



Conrad Festa
Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: Registrars
Eligible LIFE Scholarship Institutions

From: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Director of Student Services

Re: LIFE Scholarship GPA Update

Date: September 15, 2005

During the 2005 Legislative Session the General Assembly approved Act 162. According to Act 162, students must earn a minimum cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA) based on grades earned at all eligible public or independent institutions attended for the purposes of determining LIFE Scholarship eligibility.

Calculating LIFE GPA

For students who would like to have their GPA calculated according to Act 162 for the 2005-06 academic year, the student must contact the financial aid office and make an official written request for this year only. The student will have the responsibility of submitting his or her transcripts from all institutions to determine eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship. LIFE Scholarship eligibility for 2006-07 will be automatically calculated according to Act 162 for all students. Students will not be required to self-identify or submit a request. All institutions must establish a system for calculating and reporting the LIFE GPA that will be in operation by this time. The LIFE GPA must be reported on the student's transcript each semester.

Definition of Eligible Institution:

An "Eligible institution" shall be defined, solely for the purposes of the annual credit hour requirement and the LIFE GPA calculation, as an accredited public or independent postsecondary, degree-granting institution located in-state or out-of-state. The institution must be accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education for participation in federally funded financial aid programs. This list may be found on the US Department of Education's website.

Steps for calculating a LIFE GPA:

- 1) Convert all grades earned at an eligible institution to a 4.0 scale based on each institution's grading policy where the grades were earned = grade points
- 2) Multiply the Grade Points by Attempted Credit Hours = Quality Points (QP)
- 3) Divide the total quality points by the total number of attempted credit hours = LIFE GPA
- 4) LIFE GPA Formula:
$$\frac{(\text{Grade Points} \times \text{Attempted Credited Hours} = \text{QP})}{\text{Total Attempted Credit Hours}} = \text{LIFE GPA}$$

(over)

Again, the LIFE GPA must include all grades earned at any eligible institution, including courses that do not transfer based on the institution's policy and college courses taken while in high school. The "LIFE GPA" must not include continuing education courses, non-degree credit courses for an associate degree or higher and remedial/developmental courses.

Calculating Credit Hours

Students must earn an average of thirty credit hours by the end of each academic year based on initial college enrollment:

- (a) earn a minimum of 30 (or the equivalent) credit hours if entering the second year; or
- (b) earn a minimum of 60 (or the equivalent) credit hours if entering the third year; or
- (c) earn a minimum of 90 (or the equivalent) credit hours if entering the fourth year; or
- (d) earn a minimum of 120 (or its equivalent) credit hours if entering the fifth year of an approved five-year baccalaureate degree program.

Students may use credit hours earned when they were dually-enrolled in high school and college, AP courses, and exempted courses towards the LIFE Scholarship.

LIFE credit hours must be reported on the student's transcript each semester.

Transfer Students

For determining initial eligibility of a transfer student at the new institution, a student must have a minimum cumulative 3.0 LIFE GPA all prior institutions and an average of 30 credit hours per academic year. For continued eligibility at the new institution, transfer students must have a 3.0 LIFE GPA and an average of 30 credit hours per academic year based on initial college enrollment. Students may use credit hours that do not transfer to the new institution towards LIFE Scholarship eligibility. LIFE GPA and credit hours must be report on the students' transcript each semester.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and patience. If you have any questions, please contact me at 803-737-2244 or Sandra Rhyne, LIFE Scholarship Coordinator, at (803) 737-2280.

Enclosure

cc: Directors of Admissions
Directors of Financial Aid
Directors of Enrollment Management
LIFE Scholarship Coordinators