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October 22, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of Financial Aid, Directors of Admission and Provosts
State Scholarship Eligible Institutions

FROM: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Student Services Division

RE: Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements Eligibility

Purpose:

To advise institutions of the requirement for determining eligibility for students to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement.

Eligibility Requirements:

The General Assembly passed Act 115 creating the new Life Scholarship and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement. With the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement, students majoring in an eligible mathematics or science program may receive up to an additional \$2,500 towards their cost of attendance starting with their second/sophomore year of college enrollment at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina. In addition, in the second /sophomore year all Palmetto Fellow Scholars regardless of major will receive an additional \$800 dollars increasing the base amount from \$6,700 dollars during the first/freshman year to \$7,500 during the second/sophomore year.

To be awarded a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement, students must be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student in an eligible mathematics or science program by the start of their second academic year of enrollment. In addition, students must meet all eligibility requirements (as stipulated by law and regulation) and be a recipient of either the base Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. Beginning with the fall 2007 incoming freshman class and thereafter, all students must also earn at least fourteen credit hours of instructions in mathematics and life and physical science courses with a minimum of six hours in mathematics and minimum of six hours in life and physical science including one laboratory course **by the end of the first year of enrollment in college** to receive a Scholarship Enhancement.

Student Eligibility:

To be eligible for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement each academic year, students must meet all the following requirements:

1. Meet all of the eligibility requirements at the end of each academic year to receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship as stipulated by state law and regulation and be a recipient of Palmetto Fellows Scholarship funds at the time of Enhancement disbursement.
2. Be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major in science, mathematics or an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by the Commission on Higher Education.
3. Be enrolled at an eligible four-year public or independent institution located in South Carolina.
4. Be in the second, third or fourth year of full-time enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment after high school graduation) at an eligible four-year public or independent institution in South Carolina. Students enrolled full-time in an eligible, approved five-year degree program may be eligible to receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement in their fifth year of college enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment after high school graduation); and
5. Earn a total of at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in mathematics and life and physical science courses with a minimum of six hours in mathematics and a minimum of six hours in life and physical science including one laboratory course during the first year of enrollment. For the purpose of meeting the required minimum level of instruction in mathematics and life and physical science courses during a student's first year, Exempted Credit Hours, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Dual Enrollment, Pass/Fail courses with a grade of "Pass" (only), International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in mathematics and life and physical sciences taken in high school in which the student scored a three or more on the advanced placement test and received college credit may count toward the fulfillment of this minimum requirement.

Starting with the Fall 2007 freshman class and thereafter, students who do not meet the minimum fourteen credit hour course requirements by the end of their first year of college enrollment will not be eligible to receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement. In addition, only those students who are currently enrolled at a four-year institution as a sophomore, junior or senior for Fall 2007 are not required to meet the fourteen credit hour requirement to receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement. Instead, these students must meet the continued eligibility requirements earning at least 30 credit hours and a minimum 3.0 institutional GPA as stipulated by law and regulations for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by the end of each academic year, be a recipient of Palmetto Fellows Scholarship funds, and be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major in mathematics or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by the Commission on Higher Education at the time of disbursement of Palmetto Scholarship funds. For continued eligibility each academic year, all students must meet all of the requirements for the base Palmetto Fellows, be a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipient, as well as be enrolled at an eligible four-year institution as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major in science or mathematics in an eligible program approved and assigned a

CIP code by the Commission on Higher Education at the time of disbursement of Palmetto Fellows Scholarship funds.

