

South Carolina Commission on Higher Education



**SCASFAA Conference
State Update
April 14, 2010**

Agenda

- ▶ Proposed Regulatory changes
 - changes to all State Scholarship and Grant programs
 - changes to specific State Scholarship and Grant programs
- ▶ Legislative Updates
 - Funding updates
 - Provisos
- ▶ Questions

Disclaimer

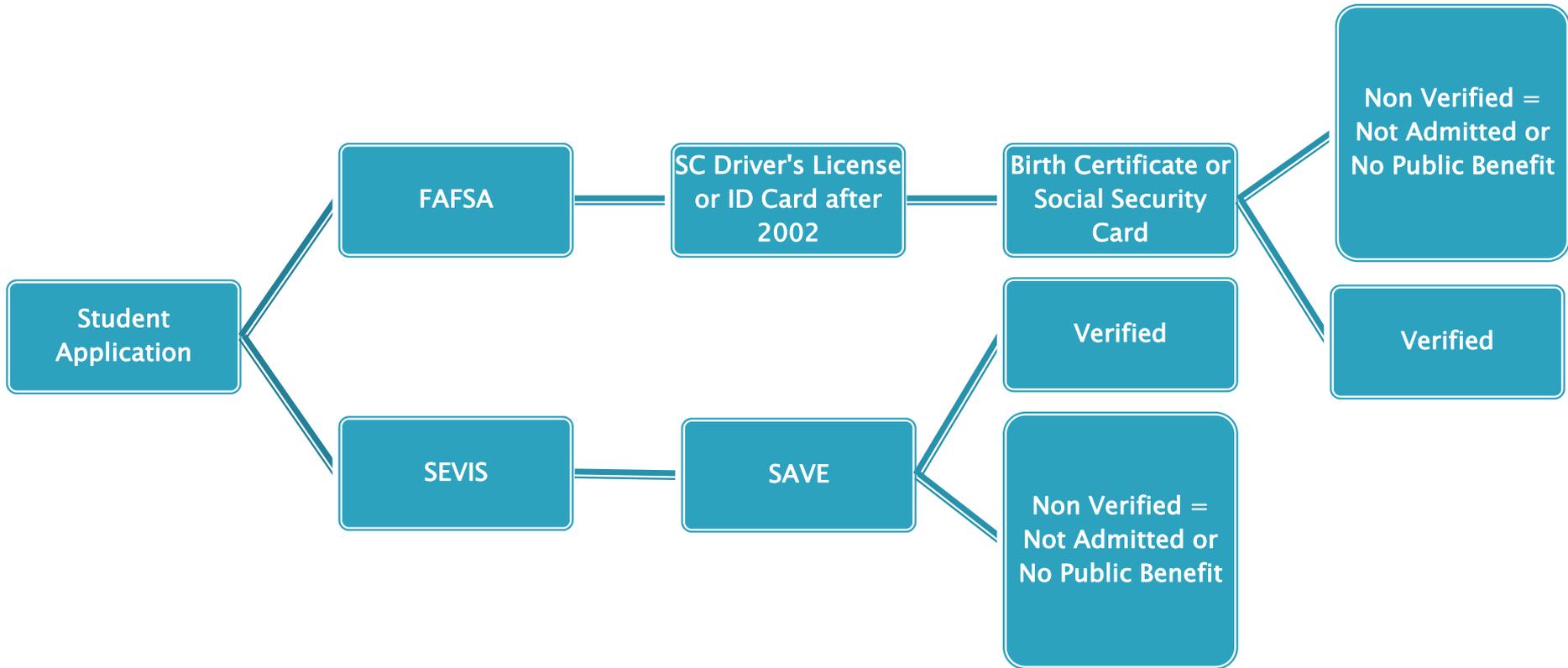
- ▶ The changes to the regulations in the following presentation are PROPOSED. They have not been approved by the SC General Assembly, and will not be presented to the SC General Assembly for approval until January 2011.

