



Memorandum

To: Directors of Financial Aid  
Eligible LIFE Scholarship Institutions

From: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Director of Student Services

Re: LIFE GPA Update

Date: April 15, 2005

A Directive was sent on February 2, 2005 after parts of the LIFE Sciences Act 187 were struck by the Supreme Court. The directive indicated students could use the old or new LIFE GPA calculation for scholarship eligibility.

Since the ruling, the House and Senate have introduced free-standing LIFE GPA bills, including the new LIFE GPA calculation. Currently, the bills are under consideration of the Senate and the House.

There is included in the House Budget Proviso 5A.25 (CHE: LIFE Eligibility) that addresses the issue. A similar proviso is currently in the Budget reported out by the Senate Finance Committee. The Proviso in the House Budget reads:

**Students who received the LIFE Scholarship under the revised GPA criteria in effect March 17, 2004 until January 28, 2005 will continue to be eligible to receive the scholarship either based on the revised GPA or the GPA requirements in effect prior to March 17, 2004, whichever is more advantageous for the student. Students who would like to have their GPA calculated according to the revised GPA calculations must contact the financial aid office. The student shall have the responsibility of submitting their transcripts from all eligible SC institutions to determine eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship. Furthermore, following any change in LIFE Scholarship GPA requirements, there shall be a delay of one fiscal year in which students are eligible based on either the old criteria or the new criteria, whichever is more advantageous to the student.**

If the free-standing LIFE GPA bills in the General Assembly do not pass and the above proviso remains in the final budget, that would mean students who became eligible for the LIFE Scholarship from March 17, 2004 until January 28, 2005 under the revised new LIFE GPA could continue to have their GPA for the Scholarship calculated using either the revised new LIFE GPA or the institutional GPA.

If legislation amending the LIFE GPA calculation passes, Proviso 5A.25 referenced above would allow for students to begin using the revised calculation if that is more advantageous to the student. It is expected, based on the intent of Proviso 5A.25 that the revised new LIFE GPA would apply to all students the following year.

This means that at this time it is not known if students who self-identified in Summer 2004 (last year) will be able to use the new LIFE GPA calculation for scholarship eligibility in Fall 2005. Institutions should notify students who self-identified last year that their scholarship eligibility is pending legislative action. The Commission is aware that registration for Summer 2005 classes is currently taking place on campuses. Given the uncertain climate with the LIFE GPA, students should enroll in summer classes at their home institution if they wish to ensure the grades and credit hours will be counted towards LIFE Scholarship eligibility.

We will continue to monitor any legislation regarding the LIFE Scholarship during the remainder of the legislative session.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience. If you have any questions, please contact me at (803) 737-2244 or Sandra Rhyne, LIFE Scholarship Coordinator at (803) 737-2280.

Cc: Director of Admissions  
Registrars  
Directors of Enrollment Management