



NEWS

The S.C. Commission on Higher Education
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scholarship Enhancements for LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Recipients in Math and Science Programs

Columbia, SC — Beginning fall 2007, students receiving the Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship or the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship may be eligible for more scholarship money thanks to legislation passed in June. The purpose of the new program is to increase the number of college graduates in math and science areas needed to support the new knowledge-based economy. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and state's colleges and universities are working together to ensure the program's successful implementation.

The enhanced awards are being made available this fall to students in their sophomore year who meet the eligibility requirements for the LIFE or Palmetto Fellows scholarships and are pursuing program majors in the following areas: science, mathematics, computer science or informational technology, engineering, science education, math education, and healthcare and related disciplines including medicine and dentistry. The Commission has recently posted a listing of the eligible program majors on its website at www.che.sc.gov. South Carolina colleges and universities which are eligible to participate in the state's LIFE and Palmetto Fellows programs are currently working to identify eligible sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Incoming freshmen this fall who want to qualify for the enhanced awards next year will need to take fourteen credit hours in math and science during their freshman year. The fourteen hours must include at least six hours in mathematics and at least six hours in life and physical sciences including one laboratory course. This requirement applies to all first-time students or second semester freshmen beginning fall 2007 and is waived for those students who had already completed their first year prior to implementation of this new program. Eligible course areas are also listed on the Commission's website.

Students who satisfy the LIFE scholarship eligibility requirements are currently awarded up to \$5,000 per year. Students meeting the eligibility requirements for the new LIFE

enhancement for majoring in the eligible math or science programs will receive up to \$7,500 per year beginning their sophomore year.

Freshmen who satisfy the Palmetto Fellows eligibility requirements are awarded up to \$6,700 per year. New this year, all Palmetto Fellows recipients who are sophomores and above will receive up to \$7,500 per year. Those meeting the eligibility requirements for the enhanced Palmetto Fellows award for majoring in eligible math and science programs will receive up to \$10,000 per year.

As is the case with the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows scholarships, the awards with the enhancement cannot exceed a student's cost of attendance; students must be South Carolina residents for tuition and fee purposes; and students must be attending an eligible public or independent institution in South Carolina.

Students who believe they may be eligible or are interested in becoming eligible are encouraged to contact their college's financial aid office for additional details. For specific information on the regulations and academic requirements for the new LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship enhancements and other state scholarship programs, please visit the Commission's website at www.che.gov or contact the Commission at (803) 737-2260. A toll-free number, 1-877-349-7183, is available for calls after office hours on Tuesdays through Thursdays from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m.

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