Proposed Regulatory Changes to All Programs

SC ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT

- ▶ All eligible independent and public institutions that participate in the program must verify the lawful presence of any student who receives a State Scholarship prior to awarding the Scholarship to the student. The trustees of the public and independent institutions in this State shall develop and institute a process by which a State Scholarship recipient's lawful presence in the United States is verified with the federal government pursuant to 8 USC Section 1373(c).

SC ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT: Recommended Process



Proposed Regulatory Changes to All Programs

- ▶ Independent and public institutions of higher learning in this, or any other state in the U.S., are prohibited from using State Scholarship and Grants in programs that promote financial aid incentives or packages. Any mention of State Scholarships and Grants in these financial aid packages must indicate the scholarships and grants to be separate from the University that is offering the financial aid package, and reference the State Scholarship and Grant as a separate financial aid award, provided to the student by the State of South Carolina.

What this means

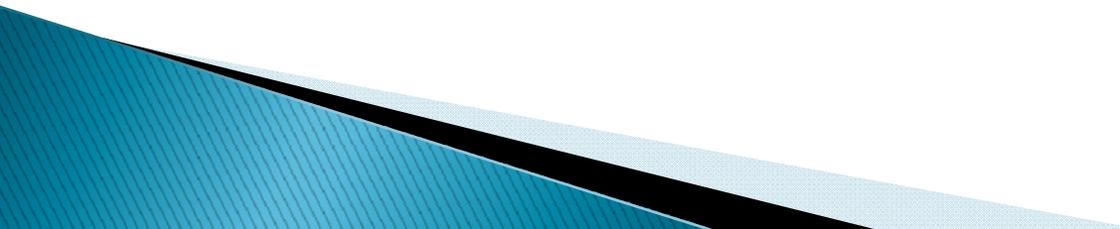
- ▶ Any promotional branding to promote Scholarships and Grants shall include the State Scholarships as separate awards. Award letters do not have to change. However, in terms of marketing and branding, the State Scholarships/Grants must be identified as separate awards.

Ex. The NC State “pack pride package” must be marketed as the “pack pride package and SC LIFE Scholarship”

Proposed Regulatory Changes to All Programs

- ▶ Program of study that is structured so as not to require a bachelor's degree for acceptance into the program and leads to a graduate degree", which will be the student's first academic degree awarded. Students are eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship for a maximum of eight terms (or its equivalent) and the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement for a maximum of six terms (or its equivalent) as long as all other eligibility requirements are met and the program is approved by the Commission on Higher Education. Students who have been awarded a bachelor's or graduate degree are not eligible for Scholarship funding. Students must maintain their undergraduate status in order to receive a LIFE Scholarship and a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement each academic term, with the exception of students declaring a major in the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at South University, the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at Presbyterian College, the Master's of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program, the Master's of Science in Cytology and Biosciences Program and the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the University of South Carolina–Columbia and the Medical University of South Carolina.

Proposed Regulatory Changes to All Programs

- ▶ CHE will be asking the President of the institution to identify to the Commission on Higher Education an institutional representative who will act as the point of contact for all inquiries pertaining to residency classification for the purposes of awarding the State Scholarships.
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Proposed Regulatory Changes to All Programs

62-1200.60 Institutional Policies and Procedures for Awarding: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

O. The institution must retain annual paper or electronic documentation for each LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement award to include at a minimum:

16. Verification from the appropriate institutional department that lawful presence of the student has been verified with the Federal Government, pursuant to 8 USC Section 1373(c).

Proposed Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program Changes

- ▶ 62-335 Duration and Renewal of Awards

B. Students selected as Palmetto Fellows must enter an eligible four-year independent or public institution the fall term immediately following high school graduation. Students must be continuously enrolled at an eligible four-year institution. Students with a break in continuous full-time enrollment at a four-year institution or initially enrolling at a two-year institution the fall term after high school graduation will forfeit the scholarship.

