

SCASFAA CONFERENCE SPRING 2015



SC Commission on Higher Education

Student Financial Support

Agenda

- Legislative Updates
- Student Financial Support Information
- Transcript Information
- Year-Round Scholarships

Legislative Updates

H. 3701 (Budget Bill- Part 1B) as passed by the SC House

Proviso **11.32.** *(CHE: Uniform Acceptance Letter Deadline) The Commission on Higher Education shall work with all institutions of higher learning to establish a uniform deadline for acceptance letters for the fall semester for incoming freshmen.*

Status: *Current as of 3/27/15*

Legislative Updates

- **S. 528**, TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING ARTICLE 7 TO CHAPTER 31, TITLE 59 SO AS TO PROVIDE A TEXTBOOK POLICY FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT IS INTENDED TO HELP MINIMIZE COLLEGE TEXTBOOK COSTS, TO DEFINE NECESSARY TERMINOLOGY, AND TO PROVIDE RELATED OBLIGATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTBOOK POLICIES.

Status: *Was heard by the Committee on Education 3/26/15 and was passed as favorable. Amended on 3/27/15 for corrected language.*

Legislative Updates

- **S.261**, TO AMEND SECTION 59-111-320 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO PERSONS AGE SIXTY AND OVER ATTENDING CLASSES AT STATE-SUPPORTED COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS WITHOUT PAYMENT OF TUITION, TO DELETE THE PROVISION THAT THESE PERSONS RECEIVING COMPENSATION AS FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES MUST PAY TUITION

Status: *Received a second reading by the Committee on Education 4/1/15 and was passed as favorable*

Legislative Updates

- Still included in **H. 3701** (Budget Bill-Part 1B) as passed by the SC House:
 - **11.9– Foster Care Youth**
 - **11.15– College Transition Programs**
 - **11.19– Year-Round Scholarship Disbursements**
 - **Section 702 (Choice Act- Morning Session on Residency, In-State Tuition for Veterans)**

Current as of 3/27/15

Foster Care Youth (FCY)

- Updated FCY waiver available here:

http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/student services/needbased/files/FCY-Waiver-Form-2014.pdf

- Acceptable verification shall include a letter or other verifiable documentation from DSS. Students only need to provide documentation once per institution.

- **All invoices for FCY are to be sent to:**
SC Commission on Higher Education
Attn: Student Financial Support
1122 Lady Street, Suite 300
Columbia, SC 29201

**please include student ID# listed on the FCY waiver on the invoice as well as indicate FCY on the invoice*

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship 2015 Early Award

- 2,202 Palmetto Fellows Scholarships were awarded for the Early Award period
 - An increase of 181 recipients from the 2014 Early Award
- Notifications were sent via email to recipients **February 25th-February 27th**
 - Late Award period opened April 13th and will close June 15th
 - Notifications for Late Awards will begin in August
- Designation Form
 - CHE must have the required form on file in order to provide scholarship funds to an institution
 - Still need ****1,676 **** Designation Forms
 - Deadline is: **AUGUST 31, 2015**

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS) Process

- Students **must** be a part of either the Early or Late Award application period
 - This is the sole responsibility of the high school/home school association/out-of-state high school
- **MUST** be an “F” in the NG system in order to award any PFS funds
 - Prior to CHE providing the Early/Late Award recipient list to institutions, a PFS award/conditional award cannot be offered to a student
 - Early/Late Award recipients with a status of “E” are **NOT** eligible for a PFS Award
 - Students with an “E” have not satisfied all of the requirements to be considered a “Fellow” and therefore are still not eligible to receive any PFS funds
 - If they are **NOT** on the NG website and/or **NOT** an “F” a PFS award **cannot** be provided
- Only CHE can determine someone to be a PFS recipient
 - Notification of a student’s PFS status is provided by CHE only, and is made directly to the student

Transcripts

- If the official high school transcripts are not in compliance with the established SC DE and CHE requirements, CHE and SC colleges and universities **cannot award** State scholarships.
- In order to determine eligibility for the State scholarship programs, the financial aid office/institution and/or CHE must have an official transcript on file (electronic or otherwise) that demonstrates the following items*:
 - **A valid signature**** (electronic or otherwise) from a high school representative i.e.: principal, guidance counselor, district representative (**not** a vendor signature).
 - **SC UGP GPA** must be demonstrated and rank (if applicable)
 - The **date calculated date** to be date calculated no later than June 15th (regardless of academic year)
 - For the LIFE Scholarship and the PFS Late Award the transcript **MUST** demonstrate that it is the **final** official transcript, as well as reflect a **graduation date**

**For SC Public high schools: Any questions regarding the setting up of transcripts fields, they need to contact their high school Powerschool coordinator and/or district Powerschool coordinator.*

***For Independent/Private and home school students: The administrator, registrar, or an official from the home school/accountability group*

Student Financial Support: Appeal Information

- The 2015 Appeals Cycle will begin on May 1, 2015, and new applications will be accepted through 5:00 pm on September 25, 2015
- Students are encouraged to review the Guidelines for Appeal on the CHE website after May 1st to determine if their circumstance truly meets the definition of an extraordinary circumstance or a traumatic event
 - Institutional Policy Issues will be referred back to the home institution as these are not appealable circumstances with CHE
- It is strongly encouraged that institutions notify students of their eligibility status and their ability to attend summer school
 - Regulatory required to notify PFS recipients of loss of scholarship: 62-335 (E)
- Appeals Application/Information link:
 - <http://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/Appeals.aspx>

Year-Round Scholarships

FY 2014-15 Appropriations Act, Part 1B 3.5.

