



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Mr. Tim M. Hofferth, Chair
Ms. Dianne C. Kuhl, Vice Chair
Mr. Paul O. Batson, III
Mr. Devron H. Edwards
Dr. Bettie Rose Horne
Mr. Richard A. Jones, Jr.
Mr. Kenneth W. Kirkland
Ms. Allison Dean Love
Dr. Louis B. Lynn
Vice Admiral Charles Munns, USN (ret.)
Mr. Kim F. Phillips
Ms. Terrye C. Seckinger

Mr. Jeffrey M. Schilz
Interim President and Executive Director

November 2, 2017

MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Tim Hofferth and Member, SC Commission on Higher Education
From: Chairman Paul Batson, III and Members, Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

FY2017-18 SC National Guard College Assistance Program

In 2007, to better support the recruitment goals of the SC National Guard (SCNG), legislation was passed that closed the SC National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program and replaced it with a college assistance program (**Attachment I**). A new financial assistance program for SC National Guard members, the SC National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP), was implemented in academic year 2007-08. The SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE) in consultation with the SCNG developed program guidance, and CHE promulgated regulations for the operation and administration of the SCNG CAP pursuant to SC Code of Laws Section 59-114-10 et seq. in 2009.

The SCNG CAP is administered by CHE in consultation with the SCNG and provides financial assistance for eligible enlisted guard members enrolled in undergraduate programs. Eligible Army Guard members may receive up to \$4,500 per year and eligible Air Guard members may receive up to \$9,000 per year. The cumulative total of all SCNG CAP benefits received may not exceed eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000).

All eligible students have been funded each year by the SCNG CAP with the exception of academic year 2012-13. During academic year 2012-13, the program met its funding capacity during the fall 2012 term and there were no awards for the spring 2013 term. Funding for the SCNG CAP, lottery appropriated funds, increased from \$1.7 million to \$4.5 million in FY2013-14 to serve additional SCNG members. However, the number of SCNG CAP awards did not increase as anticipated. For FY2015-16, \$3 million of unexpended SCNG CAP funds were transferred to the Veterans Differential Reimbursement Fund per Proviso 3.8. The SCNG continue efforts to increase the number of CAP recipients (**Attachment II**). However, the carryover of unexpended funds for FY2017-18 was \$3,684,954.04.

Beginning academic year 2016-17, Army Guard Members who were "flagged" for not meeting policy standards were no longer eligible to receive CAP. Examples of "flagging" actions are Army physical fitness test failure, alcohol and drug abuse violations, and security violations. The decrease in the number of eligible Army Guard members during the 2016-17 academic year was anticipated. On September 1, 2016, the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services approved the recommendation to remove the 130 attempted credit hour maximum from the SCNG CAP Regulation.

Prior to the completion of eight semesters, required Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) courses, Required Physical Education Program (RPED) courses, and required military training hours are impacting the academic degree hours. Removal of this statutory requirement will allow Guard members the opportunity to fully utilize the \$18,000 maximum benefit. CHE Staff continues to work with the Guard regarding this change in statute. As of September 29, 2017, 103 Air Guard members and 676 Army Guard members have received eligibility for this academic year. However, the actual number of awards may be less than the number of eligible members. All eligible members do not enroll, enroll part-time, or do not receive an award due to eligibility requirements.

CHAPTER 114
South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program Act

SECTION 59-114-10. Short title.

This chapter may be cited as the "South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program Act".

HISTORY: 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year.

Effect of Amendment

The 2007 amendment substituted "College Assistance Program" for "Tuition Assistance".

SECTION 59-114-20. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Academic year" means a period of three hundred sixty-five days beginning with the first day of enrollment for a course of instruction by a National Guard member.

(2) "College assistance program" means the South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program.

(3) "Commission" means the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

(4) "Eligible institution" means:

(a) a public institution of higher learning as defined in Section 59-103-5 and an independent institution of higher learning as defined in Section 59-113-50; and

(b) a public or independent bachelor's level institution chartered before 1962 whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina; or an independent bachelor's level institution which was incorporated in its original charter in 1962, was granted a license to operate in 1997 by the Commission on Higher Education, has continued to maintain a campus in South Carolina, and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Institutions whose sole purpose is religious or theological training, or the granting of professional degrees do not meet the definition of 'public or independent institution' for purposes of this chapter.

