

# **SC Commission on Higher Education**

**Palmetto Association of Independent Schools  
Tuesday, April 30, 2013**

# SC State Scholarship Programs

- Three Merit Based Scholarships
  - SC HOPE Scholarship
  - LIFE Scholarship
  - Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

# Initial Eligibility Requirements

- ALL students must meet the following initial eligibility requirements *by high school graduation* in order to receive scholarship funds
  - A student must be a U.S. Citizen/legal permanent resident
  - A student must be a South Carolina Resident
- Additionally, students must demonstrate:
  - No felony convictions
  - No second or subsequent alcohol/drug misdemeanors
  - Not in default of any state/federal loans
  - Enroll in a degree seeking program at an eligible SC institution

# SC HOPE Scholarship

## Eligibility

- Earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA (Based on the SC UGP)

No application process, based on final official transcript upon high school graduation

Must attend an eligible SC 4-Year institution

Up to \$2,800 for the first academic year

# LIFE Scholarship: 2-Year Institution

## Eligibility

- Earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA (Based on the SC UGP)
- No application process

## Award

- Up to 4 consecutive terms of eligibility
- Up to the cost of tuition
- Cannot exceed maximum amount of \$5,000/academic year

# LIFE Scholarship: 4-Year Institution

## Eligibility

- Earn 2 of the following 3 requirements:
  - Earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA (based on the SC UGP)
  - Earn a 1100/SAT or 24/ACT
  - Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class

## Award

- Up to 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility
- Up to \$5,000 not to exceed the cost of attendance

## Process

- No application process, based on final official transcript upon high school graduation

# The “Facts of LIFE” Scholarship

Not required to start college immediately following high school graduation

Can earn the scholarship after the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> academic year

Can start at a 2-Year institution and transfer to a 4-Year institution

Dual Enrollment Courses *do not* start a student's terms of eligibility

# The “LIFE GPA”

Includes Dual Enrollment Courses

Grades earned at any institution (in-state, out-of-state, and abroad)

**LIFE GPA**

Grades earned during the fall, spring, maymester and summer semesters of an academic year

Includes “D” and “F” grades

# A “Walk Through LIFE” Scholarship

**End Of The  
1<sup>st</sup> Year**

30 credit  
hours

3.0  
Cumulative  
LIFE GPA

**End Of The  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year**

60 credit  
hours

3.0  
Cumulative  
LIFE GPA

**End Of The  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year**

90 credit  
hours

3.0  
Cumulative  
LIFE GPA

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

## Early Award

- 1200 SAT (math & critical reading only) or 27 ACT
- Cumulative 3.5 GPA at the end of the junior year (based on SC UGP)
- Rank in top 6% of sophomore or junior class

## Late Award

- 1200 SAT (math & reading only) or 27 ACT
- Cumulative 3.5 GPA at the end of the senior year (based on the SC UGP)
- Rank in top 6% of sophomore, junior, or senior class

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

- Alternate Criteria
  - Without Regard to Class Rank

Early or Late  
Award

4.0  
cumulative  
GPA  
(based on the  
SC UGP)

1400 SAT or  
32 ACT

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

- **MUST** attend an eligible 4-year institution the fall semester *immediately following* high school graduation
  - Up to 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility
- CHE determines Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipients
- Notifications are made via email
  - Early Award = March
  - Late Award = August

