



# South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

**Scholarships and Grants  
Workshop 2014**

# State Programs

- SC Need-based Grant
- Lottery Tuition Assistance
- SC HOPE Scholarship
- LIFE Scholarship
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

# General Eligibility Requirements

SC HOPE, LIFE & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

SC Need-based Grant

Lottery Tuition Assistance

- US Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident\*
- SC Resident\*
- No felony convictions
- No second or subsequent alcohol/drug misdemeanors
- Not in default of any state or federal loans
- Enroll in a degree-seeking program at an eligible SC institution

*\*this must be determined at the time of high school graduation.*

# SC Need-based Grant

Must complete the FAFSA application each year and be determined “needy” based on Title IV

Can be used at any 2-year or 4-year public institution.

Must be considered a degree seeking student.

Up to \$2,500 for full-time or \$1,250 for part-time.

# SC Need-based Grant Additional Programs

## Foster Care Youth

Up to the maximum  
\$2,500 SC NBG  
award/year, plus up  
to an additional  
\$2,000

*\*Student needs to work with the  
Financial Aid office, DSS, and CHE*

## College Transition Program

Programs at 5 eligible  
SC institutions for  
intellectually disabled  
students.

*\*Student needs to be determined  
needy by Title IV guidelines*

# Lottery Tuition Assistance

**\$95/Credit  
hour up to  
\$1,140 for  
full time**

**Complete  
the FAFSA  
application**

**Enrolled as a degree  
seeking student at one  
of the: 16 technical  
schools, 2-year USC  
satellite campuses, or  
Spartanburg  
Methodist College**

# State Scholarships and Residency: Basic Breakdown

Students must have their immigration status verified through a federal process as either a US Citizen or legal permanent resident before they can be awarded any State scholarship.

Students must be verified by the institution as a SC resident before they can be awarded any State scholarship.

A student who is NOT verified as a US Citizen or legal permanent resident **AND** who is not verified as a SC resident **at the time of their high school graduation** cannot receive State scholarships at the time of initial enrollment or at any point in the future.

# SC HOPE Scholarship

## Eligibility:

3.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation

<p>No application Process. Institution reviews final high school transcript.</p>	<p>Must attend an eligible SC 4-year institution</p>	<p>Up to \$2,800 For the 1st academic year only (2 terms)</p>
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# LIFE Scholarship

## Eligibility at a 2-year institution

- 3.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation

## Eligibility at a 4-year institution

- **Earn 2 of the follow 3 requirements**
  - 3.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation
  - 1100/SAT or 24/ACT
  - Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class

# LIFE Scholarship

## Terms of Eligibility

- Up to 4 consecutive semesters of eligibility at a 2-year institution
- Up to 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility at a 4-year institution

## Up to \$5,000 per academic year

- Not to exceed to the Cost of Attendance
- Must attend an eligible SC institution

# “Facts of LIFE” Scholarship

**NO  
application  
process**

**Not required  
to begin  
college  
immediately  
after high  
school**

**Can *earn* LIFE  
Scholarship  
after 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
or 3<sup>rd</sup>  
academic  
year**

**Student has  
until the end  
of an  
academic year  
to earn the  
GPA/Credit  
hours**

**Dual Enrollment and college enrollment while in high school and/or prior to enrolling in college**

**Grades and credit hours earned at colleges and universities (in-state, out-of state, abroad)**

**LIFE GPA**

**Includes “F” and “D” Grades**

**Grades and credit hours earned while enrolled in college (including summer school)**

# A “Walk Through Life”

**End of 1<sup>st</sup>  
Academic  
Year**

**Earn a 3.0  
Cum LIFE  
GPA**

**Earn at least  
30 credit  
hours**

**End of 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Academic  
Year**

**Earn a 3.0  
Cum LIFE  
GPA**

**Earn at least  
60 credit  
hours**

**End of 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Academic  
Year**

**Earn a 3.0  
Cum LIFE  
GPA**

**Earn at least  
90 credit  
hours**

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS): Application Periods

- Any eligible student will need to be a part of the Early or Late Award application process during their year of graduation
  - TWO opportunities to apply:
    - Early Award: Mid-October- December 15<sup>th</sup>
    - Late Award: Mid-April-June 15<sup>th</sup>
      - Should the deadline fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is the preceding Friday.
- \*a student cannot use Early Award documentation for the Late Award\****
- \*\*a student cannot apply or earn the PFS once they have graduated high school\*\****
- Counselor driven application process
    - The application and application materials must be submitted via the high school/home school association and in the Commission office by the established deadlines (listed above)