(5) "National Guard" means South Carolina Army or Air National Guard.

(6) "Tuition and fees" means the amount charged for registering for credit hours of instruction, costs of textbooks, and other fees and charges associated with attendance at an eligible institution as approved by the commission.

HISTORY: 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year.

Effect of Amendment

The 2007 amendment rewrote this section.

SECTION 59-114-30. College assistance program grants; restrictions.

Qualifying members of the National Guard may receive college assistance program grants up to an amount equal to one hundred percent of college tuition and fees, provided, however, the total of all grants received may not exceed eighteen thousand dollars. A member may not qualify for college assistance program grants for more than one hundred thirty semester hours or related quarter hours. Grants are not to be awarded for graduate degree courses. A new application must be submitted for each separate academic year prior to the beginning of the academic year. The annual maximum grant must be determined for each academic year based on the amount of available program funds.

HISTORY: 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5; 1997 Act No. 155, Part II, Section 53A; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year; 2014 Act No. 151 (H.3784), Section 1, eff April 7, 2014.

Effect of Amendment

The 2007 amendment rewrote this section.

2014 Act No. 151, Section 1, in the second to the last sentence, added "prior to the beginning of the academic year", and added the last sentence, relating to annual maximum grant.

SECTION 59-114-40. Qualification requirements.

(A) Members of the National Guard enrolled or planning to enroll in an eligible institution may apply to the commission for a college assistance program grant. To qualify, an applicant must:

(1) be in good standing with the active National Guard at the beginning of each academic year and remain a member in good standing with the active National Guard throughout the entire academic year for which benefits are payable;

(2) have valid tuition and fee expenses from an eligible institution;

(3) maintain a cumulative grade point average that the institution requires to remain as a student; and

(4) satisfy additional eligibility requirements as may be promulgated by the commission.

(B) Individuals joining the National Guard become eligible for college assistance program grants upon completion of basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Enlisted personnel shall continue their service in the National Guard during the term of the courses covered by the grant received. Officers shall continue their service with the National Guard for at least four years after completion of the most recent grant awarded or degree completion.

(C) National Guard members receiving a full Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship are not eligible for college assistance program grants.

HISTORY: 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5; 1997 Act No. 155, Part II, Section 53B; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year; 2014 Act No. 151 (H.3784), Section 2, eff April 7, 2014.

Effect of Amendment

The 2007 amendment rewrote this section.

2014 Act No. 151, Section 2, in subsection (B), substituted "upon completion of basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT)" for "on the day of enlistment".

SECTIONS 59-114-50, 59-114-60. Omitted by 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007.

Editor's Note

Former Section 59-114-50 was entitled "Administration of program; regulations" and was derived from 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5.

Former Section 59-114-60 was entitled "Agreements for rebating or carrying forward credit on accounts" and was derived from 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5.

SECTION 59-114-65. Grants dependent on availability of funds; administration costs.

Grants provided pursuant to this chapter are subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the General Assembly. Funds appropriated for the college assistance program may be carried forward and expended for the same purpose. If a midyear budget reduction is imposed by the General Assembly or the Executive Budget Office, as appropriate, the appropriations for the college assistance program are exempt. Up to five percent of the amount appropriated to the college assistance program may be used to defray administrative costs incurred by the commission associated with the implementation of this chapter.

HISTORY: 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year; 2014 Act No. 151 (H.3784), Section 3, eff April 7, 2014.

Code Commissioner's Note

At the direction of the Code Commissioner, references in this section to the offices of the former State Budget and Control Board, Office of the Governor, or other agencies, were changed to reflect the transfer of them to the Department of Administration or other entities, pursuant to the directive of the South Carolina Restructuring Act, 2014 Act No. 121, Section 5(D)(1), effective July 1, 2015.

Effect of Amendment

2014 Act No. 151, Section 3, added the second and third sentences, relating to the carry forward of funds and midyear budget reduction.

SECTION 59-114-70. Omitted by 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007.