1<sup>st</sup> Year

Up to  
\$6,700

2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
& 4<sup>th</sup>  
Years

Up to  
\$7,500

# How do I Keep My Palmetto Fellows Scholarship?

3.0 Cumulative  
Institutional\*  
GPA At the end  
of an academic  
year

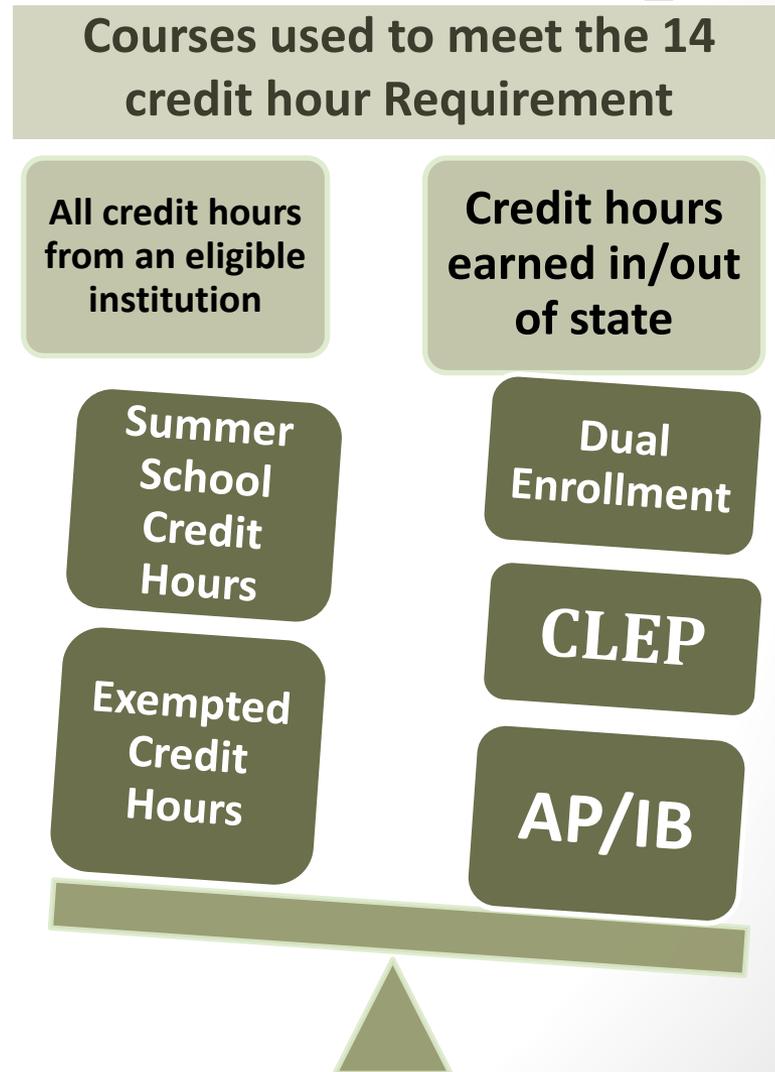
(\*Cannot transfer  
grades from other  
institutions)

30\* Credit  
hours per  
academic  
year

\*Does **NOT** include AP,  
IB, Dual Enrollment,  
CLEP or Exempted  
Credit Hours

# Enhancements: LIFE & Palmetto Fellows Scholarships

- Must attend an eligible **4-year** SC institution
- Must meet Enhancement eligibility requirement of 14 credit hours of math and/or science in the 1<sup>st</sup> academic year
- Enhancement takes effect in the **2<sup>nd</sup>** academic year
- Must be in an eligible major at the home institution
- Additional \$2,500 per academic year (not to exceed the cost of attendance)



# Scholarship Awards With Enhancement

## Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

1<sup>st</sup> Year= \$6,700



2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Years  
= \$7,500



Plus Enhancement  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Years = \$10,000

## LIFE Scholarship

1<sup>st</sup> Year=  
\$5,000



Plus Enhancement  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Years  
= \$7,500

# Academic Common Market

- Allows for South Carolina residents who are enrolled in specific programs at out-of-state institutions to be charged in-State tuition by the institution
- Student must be attending an institution that participates in this program
- Student must be enrolled in a program that participates in this program

For more information:

- Contact Ms. Sandra Carr at 803-737-2274 or visit

[http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/ACM\\_Information.htm](http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/ACM_Information.htm)

# Rank for State Scholarships

- In order for a student to use rank from any in-state, out-of-state, public, private, virtual, or charter high school or home school association the process in which rank is determined must be the same for each student
- A rank policy\* is considered the following:
  - Based on the SC UGP;
  - Ranks ALL academic classes at the END of each academic year (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>);
  - Includes the entire class. If the entire class is not included when calculating class rank, then rank CANNOT to be considered;
  - Rank and SC UGP must be demonstrated on the official transcript submitted to CHE or eligible SC institution

*\*Please Note: In accordance with **62-1200.10 C (3)**: Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement and **62-320 C (4)**: Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Application, "High schools or home school associations shall not use ranking for the sole purpose of obtaining eligibility for the state scholarships."*

# Rank for State Scholarships

- The rank policy and rank policy information needs to consistent in all places rank information is provided
  - School profile
  - Student/parent handbook
  - School website
- Made available to:
  - Students/parents
  - SC Commission on Higher Education
  - SC colleges and universities that award State scholarships

*Please Note: A Rank Report is required to be submitted to the Commission and/or eligible SC institution by any independent/private high school or homeschool association should a student be using rank as an eligibility criteria for any of the State scholarship programs. (In compliance with Regulation 62-1200.10)*

# Transcripts

- All transcripts being used for scholarship eligibility must demonstrate the SC UGP GPA on the transcript
- All final transcripts must be dated between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and **no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>** (This applies to Rank Reports too).
- If the school/ home school association ranks its students as a policy, rank must be demonstrated on the transcript. Transcripts would need to demonstrate the following:
  - Student ranks 3 out of 112
  - Class Rank: 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 56
  - Rank: 1 of 20
- No numerical GPA's, transcript would need to demonstrate the following:
  - Need to state the SC UGP is being utilized
  - Totals/Averages cannot be used- a Cumulative GPA would need to accompany a numerical total or average

# SC Commission on Higher Education

## [www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov)

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