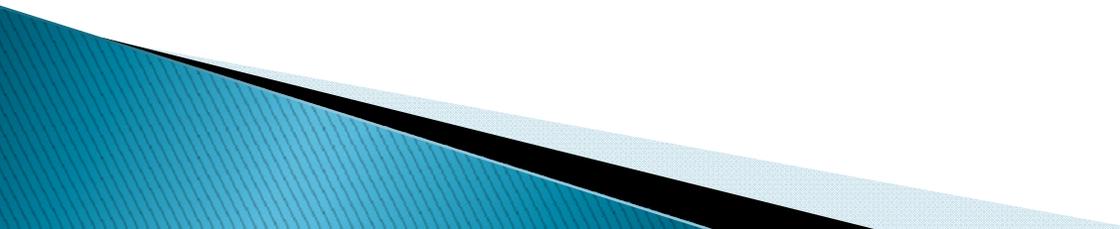
F. In order to retain eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship after the initial year, the student must meet the following continued eligibility requirements:

1. Enroll and be continuously enrolled at an eligible four-year public or independent institution as a full-time, degree-seeking student at the time of Scholarship disbursement;

Proposed Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program Addition

- ▶ **“Continuously enrolled” is defined as enrollment without an interruption that would require the student to pursue a formal process of readmission to that institution. Formal petitions or applications for change of degree level shall be considered readmissions. Continuously enrolled does not include summer terms or military mobilization. Students who are enrolled in internships, cooperative work programs, travel study programs, or National or International Exchange Programs that are approved by the home institution are considered continuously enrolled. Any student who has been suspended, expelled, or voluntarily withdraws from a four-year institution and enrolls at a two-year institution during the interruption is considered to be no longer continuously enrolled.**
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What this means

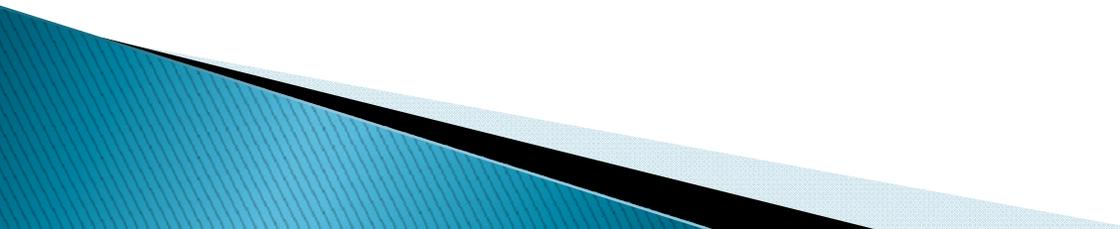
- ▶ A Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipient must be enrolled only at an eligible four-year institution (excluding Summer terms).
 - ▶ A student cannot attend a four-year institution in one semester (i.e. Fall), attend a two-year institution in the Spring, and return to a four-year institution the following Fall and receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.
 - ▶ Once a student enrolls at a two-year institution (excluding summer term), they forfeit the scholarship.
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Proposed LIFE Scholarship Program Changes

- ▶ 62-1200.5 Definitions

B. A student who has earned a GED diploma or SC High School Diploma through Adult Education without a cumulative GPA may be eligible to earn the LIFE Scholarship at the end of the first academic year of a non-GED program. The student must meet the annual credit hour requirement (or equivalent) and a 3.0 “LIFE GPA” at the end of the first academic year. A student who has earned a GED diploma or SC High School Diploma through Adult Education and begins college mid-year shall be eligible to earn the LIFE Scholarship at the end of the first term of a non-GED program. To qualify for subsequent years, the student must meet all eligibility requirements as stated in Section A above 62-1200.10 (C), Continued Eligibility section of the LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

What this means

- ▶ Students who earn a GED and begin college for the first time as a mid-term enrollee will need to earn a 3.0 and 15 credit hours at the end of the Summer following their first term in college in order to receive the LIFE Scholarship.
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Proposed LIFE Scholarship Program Changes

62-1200.10 Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and Scholarship Enhancement

