



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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November 8, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk  
Student Services Division

RE: LIFE Scholarship Enhancement Eligibility

### Purpose:

To advise institutions of the requirements for determining students' eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

### Eligibility Requirements:

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 public or independent four-year institution in South Carolina (based on initial date of college enrollment).

To be awarded a LIFE 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 the base LIFE 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 LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

**Student Eligibility:**

To be eligible for a LIFE 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 LIFE Scholarship as stipulated by state law and regulation and be a recipient of LIFE Scholarship funds at the time of LIFE Scholarship Enhancement disbursement;
2. Be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major of science or math in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by the Commission on Higher Education at the time of disbursement of LIFE Scholarship Enhancement funds;
3. Be enrolled at an eligible public or independent four-year 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 also be eligible to receive a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement in their fifth year of college enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment); and
5. Earn a total of at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in math and life and physical science courses with a minimum of six hours in math and a minimum of six hours in life and physical science including one laboratory course by the end of the student's first year/freshman year of enrollment in college (based on initial date of college enrollment). For purposes of meeting the required minimum level of instruction in math and life and physical science courses during a student's first year, Exempted Credit Hours, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Dual Enrollment, courses taken during the summer session immediately prior to the student's initial college enrollment, Pass/Fail courses with a grade of "Pass" (only), International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in math 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 requirement by the end of their first year of college enrollment will not be eligible to receive a LIFE 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 LIFE Scholarship Enhancement (see LIFE Scholarship Regulation Section 62-1200.10). Instead, these students must meet the continued eligibility requirements of earning a minimum average of 30 credit hours and a minimum 3.0 LIFE GPA as stipulated by law and regulation for the LIFE Scholarship by the end of each academic year, be a recipient of LIFE Scholarship funds, and be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major of science or math in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by the Commission on Higher Education at the time of disbursement of LIFE Scholarship Enhancement funds. For continued eligibility each academic year, all students must meet all of the requirements for the base LIFE Scholarship, be a LIFE Scholarship recipient, as well as be enrolled at an eligible four-year institution as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major of science or math in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by the Commission on Higher Education at the time of disbursement of LIFE Scholarship Enhancement funds.

#### **Terms of Eligibility:**

The maximum number of terms of eligibility for a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement is based a student's sophomore year/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 and up to one academic year of full-time enrollment in remedial or developmental coursework taken while enrolled at a two-year institution. Beginning with the sophomore year/second year of college enrollment, students may receive a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement for a maximum of six consecutive terms (i.e., three academic years) towards a first bachelor's degree in an eligible program of study or towards a 3 plus 2 program, and eight consecutive terms (i.e., four academic years) towards an approved five-year bachelor's degree program. In cases where students are enrolled in a program of study that is structured so as not to require a bachelor's degree for acceptance into the program and leads to a graduate degree, which will be the students' first academic degree awarded, such students must maintain their undergraduate status to be awarded the LIFE Scholarship for up to eight consecutive terms and the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement for up to six consecutive terms each year, with the exception of students majoring in the Master's of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program, the Master's of Science in Cytology and Biosciences Program and the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the University of South Carolina-Columbia and the Medical University of South Carolina. **Students who have already been awarded their first bachelor's degree or graduate degree are not eligible to be awarded a LIFE Scholarship or a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.**

#### **Questions**

If you have any questions, concerns or need clarification regarding this directive, please contact Dr. Tajuana Massie, LIFE Scholarship Manager, at (803) 737-2271 or Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Services, at (803) 737-2244.

**Summary Table for LIFE Scholarship Enhancement Eligibility:**

<b>IF:</b>	<b>THEN:</b>
<b>Fall 2007 First-time Freshmen <u>and</u> All High School Students</b>	
The student is enrolled as a first-time freshman at an eligible four-year institution in SC,	<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"> <li>1. Earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE GPA and an average of 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year <u>and</u> be a LIFE Scholarship recipient;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution; <u>and</u></li> <li>4. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE.</li> </ol>
The student is enrolled as a freshman at an eligible two-year institution in SC,	<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"> <li>1. Earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE GPA and an average of 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year <u>and</u> be a LIFE Scholarship recipient;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution. (Students enrolled at two-year institutions <u>must</u> transfer to an eligible four-year institution to receive an Enhancement.); <u>and</u></li> <li>4. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE.</li> </ol>
<b>Current Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors (2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 only)</b>	
The student is currently enrolled as a sophomore, junior or senior at an eligible four-year institution in SC,	the student must meet all of the following requirements to receive an Enhancement in the second, third or fourth year of college