# PFS Eligibility Requirements

- For schools that have an official policy on rank that has been reviewed by the Commission for compliance with the established Regulations:
  - Rank in the top 6% at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup>, or the 11<sup>th</sup>, or the 12<sup>th</sup> grade academic year
- Earn a 1200 on the SAT/27 on the ACT (through the June test administration of the graduating year)
- Earn a 3.5 cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP)

**OR**

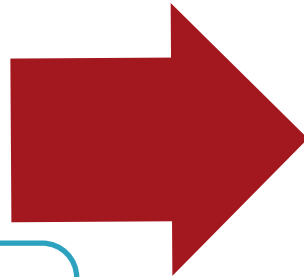
## **Alternate Criteria** (without regard to rank)

- Earn a 1400 on the SAT/32 on the ACT (through the June test administration of the graduating year)
- Earn a 4.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP)

# PFS

**1<sup>st</sup> Year**

- Up to  
**\$6,700**



**2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>  
Years**

- Up to  
**\$7,500**



# Important PFS Points

- The student **MUST** attend an eligible 4-year institution the fall semester immediately following high school graduation
  - Enrolling in a 2-year institution during a fall or spring semester forfeits the student's PFS eligibility
  - Not enrolling the fall semester upon high school graduation forfeits the student's PFS eligibility
- A student who attends an out-of-state institution can use any remaining terms of the PFS should they transfer to an eligible SC institution and meet the PFS renewal requirements
- In order for the student to receive scholarship funds they **MUST** complete the DESIGNATION FORM
  - This is the SOLE responsibility of the student
  - The student is provided this form via email to the email listed on the electronic application

# How do I keep the PFS?

3.0  
cumulative  
**institutional**  
GPA

(Cannot transfer  
grades from other  
colleges)