I. First-time entering freshmen attending an eligible technical college, independent four-year or two-year institution or technical college who enrolls full-time in fewer than twelve credit hours of non-remedial/developmental courses during the first term(s) will not be eligible for Scholarship funds during this period. Credit hours earned during the student's first two term(s) of remedial/developmental enrollment will not be used to determine remaining Scholarship eligibility at the completion of remediation unless the student has completed at least twelve credit hours of non-remedial/developmental coursework each term of enrollment. A student is only allowed one year of remediation, which must occur during the student's first year of initial college enrollment. The student's initial college enrollment will begin after a maximum of two terms of remediation. The student will be eligible for the Scholarship for the term following completion of remediation if the student was eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship upon high school graduation, continuously enrolled in at least twelve credit hours of coursework during the period of remediation, and enrolls in at least twelve hours of non-remedial coursework at the time of awarding. If the student requires more than one academic year of remedial/developmental coursework, then he/she will not be eligible for the LIFE Scholarship the term after completion of remediation. If the student was not eligible for the Scholarship upon high school graduation, the student must meet the conditions set forth in Section J below in order to gain the LIFE Scholarship.

What this means

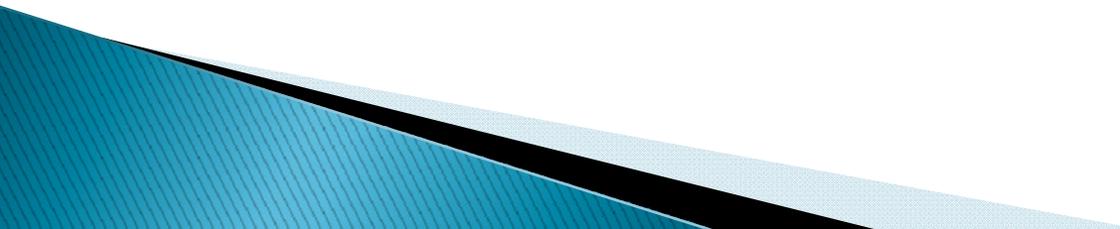
- ▶ A student is only allowed a maximum of one year (two terms) of remediation, which must be the first year of initial college enrollment.

Proposed LIFE Scholarship Program Changes

62-1200.5 - Definitions

- ▶ D. “Annual credit hour requirement” shall be defined as an average of thirty (30) credit hours earned at the end of the academic year based on initial college enrollment at all eligible institutions attended, excluding hours for remedial, continuing education, and non-degree coursework. Credit hours earned before high school graduation, Advanced Placement (AP) credit hours, International Baccalaureate (IB) credit hours, exempted credit hours placed on the student’s official college transcript by the institution at which they are earned, and credit hours earned on active duty must count toward the annual credit hour requirement.

What this means

- ▶ Exempted credit hours must be placed on the transcript by the institution through which they were earned. If a student cannot produce a transcript showing the earned credit hours, the hours cannot be counted towards continued eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship.
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Proposed Lottery Tuition Assistance Program Changes

62-900.160 – Program Definitions

P. “Satisfactory academic progress” shall mean the minimum academic standard for academic progress established by the institution for the purpose of complying with Title IV regulations for federal Student Aid Programs and **for State scholarship and grants.**

62-900.165 – Student Eligibility

B. Students shall not be eligible to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance for more than one certificate, diploma, or degree earned within any five-year period unless the additional certificate, diploma, or degree constitutes progress in the same field of study. **Students must be making satisfactory academic progress towards completion of the requirements of the program as provided by Title IV Regulations.**

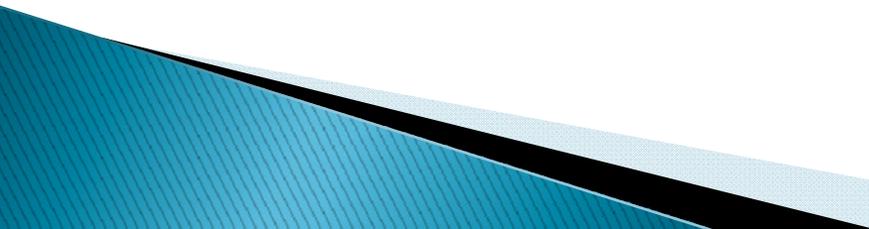
Proposed Lottery Tuition Assistance Program Changes

