



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

**Scholarships and Grants
Workshop 2014**

State Programs

- SC Need-based Grant
- Lottery Tuition Assistance
- SC HOPE Scholarship
- LIFE Scholarship
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

General Eligibility Requirements

SC HOPE, LIFE & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

SC Need-based Grant

Lottery Tuition Assistance

- US Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident*
- SC Resident*
- No felony convictions
- No second or subsequent alcohol/drug misdemeanors
- Not in default of any state or federal loans
- Enroll in a degree-seeking program at an eligible SC institution

**this must be determined at the time of high school graduation.*

SC Need-based Grant

Must complete the FAFSA application each year and be determined “needy” based on Title IV

Can be used at any 2-year or 4-year public institution.

Must be considered a degree seeking student.

Up to \$2,500 for full-time or \$1,250 for part-time.

SC Need-based Grant Additional Programs

Foster Care Youth

Up to the maximum
\$2,500 SC NBG
award/year, plus up
to an additional
\$2,000

**Student needs to work with the
Financial Aid office, DSS, and CHE*

College Transition Program

Programs at 5 eligible
SC institutions for
intellectually disabled
students.

**Student needs to be determined
needy by Title IV guidelines*

Lottery Tuition Assistance

**\$95/Credit
hour up to
\$1,140 for
full time**

**Complete
the FAFSA
application**

**Enrolled as a degree
seeking student at one
of the: 16 technical
schools, 2-year USC
satellite campuses, or
Spartanburg
Methodist College**

State Scholarships and Residency: Basic Breakdown

Students must have their immigration status verified through a federal process as either a US Citizen or legal permanent resident before they can be awarded any State scholarship.

Students must be verified by the institution as a SC resident before they can be awarded any State scholarship.

A student who is NOT verified as a US Citizen or legal permanent resident **AND** who is not verified as a SC resident **at the time of their high school graduation** cannot receive State scholarships at the time of initial enrollment or at any point in the future.

SC HOPE Scholarship

Eligibility:

3.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation

No application Process. Institution reviews final high school transcript.

Must attend an eligible SC 4-year institution

Up to \$2,800
For the 1st academic year only (2 terms)

LIFE Scholarship

Eligibility at a 2-year institution

- 3.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation

Eligibility at a 4-year institution

- **Earn 2 of the follow 3 requirements**
 - 3.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation
 - 1100/SAT or 24/ACT
 - Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class

LIFE Scholarship

Terms of Eligibility

- Up to 4 consecutive semesters of eligibility at a 2-year institution
- Up to 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility at a 4-year institution

Up to \$5,000 per academic year

- Not to exceed to the Cost of Attendance
- Must attend an eligible SC institution

“Facts of LIFE” Scholarship

**NO
application
process**

**Not required
to begin
college
immediately
after high
school**

**Can *earn* LIFE
Scholarship
after 1st, 2nd,
or 3rd
academic
year**

**Student has
until the end
of an
academic year
to earn the
GPA/Credit
hours**

Dual Enrollment and college enrollment while in high school and/or prior to enrolling in college

Grades and credit hours earned at colleges and universities (in-state, out-of state, abroad)

LIFE GPA

Includes “F” and “D” Grades

Grades and credit hours earned while enrolled in college (including summer school)

A “Walk Through Life”

**End of 1st
Academic
Year**

**Earn a 3.0
Cum LIFE
GPA**

**Earn at least
30 credit
hours**

**End of 2nd
Academic
Year**

**Earn a 3.0
Cum LIFE
GPA**

**Earn at least
60 credit
hours**

**End of 3rd
Academic
Year**

**Earn a 3.0
Cum LIFE
GPA**

**Earn at least
90 credit
hours**

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS): Application Periods

- Any eligible student will need to be a part of the Early or Late Award application process during their year of graduation
 - TWO opportunities to apply:
 - Early Award: Mid-October- December 15th
 - Late Award: Mid-April-June 15th
 - Should the deadline fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is the preceding Friday.
- *a student cannot use Early Award documentation for the Late Award****
- **a student cannot apply or earn the PFS once they have graduated high school*****
- Counselor driven application process
 - The application and application materials must be submitted via the high school/home school association and in the Commission office by the established deadlines (listed above)

PFS Eligibility Requirements

- For schools that have an official policy on rank that has been reviewed by the Commission for compliance with the established Regulations:
 - Rank in the top 6% at the end of the 10th, or the 11th, or the 12th grade academic year
- Earn a 1200 on the SAT/27 on the ACT (through the June test administration of the graduating year)
- Earn a 3.5 cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP)

