



May 23, 2005

To: Director of Financial Aid, Director of Admissions, and Dean of Enrollment
State Scholarship Eligible Institutions

From: Student Services Division

Subject: Home School Students and Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

CC: Directors of Guidance at Public and Private South Carolina High Schools
Presidents of South Carolina Home School Associations

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

EXPIRATION DATE: Indefinitely

Purpose

To advise institutions of the requirements for determining eligibility for home school students for the Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarships.

Approved Home School Associations

A home school student who has successfully completed a high school home school program in this State in the manner required by law may qualify for a Palmetto Fellows or LIFE Scholarship, if the student has met all eligibility criteria. In order for a home school program to qualify for a state scholarship, the program must be sanctioned according to one of the following:

- 1) The board of trustees of the district in which the student resides: Section 59-65-40
- 2) The South Carolina Association of Independent Home Schools (SCAIHS): Section 59-65-45
- 3) A home school association approved by the State Department of Education: Section 59-65-47

Attached is an updated list of home school associations recognized by the State Department of Education. Please use this list to determine whether a home school student completed a home school program as prescribed by state law. This list may be updated periodically by the Department of Education. Use the following link to obtain the updated list, <http://www.myschools.com/offices/sq/page1411.cfm>.

Scholarship Eligibility Criteria

To determine scholarship eligibility, the student must meet the following general eligibility requirements:

- 1) Graduate from high school or complete a home school program as prescribed by law;
- 2) Attend an eligible South Carolina public or private college or university;
- 3) Be a South Carolina resident at the time of college enrollment (LIFE also requires South Carolina residency at the time of high school graduation.);

- 4) Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident;
- 5) Be enrolled as a full-time degree-seeking student;
- 6) Certify that he or she has not been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor convictions within the past academic year; and
- 7) Verify that he or she does not owe a refund or repayment on any federal or state financial aid.

First-time Entering Freshman at Four-year Institutions:

Home school students must meet the following initial eligibility criteria for the Palmetto Fellows or LIFE Scholarship:

In order to receive the **LIFE Scholarship**, students must meet two of the following three criteria:

- 1) 3.0 cumulative GPA on the Uniform Grading Scale (UGS);
- 2) 1100 SAT/24 ACT;
- 3) Top 30% of graduating class. Beginning with the freshman class in Fall 2005, a hypothetical rank cannot be used to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship. A letter from the home school association verifying class size and rank must be attached to the transcript. If the home school association does not rank, then the student must qualify based upon GPA and SAT/ACT score.

In order to apply for the **Palmetto Fellows Scholarship**, students must meet the following three criteria:

- 1) 3.5 cumulative GPA based on the UGS;
- 2) 1200 SAT/27 ACT; and
- 3) Top 6% of class. Beginning with application period 2005-06, a hypothetical rank cannot be used to qualify for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. A ranking report must be provided by the home school association.

Guideline

The Commission staff recommends that the institutions and high schools inform all relevant personnel of these changes.

Questions

If you have any questions, concerns or need clarification regarding this directive, please contact the following personnel:

- 1) Ms. Sandra Rhyne, LIFE Scholarship Coordinator, (803) 737-2280 or srhyne@che.sc.gov.
- 2) Ms. Sherry Hubbard, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Coordinator, (803) 737-2262 or shubbard@che.sc.gov, or
- 3) Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Services, (803) 737-2244 or kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov.

Enclosure