62-900.175 Duration of Award and Continued Eligibility

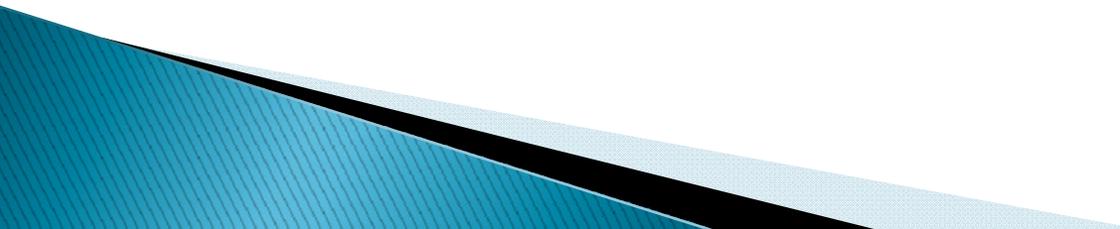
C. Students must meet satisfactory academic progress established by the institution for the purposes of complying with Title IV regulations for continued eligibility to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance.

62-900.185 Institutional Disbursement of Funds

C. The institution shall award only students who meet satisfactory academic progress established by the institution for the purposes of complying with Title IV regulations.



What this means

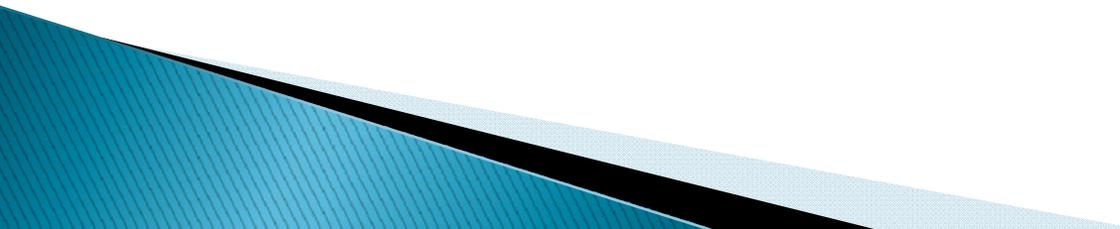
- ▶ The SAP requirements for LTAP will mirror the SAP provided by Title IV regulations.
 - ▶ SAP provided by Title IV regulations will override the current continued eligibility requirements of 2.0 GPA after attempting 24 credit hours and will address progression.
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Proposed Lottery Tuition Assistance Program Changes

62-900.165 – Student Eligibility (continued)

E. Only students who are degree-seeking shall receive Lottery Tuition Assistance at their home institution. Transient students shall not receive Lottery Tuition Assistance.

What does this mean?

- ▶ A student must be degree-seeking in order to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance.
 - ▶ A student cannot receive LTAP outside of their home institution.
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Proposed Lottery Tuition Assistance Program Changes

62-900.165 - Student Eligibility (continued)

F. First-time freshman, who are eligible LIFE Scholarship recipients, attending an eligible two-year or technical college and enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours of non remedial courses shall receive the LIFE Scholarship. Eligible first-time freshman LIFE Scholarship recipients who are enrolled and taking less than 12 credit hours of non remedial courses only shall receive up to two terms of Lottery Tuition Assistance during their first year.

What does this mean

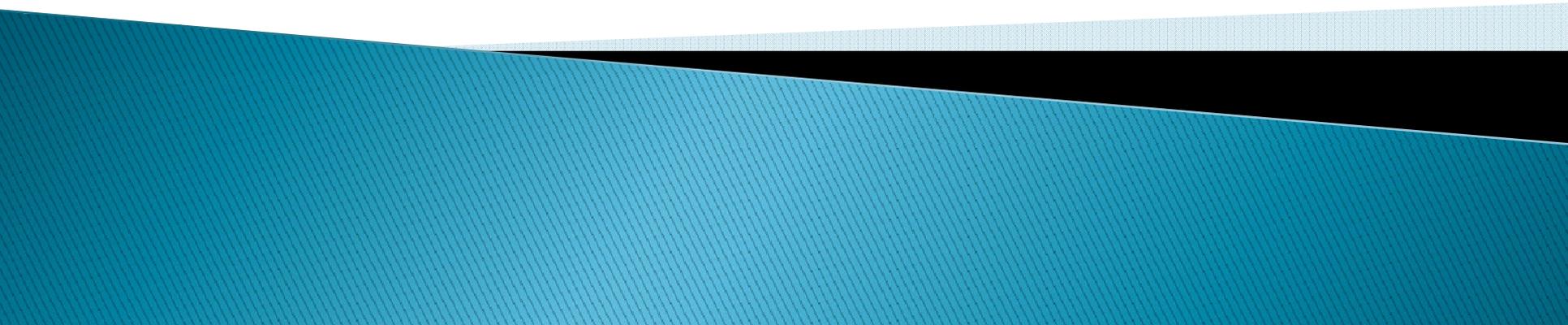
- ▶ This is the only exception when a student may receive LTAP and LIFE in the same academic year. For example, a student is LIFE eligible coming out of high school, but needs to take remedial courses. A student enrolling in 6 hours of remedial coursework and 6 hours of nonremedial coursework in the Fall, may receive LTAP in the Fall term, and LIFE in the Spring term given that the student enrolls in 12 hours of nonremedial coursework.