OR

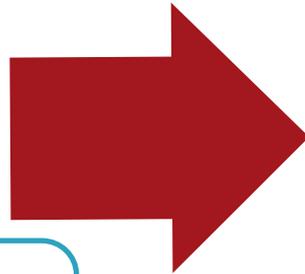
Alternate Criteria (without regard to rank)

- Earn a 1400 on the SAT/32 on the ACT (through the June test administration of the graduating year)
- Earn a 4.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP)

PFS

1st Year

- Up to \$6,700



2nd, 3rd & 4th Years

- Up to \$7,500

Important PFS Points

- The student **MUST** attend an eligible 4-year institution the fall semester immediately following high school graduation
 - Enrolling in a 2-year institution during a fall or spring semester forfeits the student's PFS eligibility
 - Not enrolling the fall semester upon high school graduation forfeits the student's PFS eligibility
- A student who attends an out-of-state institution can use any remaining terms of the PFS should they transfer to an eligible SC institution and meet the PFS renewal requirements
- In order for the student to receive scholarship funds they **MUST** complete the DESIGNATION FORM
 - This is the SOLE responsibility of the student
 - The student is provided this form via email to the email listed on the electronic application

How do I keep the PFS?

3.0
cumulative
institutional
GPA

(Cannot transfer
grades from other
colleges)

Earn 30
credit hours
each
academic
year

Does NOT include AP, IB,
Dual Enrollment, CLEP or
exempted credit hours

LIFE & PFS Enhancements

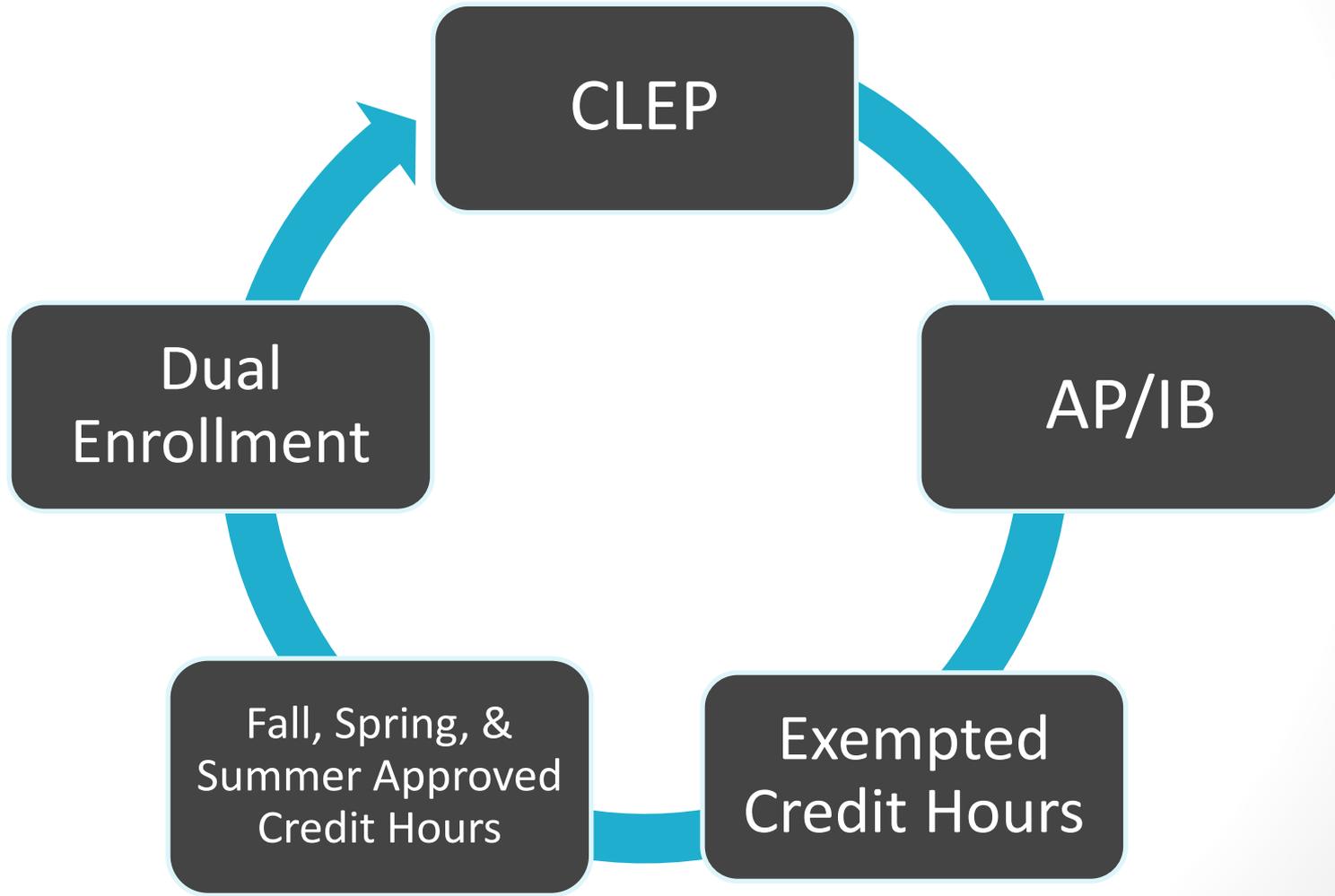
Must be enrolled in an eligible major at their home institution