	<p>enrollment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE GPA and an average of 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year <u>and</u> be a LIFE Scholarship recipient;</li> <li>2. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution. (If the student initially enrolled at a two-year institution, the student <b>must</b> transfer to an eligible four-year institution to receive an Enhancement.); <b>and</b></li> <li>3. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE.</li> </ol>
<b>IF:</b>	<b>THEN:</b>
<b>First-Time Freshmen Mid-Year Enrollees</b>	
<p>The student is a first-time freshman who initially enrolls in college mid-year (i.e., spring term),</p>	<p>the student must meet all of the following requirements to receive an Enhancement beginning the spring term of the second year of college enrollment (i.e., beginning the third consecutive term of full-time enrollment):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Earn a minimum average of 15 credit hours <u>and</u> a 3.0 LIFE GPA by the end of the current academic year (i.e., summer sessions) <u>and</u> be a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship the following academic year;</li> <li>2. Earn a minimum average of 30 credit hours by the end of the fall term/second consecutive term of full-time enrollment;</li> <li>3. Earn 14 credit hours in math and science (six in math, six in science, and one lab course) by the end of the fall term/second consecutive term of full-time enrollment;</li> <li>4. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution. (If the student initially enrolled at a two-year institution, the student <b>must</b> transfer to an eligible four-year institution to receive an Enhancement.);</li> <li>5. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code</li> </ol>

	by CHE; <b>and</b> 6. Be enrolled in the second, third or fourth year of college enrollment.
<b>IF:</b>	<b>THEN:</b>
<b>Transfer Students</b>	
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 <b><u>at the end of the academic year,</u></b>	<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"> <li>1. Earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE GPA and an average of 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year <b>and</b> be a LIFE Scholarship recipient upon enrollment;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution in SC; <b>and</b></li> <li>4. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE.</li> </ol>
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 <b><u>mid-year,</u></b>	<p>the student must meet all of the following requirements to receive an Enhancement beginning the spring term of the second year of college enrollment (i.e., beginning the third consecutive term of full-time enrollment):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Earn a minimum average of 30 credit hours <b>and</b> a 3.0 LIFE GPA by the end of each academic year and be a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship at the time of enrollment;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution in SC;</li> <li>4. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE; <b>and</b></li> <li>5. Be enrolled in the second, third or fourth year of college enrollment.</li> </ol>

<b>IF:</b>	<b>THEN:</b>
<b>First-time Freshmen Classified as Sophomores by the Institution</b>	
<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><b><u>LIFE Scholarship Enhancement Regulation, Definition Section 62-1200.5:</u></b></p> <p>T. “Fourth year/ senior year” shall mean seventh or eighth semester of full-time, undergraduate coursework following high school graduation.</p> <p>MM. “Second year/sophomore year” shall mean any student who is enrolled in his or her third or fourth semester of full-time, undergraduate coursework following high school graduation.</p> <p>OO. “Third year/junior year” shall mean the fifth or sixth semester of full-time, undergraduate coursework following high school graduation.</p>	<p>the student <b><u>must</u></b> meet <b><u>all</u></b> 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"> <li>1. Earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE GPA and an average of 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year <b><u>and</u></b> be a LIFE Scholarship recipient;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>3. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution; <b><u>and</u></b></li> <li>4. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE.</li> </ol> <p><b>(Note: Students <u>can</u> only receive up to six consecutive terms of eligibility for a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement beginning with their second, third or fourth year of college enrollment.)</b></p>
<b>Spring 2007 Midterm Enrollees</b>	
<p>The student initially enrolled in college for the first time after high school graduation at a two-year or a four-year institution during Spring 2007,</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"> <li>1. Earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE GPA and an average of 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year <b><u>and</u></b> be a LIFE Scholarship recipient;</li> <li>2. Be enrolled full-time as a degree-seeking student at an eligible four-year institution. (If the student initially enrolled at a two-year institution, the student <b><u>must</u></b> transfer to an eligible four-year institution to receive an Enhancement.); <b><u>and</u></b></li> <li>3. Declare a major in math or science in an eligible program that is approved and assigned a CIP code by CHE.</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> Similar to all current sophomores,</p>

	juniors, and seniors, students who initially enrolled in college in Spring 2007 are <u>not</u> required to meet the fourteen credit hour course level requirement.
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