Proposed SC Need-based Grant Program Changes

62-465 Student Eligibility

A(9). To be eligible to receive the SC Need-based Grant for the first time, students who earn college credit after initial college enrollment: 1) must be degree-seeking; and 2) earned a 2.0 cumulative GPA based on a 4.0 scale for graduation purposes by the end of the previous academic year.

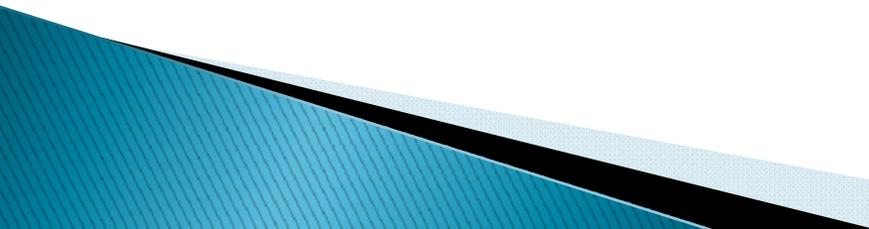
Questions



Legislative Updates

- ▶ Funding Update – House Budget as of April 14, 2010
- ▶ Proviso Update
 - Residency for military
 - Enhancement verification

Funding Updates – House Budget

- ▶ The scholarship programs continued to be funded for growth, or in the case of the need based and lottery tuition assistance programs, received essentially level funding.
 - ▶ To meet the anticipated growth, the merit scholarship programs (Palmetto Fellows, LIFE and HOPE) received an increase in general funds of \$23.1 million.
 - ▶ Lottery Tuition Assistance received level funding at \$47 million
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Funding Updates – House Budget (continued)

- LTAP is anticipated to be funded at \$900 for full-time and \$75 per credit hour for part-time for the 2010–11 academic year.
- NBG will be funded at the same base level funding as the 2009–10 academic year. Base funding for institutional awards are calculated using the original methodology. Additional funding will be the same as 2009–10, which uses the new methodology which is based on the number of Pell Grant recipients.

Military Proviso

- ▶ CHE: In-state Tuition for Military Personnel and Dependents) During the period of their assignment to South Carolina, members of the armed services of the United States stationed in South Carolina and their dependents are eligible for in-state tuition rates. When these armed service personnel are ordered away from the State, their dependents are eligible for in-state tuition rates as long as they remain continuously enrolled at the state institution in which they are enrolled at the time the assignment ends or transfer to an eligible institution during the term or semester, excluding summer terms, immediately following their enrollment at the previous institution. **In the event of a transfer, the receiving institution shall verify the decision made by the student's previous institution in order to certify the student's eligibility for in-state tuition rates. It is the responsibility of the transferring student to ensure that all documents required to verify both the previous and present residency decisions are provided to the institution.** These persons and their dependents are eligible for in-state rates after their discharge from the armed services even though they were not enrolled at a state institution at the time of their discharge, if they have evidenced an intent to establish domicile in South Carolina and if they have resided in South Carolina for a period of at least twelve months immediately preceding their discharge

What this means

- ▶ Currently, we allow for members of the armed services who are permanently stationed in SC, and their dependents, to be eligible for instate tuition and fees. When these members are transferred away, their dependents can continue to be eligible for instate tuition, as long as the student is continuously enrolled at a SC institution. If the student decides to transfer to another SC institution, the student cannot have a break in enrollment. In addition, the student's new institution must use the residency classification made at the prior institution as the student's current classification, as long as they determine the initial institution's decision to be correct. If applicable, students may continue to receive State Scholarships and Grants as well.

