

2008 CACRAO Conference  
for  
High School Counselors

# Finding Money For College

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- SC HOPE Scholarship
- LIFE Scholarship
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- LIFE & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement
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# General Eligibility – All Programs

# General Eligibility Criteria Applies to All Programs

- Be a South Carolina resident;
- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident (green card);
- Be enrolled as a degree-seeking student at an eligible South Carolina public or independent institution;
- Certify that the he/she has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol and/or drug-related misdemeanors within the past academic year (except Lottery Tuition Assistance); and

# General Eligibility Criteria Applies to All Programs

## High School Grades and Rank

- Students must have their GPA reported on the 2007 SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) to be eligible for State scholarships
- Transcripts with handwritten, manually typed or strikethrough information cannot be accepted for State scholarship eligibility

**SC Department of Education's UGP:**

**<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/hsr/UGP.html>**

# SC HOPE Scholarship

# SC HOPE Scholarship

## Eligibility Criteria

- Earn at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the UGP upon high school graduation
- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment
- Must not be a recipient of a LIFE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance

# SC HOPE Scholarship

## Awarding Process

- Full-time students attending an eligible four-year institution may receive up to \$2,800 (including a \$300 book allowance) toward the cost-of-attendance during the **first year only**. Half will be awarded in the fall semester and half in the spring semester.
- Students are eligible to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship for up to two terms.
- Students who receive the SC HOPE Scholarship and earn a 3.0 LIFE GPA and 30 credit hours by the end of the first year may receive the **LIFE Scholarship** for the second year of college.

# LIFE Scholarship

# LIFE Scholarship

## Eligibility Criteria

- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment
- Must not be a recipient of the SC HOPE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance during the same academic year

# LIFE Scholarship

## Initial Eligibility Requirements First-time, Full-time Students

### Eligible Four-year Institutions:

Freshmen must meet two of the following three criteria:

1. Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP);
2. Minimum 1100 SAT or 24 ACT; and
3. Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class (diploma eligible students only and based on the SC UGP).

### Eligible Two-year Institutions:

- Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (the standardized test score and class rank requirements are waived).

# LIFE Scholarship

## Award Amounts

- Full-time students attending an eligible SC four-year institution (public and independent) may receive up to \$5,000 (which includes a \$300 book allowance) toward the cost of attendance each academic year.
- Full-time students attending an eligible SC two-year institution (public and independent) may receive up to the cost of tuition and fees plus a \$300 book allowance.

# LIFE Scholarship

## Terms of Eligibility

- The LIFE Scholarship may be awarded for a maximum of eight consecutive semesters (excluding summer school) at a four-year institution, up to four consecutive terms at a two-year institution for an associate's degree program and up to two consecutive terms for a one-year diploma program (based on initial date of college enrollment). The LIFE Scholarship may be awarded for ten consecutive semesters if the student is in a CHE approved 5-year program.

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

## INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### ■ Early Awards

- Application
  - Materials sent to high schools: October 2008
  - Deadline: **December 15, 2008**
- High school seniors must meet one of the following sets of criteria to apply:
  - Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 ACT) by the November test administration, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the 2007 SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) at the end of the junior year, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year

**OR**

- Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the UGP at the end of the junior year (without regard to class rank)

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

## INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (cont'd)

### ■ Final Awards – Fully Eligible Applicants

- Application
  - Materials sent to high schools: April 2009
  - Deadline: **June 15, 2009**
- High school seniors must meet one of the following sets of criteria to apply:
  - Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 ACT) by the June test administration, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the 2007 SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) at the end of the senior year, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of the sophomore, junior or senior year
  - OR**
  - Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the UGP at the end of the senior year (without regard to class rank)

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

## INITIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (cont'd)

### ■ Final Awards – Pending Applicants

- Must be registered for the June test administration (request copy of registration confirmation & include with application materials submitted to CHE)
- Scores must be sent directly to CHE using the following registration codes:
  - SAT Code – 4313
  - ACT Code – 6326
- Both counselor and pending student must submit online portions prior to the June 15th deadline

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

## AWARD INFORMATION

- Must enroll the fall term immediately following high school graduation
- May receive up to \$6,700 the freshman year toward the cost-of-attendance
- Sophomores, juniors and seniors may receive up to \$7,500 per academic year toward the cost-of-attendance
- May receive up to:
  - Eight consecutive full-time terms toward first bachelor's degree or
  - Ten consecutive full-time terms toward first approved five-year bachelor's degree

# **LIFE Scholarship & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements**

[http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/Math  
Sci\\_SchEnhancement.htm](http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/Math_Sci_SchEnhancement.htm)

# LIFE & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements (14 Credit Hour Requirement)

- **Act No. 235** became law on May 22, 2008
  - Changed the minimum level of instruction required in mathematics and science courses
  - Freshman must earn 14 credit hours in the following courses by the end of their first year:
    - mathematics **or**
    - life and physical science **or**
    - a combination of both
  - Removed laboratory course requirement

## LIFE & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements (14 Credit Hour Requirement)

The following courses may be used to meet the fourteen credit hour requirement by the end of the freshman year:

- Exempted credit hours (such as AP, IB, CLEP) \*
- Pass/Fail credit hours for courses with a grade of “Pass”
- Credit hours earned while in high school (dual enrollment) \*
- Credit hours earned in summer school immediately following high school graduation \*
- Credit hours earned at in-state or out-of-state eligible institutions

**\* For the base Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, these types of credit hours cannot be used to meet the annual thirty credit hour requirement (for Enhancement eligibility only)**

# LIFE Scholarship & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements

## ■ LIFE Scholarship Enhancement (Eligible SC Four-Year Colleges)

- Eligible sophomores, juniors and seniors may receive up to \$2,500 in Enhancement funds
- Maximum award is \$7,500 (\$5,000 base award combined with \$2,500 Enhancement award), which cannot exceed cost-of-attendance
- Enhancement may be awarded for up to six consecutive terms

## ■ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

- Eligible sophomores, juniors and seniors may receive up to \$2,500 in Enhancement funds
- Maximum award is \$10,000 (\$7,500 base award combined with \$2,500 Enhancement award), which cannot exceed cost-of-attendance
- Enhancement may be awarded for up to six consecutive terms

# SC Need-based Grant

# SC Need-based Grant (Public Institutions) Awarding Process

- Each academic year, must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Please be sure to check with the institution or the Tuition Grants Commission, if attending an independent institution, concerning their deadlines
- Students must be “needy” based on the results of the FAFSA (consistent with Pell Grant eligibility)
- Students may receive up to \$2,500 annually if enrolled full-time and up to \$1,250 annually if enrolled part-time for a maximum of eight full-time equivalent terms (college’s financial aid office determines the exact award amount)

# SC Need-based Grant

## Awarding Process (Continued)

- Students must be enrolled in their first one-year program, first associate's degree, first two-year program leading to a bachelor's degree, first bachelor's degree, or first professional degree

# SC Need-based Grant

- The SC Tuition Grants Commission awards the SC Need-based Grant for the independent institutions. It is included as part of the Tuition Grant award.

# Foster Care Youth

- Foster care youth may be eligible for the maximum Need-based Grant award of \$2,500 per year; and
- Eligible for an additional award for up to \$2,000
  - Youth must self-identify by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Foster care youth may also be eligible for Chafee and ETV funds through DSS.

# Lottery Tuition Assistance Program

# Lottery Tuition Assistance

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Must file the FAFSA or FAFSA Waiver each academic year (check institutional deadlines)
- Enroll in a minimum of six (6) credit hours each term as a degree-seeking student in a certificate, diploma or associate's degree program

# Lottery Tuition Assistance

## AWARDING PROCESS

- Must first apply federal grants and the SC Need-based Grant toward the cost-of-tuition
- For the Fall 2008 term, students may receive up to \$75 per credit hour if enrolled part-time and up to \$900 if enrolled full-time toward the cost-of-tuition
- The award amount is subject to change each term based on the number of eligible students and available funding

# High School Early Graduation

# Early Graduation

**Students who complete their high school graduation requirements prior to the official graduation date of May/June of their senior year may be eligible to receive the SC HOPE or LIFE Scholarship pending approval by the Commission on Higher Education.**

# Early Graduation Packet

- Must submit a completed updated version of the Early Graduation Application Form. Previous versions will NOT be accepted. Updated applications can be found at [www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/LIFE/HS\\_EarlyGradHm.htm](http://www.che.sc.gov/StudentServices/LIFE/HS_EarlyGradHm.htm)
- Letter from the principal indicating student COMPLETED all requirements for high school graduation. Letter must be original, on school letterhead and signed by the principal only.
- Official transcripts must be sent directly from the high school to the SC Commission on Higher Education.
- Students are responsible for ensuring submission is complete by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

# Early Graduation (continued)

- GPA must be based on the Uniform Grading Policy. Class rank does not apply.
- Grades must include all grades through the December/January deadline.
- SAT/ACT scores should be listed on the official transcript or a separate document (i.e. score report, testing label or high school roster) must be attached to the official transcripts.
- Commission staff will not accept any documents that are copied or faxed.

# SC Commission on Higher Education

- **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk - Director**  
**803.737.2244 or [kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov](mailto:kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov)**
- **Mr. Gerrick Hampton –Residency, S.C. HOPE Scholarship & LIFE Scholarship Co-Manager**  
**803.734.4397 or [ghampton@che.sc.gov](mailto:ghampton@che.sc.gov)**
- **Ms. Sherry Hubbard – Palmetto Fellows Program Coordinator**  
**803.737.2128 or [shubbard@che.sc.gov](mailto:shubbard@che.sc.gov)**
- **Ms. Lorna Manglona-Williams – Need-based Grant & Lottery Tuition Assistance Coordinator**  
**803.737.2262 or [lmangwilliams@che.sc.gov](mailto:lmangwilliams@che.sc.gov)**

**Toll Free After Hours Parent & Student Hotline:**

**877-349-7183**

**5:30 pm – 8:30 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays**

**[www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov)**