Editor's Note

Former Section 59-114-70 was entitled "Tuition assistance payments made directly to applicants" and was derived from 1979 Act No. 199 Part II, Section 5; 1997 Act No. 155, Part II, Section 53C.

SECTION 59-114-75. Grants to institutions; recovery of funds upon withdrawal of student; promulgation of regulations.

The commission shall disburse grants awarded pursuant to this chapter to the eligible institutions to be placed in an account established for each eligible student. In the event that a student who has received a grant withdraws, is suspended, or otherwise becomes ineligible, the institution must reimburse the college assistance program for the amount of the grant for the applicable term pursuant to the refund policies of the institution. The institution is responsible for collecting any amount due to the institution from the student. The commission shall administer the provisions of this chapter and shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter.

HISTORY: 2001 Act No. 41, Section 2; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year.

Effect of Amendment

The 2007 amendment rewrote this section.

South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program

Attachment II

AY* 2007-2008 through AY* 2011-2012

Unduplicated headcount as of September 29, 2017

	AY 2007-2008		AY 2008-2009		AY 2009-2010		AY 2010-2011		AY 2011-2012	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Research Institutions										
Clemson Univ.	13	36,000	22	87,008	22	100,688	32	136,688	33	117,476
USC Columbia	46	129,499	80	304,113	93	372,291	81	310,610	65	260,411
MUSC									1	4,500
Subtotal	59	165,499	102	391,120	115	472,979	113	447,298	99	382,387
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions										
The Citadel	52	158,226	95	359,574	103	388,174	93	351,558	76	271,064
Coastal Carolina Univ.	4	12,014	21	79,753	39	139,499	32	119,250	39	139,540
College of Charleston	4	13,500	8	49,500	11	51,188	10	42,188	11	41,650
Francis Marion Univ.	7	19,594	16	70,646	33	130,500	39	165,375	30	112,501
Lander Univ.	11	23,337	14	59,625	17	65,200	15	57,768	19	77,846
South Carolina State Univ.	33	94,500	55	225,995	57	225,000	43	159,328	35	146,250
USC Aiken	5	11,250	8	29,813	7	23,625	9	45,536	12	47,812
USC Beaufort	2	3,375	3	11,250	1	4,500	3	13,500	4	15,750
USC Upstate	14	46,245	31	132,568	27	98,939	27	95,625	34	112,938
Winthrop Univ.	5	16,455	17	70,120	22	101,064	26	115,876	31	129,937
Subtotal	137	398,496	268	1,088,843	317	1,227,689	297	1,166,004	291	1,095,288
Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC										
USC Lancaster	2	4,500	8	19,886	3	10,687	5	15,750	5	18,000
USC Salkehatchie			1	1,688	2	9,000	4	15,750	3	8,438