Must Earn 14 credit hours of math and/or science by the end of the 1st academic year

Starts the student's 2nd academic year (6 semesters) at a 4-year institution only

Up to an additional \$2,500

14 Credit Hour Acceptable Courses



Enhancements

LIFE

1st
Year

- Up to \$5,000

2nd,
3rd, &
4th
Years

- +Enhancement up to \$7,500

PFS

1st
Year

- Up to \$6,700

2nd,
3rd, &
4th
Years

- Up to \$7,500
- + Enhancement up to \$10,000

General State Scholarship & Grant Information

- No State Scholarships or grants may be used at an out-of-state institution at any time
- Academic Common Market
 - Allows for South Carolina residents who are enrolled in specific programs at out-of-state institutions to be charged only the applicable in-State tuition by the institution in which the student is enrolled
 - http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/ACM_Information.htm
 - Contact: Ms. Sandra Carr 803-737-2274 or scarr@che.sc.gov
- **Graduation Bulletin/Program**
 - If the school chooses to designate scholarship recipients in such programs, we would ask that you include the following disclaimer language:
 - ***"The designation of scholarship recipients on this program or in any media is preliminary, based on information provided by the high schools and students at the time of this printing, and is subject to final confirmation and approval by the eligible higher education institution and/or the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education."***

Elimination of Exit Exam

H*3919 Act 155 *General Bill, By Owens, Bowen, Patrick, Taylor, Anderson, Allison, Brannon, Loftis, Ballentine, Rivers, Huggins, Knight, Simrill, King, Willis, Whitmire, McCoy, Anthony, Crosby, Neal, Clyburn, Barfield, Bedingfield, R.L. Brown, Cobb-Hunter, George, Hayes, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Lucas, Pope, Putnam, G.R. Smith, Wells, Wood, Whipper, Mitchell, Robinson-Simpson and Dillard*

“59-18-310(B)...SO AS TO ELIMINATE THIS REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING WITH THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015, TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES THAT FORMER PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DID NOT GRADUATE OR RECEIVE A DIPLOMA SOLELY FOR FAILING THIS EXIT EXAM MAY PETITION BY JANUARY 31, 2015...”

HB 3919 contains 5 sections amending or adding new provisions to Title 59 - the South Carolina School Code of 1976:

§ 59-18-310(B) – Removal of Exit Exam Requirement(s)

§ 59-48-35 – Removal of Exit Exam Requirement(s)

§ 59-139-60 – Removal of Exit Exam Requirement(s)

§ 59-18-325 (NEW) – College and Career Readiness Assessments

§ 59-18-950 – School Ratings Criteria – Removal of Exit Exam Performance Measurement

What Does This Mean?

- The exit exam is no longer required in order to receive a high school diploma
- Those students who failed to receive a high school diploma or were denied graduation solely for failing to meet the exit exam requirements may petition
 - Students petition the local school board to determine their eligibility to receive a high school diploma. The school board will determine the student's eligibility to receive a diploma in compliance with Act 155.
- Requires the State to administer a college readiness assessment to all 11th grade students
 - Students will be encouraged to take the SAT/ACT
- Requires the administration of WorkKeys assessment to all 11th grade students

What Does This Mean For Scholarships?

