



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

**SCISA
2015**

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

http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/studentservices/needbased/FCY_Published.pdf

**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.

<http://welcometocollegelife.com/>

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

Lottery Tuition Assistance

**\$100/Credit
hour up to
\$1,200 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)
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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 average
of at least 30
credit hours**

**End of 2nd
Academic
Year**

**Earn a 3.0
Cum LIFE
GPA**

**Earn average
of at least 30
credit hours**

**End of 3rd
Academic
Year**

**Earn a 3.0
Cum LIFE
GPA**

**Earn average
of at least 30
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

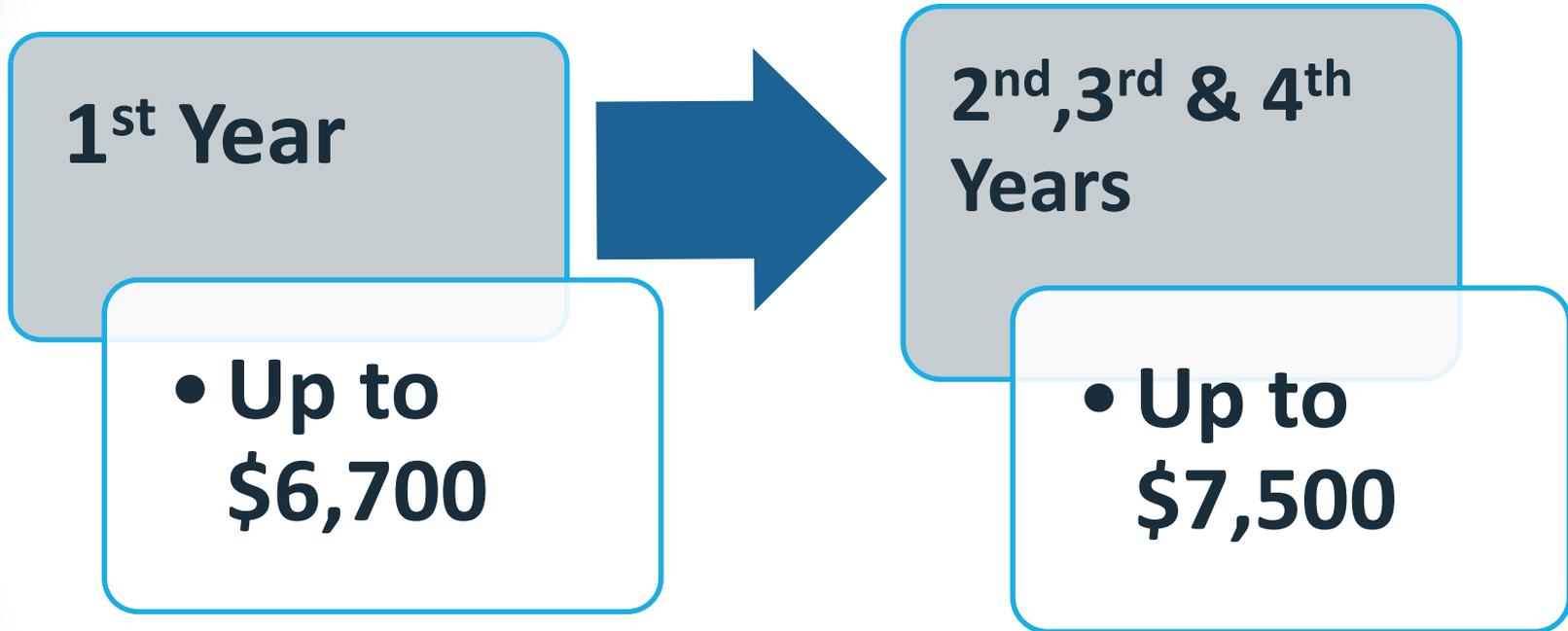
- For schools that have an official policy on rank that has been reviewed by the Commission for compliance with the established Regulations:
 - Rank in the top 6% at the end of the 10th, or the 11th, or the 12th grade academic year
- Earn a 1200 on the SAT/27 on the ACT (through the June test administration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



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

The “Decline” Difference

Declination Form

(Declining to Apply)

- Student will **NOT** be a part of a PFS application period
- Declination form is signed by parent **AND** student

I understand that it is the recommendation of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education that I apply for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and decline at a later date if necessary; however, I have decided to **NOT** apply because of the reason marked below.....

I further understand that my decision to decline to apply for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is a permanent decision. I am relinquishing all rights to receive this scholarship at a later time by completing and submitting this form. This means that if I change my mind and would like to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship at a later time, then I would not be eligible, because I never applied and was never awarded the scholarship.