(LEA: FY 2014-15 Lottery Funding):

“ . . . A student may receive a Palmetto Fellows or LIFE scholarship award during the summer, in addition to fall and spring semesters of an academic year, provided continued eligibility requirements are met as of the end of the spring semester. Students must enroll full-time, which for purposes of the summer award will require enrollment in at least twelve hours over the course of the summer. The summer is defined as the period between the end of the spring term and prior to the opening of the fall term. The total summer award per student may not exceed half of the allowable academic year award up to the cost of attendance and must be reimbursed if less than twelve hours for academic credit are not completed by the student during summer sessions. If awarded in the summer, a student’s total award during his or her enrollment may not exceed the amount that would otherwise be provided under current semester limits applied for the scholarship awards. The Commission on Higher Education may provide additional guidelines necessary to ensure uniform implementation. . . . ”

**Effective July 1, 2014*

Year-Round Scholarships: Timeline

- **February 2013 through October 2015:** A Taskforce was convened and subsequently met 5 times
 - During the October meeting the Taskforce reviewed the first draft version of the policy guidelines for any edits prior to disseminating to all institutions for review
- **December 5, 2014:** Year-Round policy guidelines sent to Vice Presidents and FA Directors at all Public & Independent Colleges and Universities
 - Memo requested that guidelines be shared with essential institutional personnel
 - Any questions/concerns/edits were to be returned to CHE by 1/31/15
- **February 5, 2015:** 2nd and Final Draft of Year-Round policy guidelines sent to Vice Presidents and FA Directors at all Public & Independent Colleges and Universities
 - Based on institutional responses and CHE regulatory review the final draft version was shared with institutions prior to submitting the guidelines to the Committee on Access and Equity and Student Services and the full Commission for approval for implementation

Year-Round Scholarships

- The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services met 3/11/15 and approved the Year-Round Guidelines
 - Approval allowed for the guidelines to be presented to the full Commission
- The full Commission met 4/2/15 and approved the Year-Round Guidelines
- The guidelines are now ready for full dissemination and use for summer 2015. Should any changes occur during this legislative session CHE will update/edit accordingly.
- Certification language has been drafted for institutions to use or incorporate into their own documentation

Year-Round Scholarships

The total summer award per student may not exceed half of the allowable academic year award up to the cost of attendance and must be reimbursed if less than twelve hours for academic credit are not **completed** by the student during summer sessions.

- For the purposes of a summer disbursement, “Completed” is to be regarded as “attempted/enrolled”
- This is addressed in the Year-Round guidelines under Section III B (2)

Key Points: Year-Round Scholarship

- As long as a student is eligible at the end of the spring term, they are eligible for the fall regardless of their summer grades/credit hours
- A student must be verified for full-time status before they can be awarded and funds requested on their behalf
- Summer term disbursement information will be made available by accessing CHEMIS at the close of the subsequent fall semester.
 - This is addressed Year-Round guidelines in Section III C (1-3).
- For participating students enrolled in a two-year institution who have been awarded LIFE in the summer and who have exhausted the maximum allowable terms for LIFE are not eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship in their fifth term of enrollment at an eligible two-year institution

Year-Round Scholarships

- Institutions have requested suggested language for use in reference to policy requirements for certification of student awareness for summer awards

In an effort to accelerate a student's degree progression to graduation, LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipients may use their scholarship for a summer term. A scholarship recipient must demonstrate meeting continued and summer eligibility in order to receive any State scholarship funds. By participating in a summer term award disbursement the student is made aware that participation does not guarantee early graduation. The student also acknowledges that he/she understands and are made aware that he/she will be using 1 of their 4 terms of potential eligibility at an eligible 2-year institution and/or 1 of their 8 terms of potential eligibility at an eligible 4-year institution. The student is made aware that summer State scholarship eligibility may not be determined in time to meet any institutionally imposed fee payment deadline and that the student is responsible for covering tuition and fees. Should the student be confirmed as meeting summer eligibility, the tuition and fee expenses will be reimbursed based upon the institution's policies and procedures.

Questions

Student Financial Support Contact Information

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director, Student Affairs

Office 803-737-2244, Email kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov

Elizabeth Caulder, Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and SC HOPE Scholarships, SC Need-based Grant, & LTAP

Office 803-737-2262, Email ecaulder@che.sc.gov

Leslie Williams, Program Assistant, Student Financial Support

Office 803-737-2290, Email lwilliams@che.sc.gov

Gerrick Hampton, SC Residency

Office 803-734-4397, Email ghampton@che.sc.gov