- An official transcript WILL NOT be adjusted
 - Separate documentation should be attached to the transcript by the high school or district (*indicating that the student received a high school diploma pursuant to Act 155*).
- Transcripts for students in the class of 2014 who received certificates during the May/June graduation, will reflect certificate, not diploma.
 - If a student passes the summer HSAP, another transcript would be printed to reflect the diploma status.
 - If the student did not take or pass the summer 2014 HSAP and petitioned for a diploma, the transcript would still indicate “certificate” and would include separate documentation.

Contact CHE if you have a student that is attempting to become eligible for the SC HOPE/LIFE scholarship

- Transcripts starting for the graduating class of 2015 moving forward
 - “Certificate” no longer an option
 - Only option is: Diploma or Non-Diploma Award (IEP students)

Transcript Requirements: Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

ALL transcripts must identify SC UGP GPA

- All state scholarships and grants are based on the SC UGP, therefore 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**.

All final official transcripts must be date 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 or end of the school year. Summer school grades earned after high school graduation cannot be used in the calculation.

Transcript Requirements: Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

In order to determine eligibility for the State scholarship programs, the financial aid office/institution must have a 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)
- Demonstrate that it is the final official transcript
- The graduation date
- SC UGP GPA and rank (if applicable)
- The date calculated date to be date calculated no later than June 15th

SC Public High School Transcripts

SC Public High Schools - PowerSchool

- For technical issues regarding submitting and/or printing electronic or paper transcripts should first be referred back to the high school or School District IT Department. Each high school and district has an identified contact that should work together first.
- If the issues cannot be resolved at that level, the school/district office can then contact the SC Department of Education PowerSchool Administrator.

SC Independent/Private/Home School Association Transcripts

- All transcripts being used for scholarship eligibility must demonstrate the SC UGP GPA on the transcript
- All final transcripts must demonstrate a date calculated date between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and **no later than June 15th**
- If the school/ home school association ranks its students as a policy, rank must be demonstrated on the transcript
- Rank must be on the transcript if there is a rank policy and students are using rank. Transcripts would need to demonstrate the following:
 - Student ranks 3 out of 112
 - Class Rank: 2nd 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

Year-Round Scholarships

- Proviso 11.19 allowing for summer disbursements for the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships passed July 1, 2014
- Students who meet the continued eligibility requirements at the end of a spring semester will be able to use their LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship for a summer semester
 - Students graduating from high school will not be able to use their scholarship the summer prior to their first fall term of enrollment
 - This does not provide any scholarship recipient with extra terms of eligibility
- If you have any questions feel free to contact our office or the financial aid office at the post-secondary institution

Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

“On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several key guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and would then be eligible for work authorization.

Deferred action is a discretionary determination to defer removal action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion. Deferred action does not provide an individual with lawful status.”

DACA (continued) – Federal Q&A

Updated 1/18/13

- **New - Q6: If my case is deferred, am I in lawful status for the period of deferral?**

A6: No. Although action on your case has been deferred and you do not accrue unlawful presence (for admissibility purposes) during the period of deferred action, deferred action does not confer any lawful status. The fact that you are not accruing unlawful presence does not change whether you are in lawful status while you remain in the United States. **However, although deferred action does not confer a lawful immigration status, your period of stay is authorized by the Department of Homeland Security while your deferred action is in effect and, for admissibility purposes, you are considered to be lawfully present in the United States during that time.** Apart from the immigration laws, “lawful presence”, “lawful status” and similar terms are used in various other federal and state laws. For information on how those laws affect individuals who receive a favorable exercise of prosecutorial discretion under DACA, please contact the appropriate federal, state or local authorities.

What does this mean?

- Students may attend an eligible South Carolina institution once their status has been verified and confirmed by a federal process.
- Students will not be eligible to participate in the State scholarship programs*, the SC Need-based grant program, or Lottery Tuition Assistance program
- Students will be charged at out-of-state rates
 - Should the student become a US Citizen/legal permanent resident they will be able to work with their home institutions in respect to in-state rates.
- Institutions are only verifying the student's lawful presence. The institution is not involved in determining a student's citizenship or legal permanent residency status.

At no time will a student be eligible to participate in the State scholarship programs should their US Citizenship/legal permanent residency status be determined **after they graduate high school*

CHE Contact Information

- **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk**, Deputy Executive Director for Academic and Student Affairs
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- **Elizabeth Caulder**, Associate Director of Student Financial Support
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- **Leslie Williams**, Program Assistant, Student Financial Support
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- **Gerrick Hampton**, Associate Director of Student Affairs for Pre-College Youth, SC Residency & SC GEAR UP
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