



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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October 5, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors of Financial Aid, Directors of Admission and Provosts  
State Scholarship Eligible Institutions, South Carolina High Schools  
(Public and Private)

FROM: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Student Services Division

RE: Fourteen Credit Hour Requirement for LIFE Scholarship and Palmetto  
Fellows Scholarship Enhancements

### Purpose:

The General Assembly passed Act 115 creating the new LIFE Scholarship and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements. With the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement, students majoring in an eligible math or science program may receive up to an additional \$2,500 towards their cost of attendance (in addition to the \$5,000 based LIFE Scholarship award) starting with their second year/sophomore year of college enrollment at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina (based on initial date of college enrollment). For the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, all eligible freshmen will now receive an award up to \$6,700, while all eligible sophomores, juniors and seniors will now receive up to \$7,500. For the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement, eligible students majoring in an eligible math or science program may receive an award up to \$10,000 starting with their second year/sophomore year of college enrollment at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina.

### Eligibility Requirements:

To be awarded a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement or a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement, students must be enrolled full-time with a declared major in an eligible math or science program. In addition, students must meet all eligibility requirements (as stipulated by law and regulation) and be a recipient of either the based LIFE Scholarship or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. Beginning with the Fall 2007 incoming freshman class and thereafter, all students

must also earn at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in math and life and physical science courses with a minimum of six credit hours in math and a minimum of six credit hours in life and physical science including one laboratory course **by the end of the first year of enrollment in college** (based on initial date of college enrollment) to receive a Scholarship Enhancement.

#### **Fourteen Credit Hour Eligibility Requirement:**

In order to be eligible for a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement, students must complete fourteen semester credit hours by the end of the freshman year/first year of college enrollment in math and science. Specifically, students must complete at least six credit hours in math and six credit hours in life or physical science, including one laboratory course by the end of the freshman year/first year, which may include summer school coursework taken after high school graduation. For the purposes of meeting the required minimum level of instruction in mathematics and life and physical science courses for the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement, students may use: exempted credit hours; College Level Examination Program (CLEP) credit hours; dual enrollment courses; 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 to fulfill this minimum requirement. To meet the required minimum level of instruction in mathematics and life and physical science courses for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement, students may use only dual enrollment courses, 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. Remedial/developmental, continuing education, and non-degree credit coursework cannot be used to meet the specified minimum fourteen credit hour course level requirement in mathematics and science to gain eligibility to receive a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement or a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement. The Commission has posted on its website ([www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov)) a list of eligible academic majors as well as a list of disciplines from which coursework may be selected to meet the fourteen credit hour requirement for the Scholarship Enhancements.

#### **Contacts for Technical Assistance:**

Please feel free to contact me (803.737-2244); Mr. Reginald Adams, Coordinator for the Palmetto Fellows Program [radams@che.sc.gov](mailto:radams@che.sc.gov) or Dr. Tajuana Massie, Manager of the LIFE Scholarship Program [tmassie@che.sc.gov](mailto:tmassie@che.sc.gov) if you have further questions. You may also contact Dr. Michael Raley ([mraley@che.sc.gov](mailto:mraley@che.sc.gov)) if you have questions regarding the CHE-approved list of eligible disciplines for qualifying majors or courses. For convenient access to scholarship information after normal business hours, parents and students may also call our Commission hotline from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday (Toll free 1-877-349-7183).