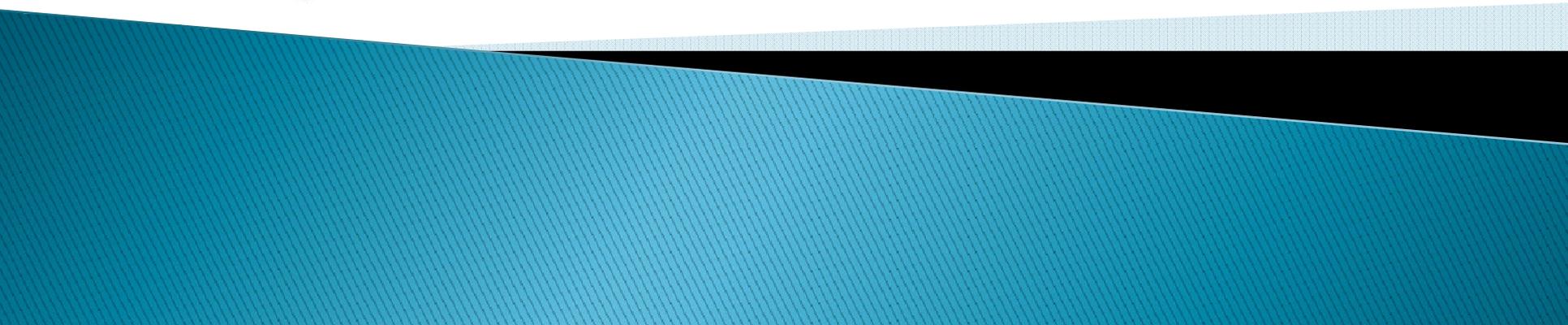
Enhancement Verification Proviso

- ▶ *CHE: LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Enhancement Stipends) In the current fiscal year before fall awards are made, to continue eligibility for LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Enhancement Stipends, students shall certify and the institutions shall verify that the student is meeting all requirements as stipulated by the policies established by the institution and the academic department to be enrolled as a declared major in an eligible program and is making academic progress toward completion of the student's declared eligible major. These determinations are subject to the verification and audit of the Commission of Higher Education. Institutions shall return funds determined to have been awarded to ineligible students*

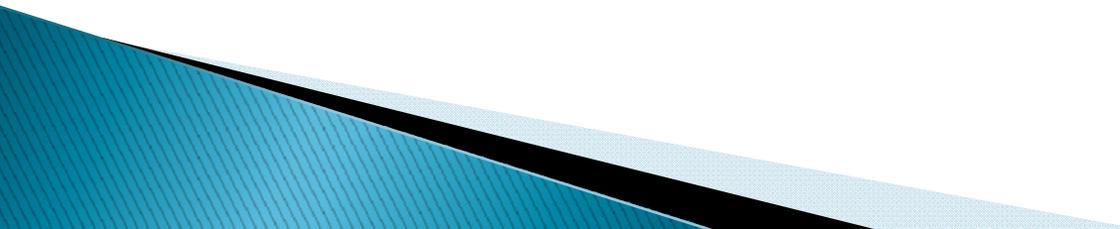
What this means

- ▶ Before students can receive their LIFE/Palmetto Fellows Enhancement each year, their status in a eligible math/science major must be verified with their academic department. Evidence of that verification must be placed in the student's file each academic year.

Questions



Important Reminders

- ▶ CHE Scholarship Appeals process will open on May 3, 2010. New applications for appeal will be accepted through 5:00pm on October 1, 2010.
 - ▶ CHE will conduct three regional Scholarship and Grants/SC Residency Workshops during July 2010. Stay tuned for details.
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SC Commission on Higher Education

Contact Information

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