Earn 30  
credit hours  
**each**  
academic  
year

Does NOT include AP, IB,  
Dual Enrollment, CLEP or  
exempted credit hours

# LIFE & PFS Enhancements

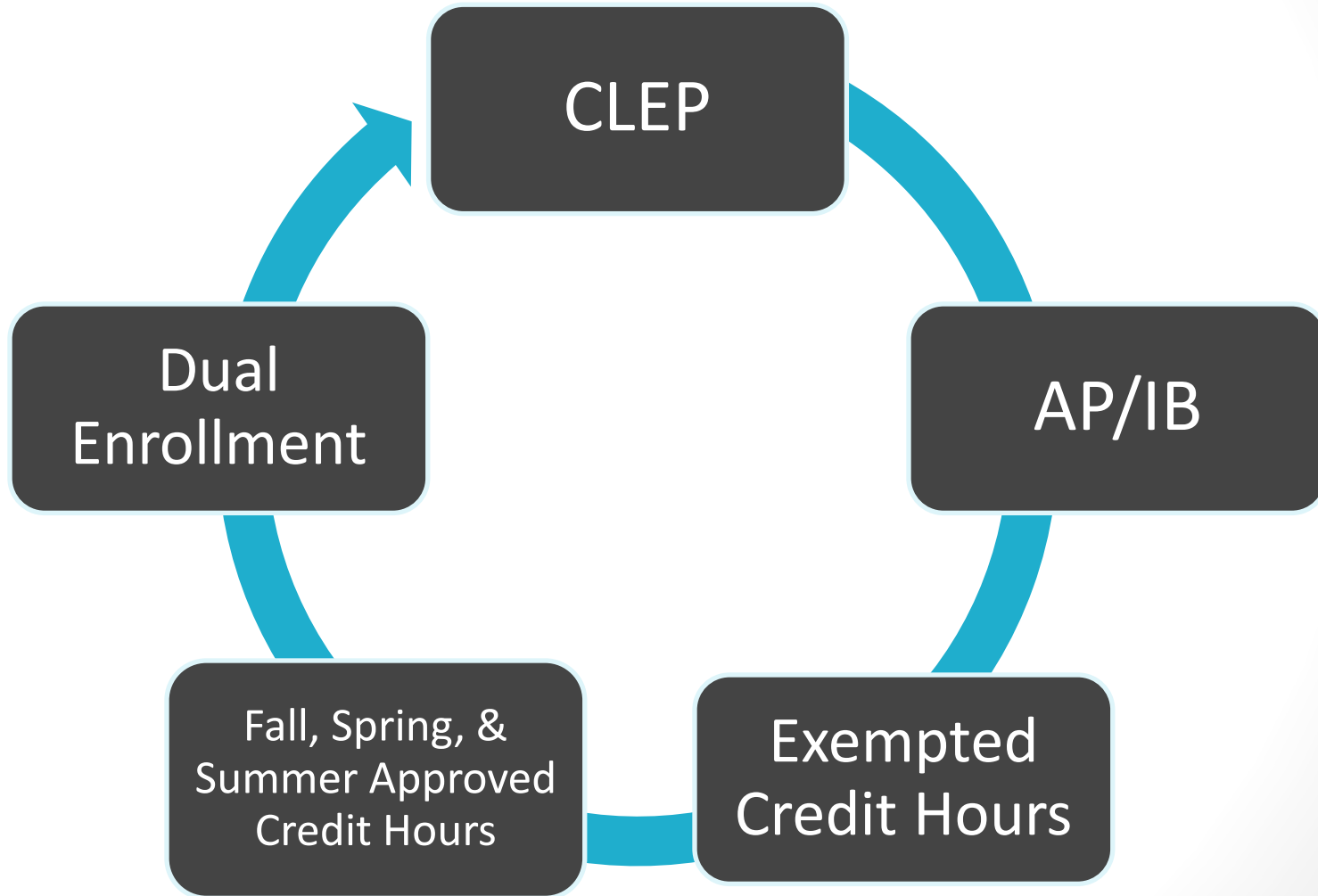
Must be enrolled in an eligible major at their home institution

Must Earn 14 credit hours of math and/or science by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> academic year

Starts the student's 2<sup>nd</sup> academic year (6 semesters) at a 4-year institution only

Up to an additional \$2,500

# 14 Credit Hour Acceptable Courses



# Enhancements

## LIFE

1<sup>st</sup>  
Year

- Up to \$5,000

2<sup>nd</sup>,  
3<sup>rd</sup>, &  
4<sup>th</sup>  
Years

- +Enhancement up to \$7,500

## PFS

1<sup>st</sup>  
Year

- Up to \$6,700

2<sup>nd</sup>,  
3<sup>rd</sup>, &  
4<sup>th</sup>  
Years

- Up to \$7,500
- + Enhancement up to \$10,000

# General State Scholarship & Grant Information

- No State Scholarships or grants may be used at an out-of-state institution at any time
- Academic Common Market
  - Allows for South Carolina residents who are enrolled in specific programs at out-of-state institutions to be charged only the applicable in-State tuition by the institution in which the student is enrolled
  - [http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/ACM\\_Information.htm](http://www.che.sc.gov/AcademicAffairs/ACM_Information.htm)
  - Contact: Ms. Sandra Carr 803-737-2274 or scarr@che.sc.gov
- **Graduation Bulletin/Program**
  - If the school chooses to designate scholarship recipients in such programs, we would ask that you include the following disclaimer language:
    - ***"The designation of scholarship recipients on this program or in any media is preliminary, based on information provided by the high schools and students at the time of this printing, and is subject to final confirmation and approval by the eligible higher education institution and/or the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education."***