Terms of Eligibility:

The maximum number of terms of eligibility for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement is based on a student's sophomore/second year of college enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment), with the exception of the summer term immediately prior to the student's initial college enrollment. Beginning with the sophomore/second year of college enrollment, students may receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement for a maximum of six terms (or its equivalent) of full-time study toward the first bachelor's degree. Students must maintain their undergraduate status, with the exception of students enrolled in the Master of Science in Physician Assistant studies, Master of Science in Cytology and Biosciences and the Doctor of Pharmacy program at the University of South Carolina and the Medical University of South Carolina, in order to receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement each academic year. Students enrolled in an approved five-year degree program may be eligible to receive a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship for a fifth year of full-time, undergraduate coursework and a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement for a fourth year of full-time undergraduate coursework. **Students who have already been awarded their first bachelor's degree or graduate degree are not eligible to be awarded a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement.**

Questions:

If you have any questions, concerns or need clarification regarding this directive, please contact Mr. Reginald D. Adams, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Manager, at 803.737.2128 or Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Services, at 803.737.2244.

Summary Table for Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement Eligibility:

IF:	THEN:
Fall 2007 First-time Freshmen and All High School Students	
<p>The student is enrolled as a first-time freshman at an eligible four-year institution in SC,</p>	<p>the student must meet all of the following requirements to receive an Enhancement beginning in the second, third or fourth year of college enrollment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Earn a minimum 3.0 Institutional GPA and of 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year <u>and</u> be a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipient; 2. Earn 14 credit hours in math and science (six in math, six in science, and one lab course) by the end of the first academic year of college enrollment; 3. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution; <u>and</u> 4. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE.
IF:	THEN:
Current Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors (2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 only)	
<p>The student is currently enrolled as a sophomore, junior or senior at an eligible four-year institution in SC,</p>	<p>the student must meet all of the following requirements to receive an Enhancement in the second, third or fourth year of college enrollment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Earn a minimum 3.0 Institutional GPA and 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year <u>and</u> be a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipient; 2. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution 3. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE.
IF:	THEN:
Transfer Students	
<p>The student is transferring from an out-of-state institution or from an in-state institution to an eligible public or independent four-year institution <u>at the end of the academic year</u>,</p>	<p>the student must meet all of the following requirements to receive an Enhancement beginning the second, third or fourth year of college enrollment:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Earn a minimum 3.0 Institutional GPA and 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year <u>and</u> have been offered and declined the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship out of high school. 2. Earn 14 credit hours in math and science (six in math, six in science, and one lab course) by the end of the first academic year of college enrollment; 3. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution in SC. 4. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE.
<p>The student is transferring from an out-of-state institution or from an in-state institution to an eligible public or independent four-year institution <u>mid-year</u>.</p>	<p>the student must meet all of the following requirements to receive an Enhancement beginning the fall term of the following academic year of college enrollment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The must have been offered and declined the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship out of high school. Earn at least 30 credit hours <u>and</u> a 3.0 Institutional GPA by the end of each academic year and be a recipient of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship at the time of enrollment; 2. Earn 14 credit hours in math and science (six in math, six in science, and one lab course) by the end of the first academic year of college enrollment; 3. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution in SC. 4. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE; and 5. Be enrolled in the second, third or fourth year of college enrollment.
IF:	THEN:
First-time Freshmen Classified as Sophomores by the Institution	
<p>The student is enrolling in college at an eligible four-year institution for the first time after high school graduation with enough earned credit hours (e.g., AP, IB, dual enrollment, CLEP) to be classified by the institution as a sophomore,</p>	<p>the student is not eligible to receive the Enhancement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regulations defines first/freshman year for the purpose of the Palmetto Fellows

	<p>Scholarship Program as any student who is enrolled in his or her first or second semester of undergraduate coursework. Exempted credit hours (such as AP, CLEP, etc.) credit hours earned before high school graduation, and credit hours earned the summer term immediately following high school graduation cannot be used to meet annual credit hour requirements for continued eligibility as determined for the PFS.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Regulations also define second/sophomore year for the purpose of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program as any student who is enrolled in his or her third or fourth semester of undergraduate course work. Exempted credit hours earned before high school graduation, and credit hours earned the summer term immediately following high school graduation cannot be used to meet the annual credit hour requirement for continued eligibility for the PFS. 3. Students cannot earn the required 3.0 Institutional GPA during the freshman/first year of college enrollment. <p>(Note: Students <u>can</u> only receive up to six consecutive terms of eligibility for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement.)</p>