USC Sumter	9	17,875	8	31,253	4	9,001	7	25,313	6	28,688
USC Union			4	11,250	5	13,500	1	1,688	2	6,188
Subtotal	11	22,375	21	64,076	14	42,188	17	58,500	16	61,313
Technical Colleges										
Aiken	3	7,875	15	57,240	15	53,139	19	73,691	21	77,814
Central Carolina	4	2,813	28	109,384	38	139,501	29	116,913	29	91,290
Denmark					5	15,187	5	12,375		
Florence-Darlington	12	30,938	14	25,875	18	40,845	32	60,647	46	135,338
Greenville			43	134,438	44	115,165	40	137,250	53	167,125
Horry-Georgetown	8	14,151	18	49,709	30	90,561	22	57,938	19	71,437
Midlands	47	87,718	109	271,581	145	428,074	129	397,183	132	438,263
Northeastern	1	3,938	6	15,610	9	16,532	9	27,000	11	33,867
Orangeburg-Calhoun	4	6,037	7	16,937	9	22,475	13	27,798	7	26,422
Piedmont	16	33,750	25	77,625	22	66,938	19	57,378	35	110,022
Spartanburg CC	3	7,875	23	73,680	29	92,250	31	98,438	37	113,254
TC of The Lowcountry	2	3,932	6	22,500	15	39,943	16	45,008	11	31,149
Tri-County	7	18,703	16	37,931	21	66,094	33	114,225	52	150,328
Trident	10	33,751	45	123,757	47	125,445	39	99,570	49	155,817
Williamsburg							3	7,313	5	20,250
York	3	6,187	13	44,440	19	60,752	28	92,815	23	73,130
Subtotal	120	257,666	368	1,060,706	466	1,372,900	467	1,425,539	530	1,695,505
Independent Senior Institutions										
Allen University	3	6,750	1	2,250	6	23,063	1	4,500	1	4,500
Anderson University	4	13,500	4	11,140	9	35,970	10	36,563	13	41,188
Benedict College	6	12,937	16	54,000	24	87,750	22	90,000	16	58,500
Bob Jones University	1	2,250	2	7,000			1	2,250	1	3,375
Charleston Southern Univ.	4	17,437	7	25,875	11	38,174	14	46,970	6	21,938
Clafin University			2	9,000	8	20,813	17	62,500	17	59,750
Coker College	4	5,063	8	30,153	7	26,438	3	10,125	3	7,313
Columbia College	2	6,188	2	6,750	6	21,938	4	13,500	1	4,500
Columbia International Univ.	1	4,500	2	9,000	1	2,250			1	2,250
Converse College										
Erskine College										
Furman University							1	9,000	2	6,750
Limestone College	55	107,416	119	382,677	161	507,330	175	558,281	253	788,579
Morris College	1	4,500	7	27,000	14	55,125	14	63,000	10	41,785
Newberry College	1	2,250	5	20,250	7	22,500	4	18,000	7	27,000
North Greenville University			3	9,000	4	13,500	1	4,500	2	6,750
Presbyterian College							1	2,250	1	4,500
South University	8	20,250	15	63,750	15	73,500	23	86,250	28	79,125
Southern Wesleyan Univ.	7	27,000	20	63,334	12	49,500	12	32,062	14	44,438
Voorhees College			3	3,784	7	29,250	7	29,250	3	13,500
Wofford College										
Subtotal	97	230,040	216	724,963	292	1,007,101	310	1,069,000	379	1,215,740
Independent Two-Year Institutions										
Spartanburg Methodist Coll.	2	4,500	3	9,000	2	6,750	2	4,500		
Subtotal	2	4,500	3	9,000	2	6,750	2	4,500		
ACADEMIC TOTALS	426	\$1,078,575	978	\$3,338,709	1,206	\$4,129,605	1,206	\$4,170,840	1,315	\$4,450,232

