify.
- Home School Associations (HSA) - Ranking:
 - Must be a HSA that is on the SC Department of Education's approved list of Option Two or Option Three HSA
 - Must use the entire class for ranking purposes
 - Must provide a ranking report.

SC High School Information

- SC Department of Education link to identifying Home School Association's (HSA)
 - <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/programs-services/125/>
 - Identifies Option One, Two, and Three HSA's
- In compliance with section 59-149-50A (3-C):
 - Institutions shall use the final ranking as reported by the high school on the official transcript. **If a student is a member of an approved home school association that ranks, a ranking report must be attached to the official transcript.** High schools or home school associations that do not rank as a policy; or high schools whose grading policy deviates from the current SC Uniform Grading Policy and that do not convert the graduating class to the current SC UGP to determine class rank, must use the GPA and SAT or ACT criteria when attempting to meet the academic requirements for the LIFE Scholarship. High schools or home school associations shall not use ranking for the sole purpose of obtaining eligibility for the state scholarships.

Questions

Commission on Higher Education Contact Information

- **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Services**
Office 803-737-2244, Email kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov
- **Elizabeth Caulder, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, SC Need-based Grant & Lottery Tuition Assistance Program Manager**
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