Decline on Designation Form

- Student has been a part of a PFS application period
- Student has been determined to be PFS recipient
- Student has decided to attend an eligible 4-year institution-out –of –state
- Student had **DECLINED** to accept the award
 - Declining allows for a student to maintain their eligibility should they return to an eligible SC institution
 - Still must meet renewal requirements

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
(AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, CLEP & Exempted courses)

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

Up to an additional \$2,500

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
 - Contact: Ms. Sandra Carr 803-737-2274 or scarr@che.sc.gov
 - <http://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/LearningAboutCollege/AcademicCommonMarketInformation.aspx>
- **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."***

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 and/or CHE for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship must have an official transcript on file (electronic or otherwise) that demonstrates the following items:

- **A valid signature** (electronic or otherwise) from the Principal.* In the event that the Principal is not available, the Superintendent signature is acceptable.
- **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 Palmetto Fellows Scholarship 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*

- If a student is using rank as an eligibility criteria, the high school/home school association **must** have a policy on rank, and rank **must** be demonstrated on the official transcript (*this also applies to rank reports when required*)

Out-of-State High Schools & Scholarship Eligibility

- Out-of-state schools must comply with SCUGP GPA reporting and ranking.
 - For those schools that have a grading scale that substantially deviates from the SC UGP:
 - If the institution determines that a state-approved standardized grading scale substantially deviates from the SC UGP, the grading scale must be submitted to CHE for further review
 - If CHE confirms the grade scale deviation, a transcript conversion to the SC UGP must be completed
 - If the institution is not converting the grades, the out-of-state high school must submit converted transcript in addition to the official out-of-state high school transcript
 - No handwritten or strikethrough edits can be demonstrated on the submitted transcript for scholarship eligibility determination

Out-of-State High Schools & Scholarship Eligibility

- If a student is attempting to use rank as an eligibility criterion from an out-of-state high school:
 - The high school or home school association must have a policy on rank which has been reviewed to verify compliance with the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy and established statutes and regulations for the State scholarship programs.
 - If the high school or home school association does not rank as a policy, or the student does not meet the rank eligibility requirement once a conversion of the grades to meet the SC UGP GPA and rank requirement then student must use the Alternate Criteria for eligibility (SC UGP GPA and SAT/ACT score).
- If using rank, the entire academic class must be converted to the SCUGP and a ranking report that reflects all students in that academic class, the out-of-state GPA, the SC UGP GPA, and the rank based on the SC UGP GPA must be included in order to determine eligibility and award a State scholarship.

Rank & State Scholarship Eligibility

- For the purposes of the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS) programs two students may not occupy the same rank.
 - LIFE Scholarship: Top 30% of the graduating class (NOT rounded up to the next whole number)
 - PFS: Top 6% (rounded up to the next whole number)
- In the event of a tie, the high school/home school association is responsible for determining the legitimate rank for each eligible applicant.
 - For the purposes of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship the student's GPA may need to be truncated past two decimal points in order to determine the true rank for each student.
 - *Inquire about your School District or Board's approved policy*
- The Commission will NOT be able to participate in a process to determine a student's true rank.

Early Graduates

Early Graduate:

Student graduates mid-year

- For scholarship eligibility the student can ONLY use **SC UGP GPA**
 - **CANNOT** use rank
- SC HOPE/LIFE Scholarship
 - Complete Early Graduate application at planned institution of attendance
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
 - Only **ONE** opportunity to apply
 - the Early Award application period of their senior year
 - Can receive LIFE Scholarship only for the 1st semester*. Will receive the PFS the following terms of remaining eligibility.

**Student must attend and eligible 4-year institution only for the spring term*

Graduating Early:

Student graduates academic year(s)early

- SC HOPE/LIFE Scholarship
 - Eligibility is based on the end of the academic year with their “new” graduating class
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
 - Can apply during the Early or Late Award application period
 - Early Award Application period can only use end of the 10th grade GPA and rank
 - Late Award application period can use the end of the 10th or 12th grade rank, must use end of the 12th grade GPA

The Infamous “Gap Year”

FOR THE STATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS:

- There is NO GAP YEAR
- There is NO DEFERMENT OPTION
- A PFS recipient must enroll at an eligible 4-year institution the fall semester immediately following high school graduation
 - Can be in or out of state, however it must be a 4-year institution
 - Do not enroll or enroll at a 2-year institution the PFS recipient forfeits their PFS eligibility (*may be eligible for LIFE*)
- SC HOPE/LIFE Scholarship
 - Not required to immediately enroll
 - “Clock” starts based on the initial term of enrollment once a student is no longer considered a high school student

Year-Round Scholarships

- Authorization for Palmetto Fellows/LIFE Scholarship awards to be awarded in summer terms continues for the 2015-16 academic year (Proviso 11.19)
- 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

SAT Redesign

- Students will sit for the re-designed SAT beginning March 2016
- The College Board will provide guidance regarding the new scoring and/or language that will be provided to all institutions and shared nationally regarding the following:
 - Redesigned test information
 - Super scoring
- This should be available by September 2015
- CHE is monitoring and will provide additional details relating to South Carolina scholarships.

CHE Contact Information

- **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk**, Director Student Affairs
803-737-2244 or kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov
- **Elizabeth Caulder**, Associate Director of Student Financial Support
Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, SC HOPE, SC Need-based Grant & LTAP
803-737-2262 or ecaulder@che.sc.gov
- **Leslie Williams**, Program Assistant, Student Financial Support
803-737-2290 or lwilliams@che.sc.gov
- **Gerrick Hampton**, Associate Director of Student Affairs for Pre-College Youth, SC Residency & SC GEAR UP
803-734-7397 or ghampton@che.sc.gov