*Academic year includes Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer.

South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program

AY* 2012-2013 through AY* 2016-2017

Unduplicated headcount as of September 29, 2017

	AY 2012-2013**		AY 2013-2014		AY 2014-2015		AY 2015-2016		AY 2016-2017	
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount
Research Institutions										
Clemson Univ.	31	75,938	26	102,375	15	63,000	18	77,203	21	80,438
USC Columbia	57	142,150	64	274,268	76	357,494	90	406,412	75	299,813
MUSC	1	2,250	1	4,500	1	4,500	1	2,250	1	4,500
Subtotal	89	220,338	91	381,143	92	424,994	109	485,865	97	384,750
Comprehensive Teaching Institutions										
The Citadel	65	148,500	67	267,750	58	243,562	76	317,250	50	214,313
Coastal Carolina Univ.	36	85,500	47	181,126	51	222,191	45	176,625	44	159,750
College of Charleston	10	26,438	9	49,500	12	52,875	14	58,500	9	45,000
Francis Marion Univ.	32	71,438	32	118,125	25	98,438	29	104,063	17	63,563
Lander Univ.	16	36,000	13	47,813	18	74,250	17	69,188	10	40,500
South Carolina State Univ.	29	63,000	15	60,971	25	103,499	29	123,750	16	67,500
USC Aiken	10	25,269	7	28,164	8	32,625	13	57,376	15	66,375
USC Beaufort	1	1,687	2	4,500	3	7,875	6	27,000	7	26,438
USC Upstate	35	84,938	37	143,438	35	154,687	45	188,438	40	158,625
Winthrop Univ.	24	63,000	20	79,875	20	89,438	26	110,906	24	104,625
Subtotal	258	605,768	249	981,261	255	1,079,438	300	1,233,095	232	946,688
Two-Year Regional Campuses of USC										
USC Lancaster	4	8,438	3	11,250	3	9,000	2	6,750	1	4,500
USC Salkehatchie	3	6,750	4	14,062	5	12,934	6	13,499	2	9,788
USC Sumter	3	10,125	3	9,000	6	20,250	4	17,437	1	2,250
USC Union	2	3,938	1	1,688	2	4,500	2	5,625	2	5,625
Subtotal	12	29,250	11	36,000	16	46,684	14	43,311	6	22,163
Technical Colleges										
Aiken	16	31,501	2	7,876	6	19,558	3	11,251	8	28,688
Central Carolina	15	33,418	16	65,874	12	42,891	12	41,766	13	39,375
Denmark							1	4,500		
Florence-Darlington	23	46,688	24	88,875	22	74,813	16	57,108	12	38,250
Greenville	33	78,188	28	98,541	31	108,563	42	129,544	42	149,063
Horry-Georgetown	10	18,000	9	34,872	14	56,437	21	79,881	21	65,253
Midlands	73	170,508	63	241,127	67	246,366	74	260,206	69	220,162
Northeastern	4	6,439			2	5,710	3	9,000	4	10,125
Orangeburg-Calhoun	9	16,389	4	11,249	5	19,125	7	15,188	4	11,251
Piedmont	25	47,816	9	24,189	7	19,688	7	20,251	13	48,377
Spartanburg CC	18	36,000	10	31,763	15	54,563	20	72,000	14	54,000
TC of The Lowcountry	6	12,376	3	8,439	9	28,688	4	10,685	3	5,063
Tri-County	30	63,141	20	61,313	26	105,252	37	129,369	13	47,250
Trident	21	48,938	19	74,254	23	70,316	29	101,816	26	65,254
Williamsburg			1	9,000					3	10,125
York	7	15,188	26	89,440	15	56,815	16	55,690	13	41,064
Subtotal	290	624,588	234	846,810	254	908,782	292	998,254	258	833,299
Independent Senior Institutions										
Allen University	2	4,500	4	10,126	3	18,000	2	13,500	2	7,876
Anderson University	10	19,686	5	13,088	3	9,563	1	4,500	1	4,500
Benedict College	9	18,563	1	2,250	5	23,400	7	16,875	3	18,000
Bob Jones University					1	4,500	2	6,750	1	2,250
Charleston Southern Univ.	6	12,937	4	14,625	3	9,000	6	24,750	5	16,313
Clafin University	20	45,000	12	46,687	10	42,750	9	29,813	14	46,125
Coker College	1	2,250	1	2,250	1	4,500	3	11,250	3	11,250
Columbia College	1	2,250			2	11,250	4	19,125		
Columbia International Univ.	1	1,125			2	5,063	4	16,875	2	9,000
Converse College										
Erskine College										
Furman University	2	6,750	1	2,250						
Limestone College	148	291,364	105	344,166	78	251,035	74	224,663	65	191,810
Morris College	4	9,000	1	2,250	3	11,760	4	18,000	3	18,000
Newberry College	4	9,000	1	4,500	1	4,500			2	4,875
North Greenville University	3	6,750	13	51,750	14	57,937	8	36,000	6	22,500
Presbyterian College	1	2,250			1	9,000	1	9,000		
South University	11	14,600	11	47,063	8	35,365	13	35,875	5	18,000
Southern Wesleyan Univ.	11	23,625	6	16,875	5	18,000	4	16,098	2	8,438
Voorhees College	7	15,750	4	13,500	10	40,500	4	13,500	4	15,750
Wofford College									1	2,250
Subtotal	241	485,400	169	571,379	150	556,122	146	496,574	119	396,937
Independent Two-Year Institutions										
Spartanburg Methodist Coll.					2	4,500	2	9,000	1	2,250
Subtotal					2	4,500	2	9,000	1	2,250
ACADEMIC TOTALS	890	\$1,965,343	754	\$2,816,592	769	\$3,020,520	863	\$3,266,100	713	\$2,586,087

*Academic year includes Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer.

**Awards for 2012-13 were only available in Fall 2012