# Elimination of Exit Exam

**H\*3919 Act 155** *General Bill, By Owens, Bowen, Patrick, Taylor, Anderson, Allison, Brannon, Loftis, Ballentine, Rivers, Huggins, Knight, Simrill, King, Willis, Whitmire, McCoy, Anthony, Crosby, Neal, Clyburn, Barfield, Bedingfield, R.L. Brown, Cobb-Hunter, George, Hayes, Hiott, Hixon, Hosey, Lucas, Pope, Putnam, G.R. Smith, Wells, Wood, Whipper, Mitchell, Robinson-Simpson and Dillard*

“59-18-310(B)...SO AS TO ELIMINATE THIS REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS BEGINNING WITH THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015, TO PROVIDE PROCEDURES THAT FORMER PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO DID NOT GRADUATE OR RECEIVE A DIPLOMA SOLELY FOR FAILING THIS EXIT EXAM MAY PETITION BY JANUARY 31, 2015...”

HB 3919 contains 5 sections amending or adding new provisions to Title 59 - the South Carolina School Code of 1976:

§ 59-18-310(B) – Removal of Exit Exam Requirement(s)

§ 59-48-35 – Removal of Exit Exam Requirement(s)

§ 59-139-60 – Removal of Exit Exam Requirement(s)

§ 59-18-325 (NEW) – College and Career Readiness Assessments

§ 59-18-950 – School Ratings Criteria – Removal of Exit Exam Performance Measurement

# What Does This Mean?

- The exit exam is no longer required in order to receive a high school diploma
- Those students who failed to receive a high school diploma or were denied graduation solely for failing to meet the exit exam requirements may petition
  - Students petition the local school board to determine their eligibility to receive a high school diploma. The school board will determine the student's eligibility to receive a diploma in compliance with Act 155.
- Requires the State to administer a college readiness assessment to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students
  - Students will be encouraged to take the SAT/ACT
- Requires the administration of WorkKeys assessment to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students



# What Does This Mean For Scholarships?

- An official transcript WILL NOT be adjusted
  - Separate documentation should be attached to the transcript by the high school or district (*indicating that the student received a high school diploma pursuant to Act 155*).
- Transcripts for students in the class of 2014 who received certificates during the May/June graduation, will reflect certificate, not diploma.
  - If a student passes the summer HSAP, another transcript would be printed to reflect the diploma status.
  - If the student did not take or pass the summer 2014 HSAP and petitioned for a diploma, the transcript would still indicate “certificate” and would include separate documentation.

*Contact CHE if you have a student that is attempting to become eligible for the SC HOPE/LIFE scholarship*

- Transcripts starting for the graduating class of 2015 moving forward
  - “Certificate” no longer an option
  - Only option is: Diploma or Non-Diploma Award (IEP students)

# Transcript Requirements: Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

## ALL transcripts must identify SC UGP GPA

- All state scholarships and grants are based on the SC UGP, therefore all transcripts must specifically state “SC UGP.”
  - Any transcript that states, “Weighted and Unweighted GPA” OR “Total GPA” will not be accepted for the purposes of awarding state scholarships as it must comply with the **SC UGP**.

All final official transcripts must be date calculated between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and

no later than **June 15<sup>th</sup>**

- The final grades/ranking cannot include grades earned after the official graduation date or end of the school year. Summer school grades earned after high school graduation cannot be used in the calculation.

# Transcript Requirements: Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

In order to determine eligibility for the State scholarship programs, the financial aid office/institution must have a transcript on file (electronic or otherwise) that demonstrates the following items:

- A valid signature (electronic or otherwise) from a high school representative i.e.: principal, guidance counselor, district representative (**not** a vendor signature)
- Demonstrate that it is the final official transcript
- The graduation date
- SC UGP GPA and rank (if applicable)
- The date calculated date to be date calculated no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>

# SC Public High School Transcripts

## **SC Public High Schools - PowerSchool**

- For technical issues regarding submitting and/or printing electronic or paper transcripts should first be referred back to the high school or School District IT Department. Each high school and district has an identified contact that should work together first.
- If the issues cannot be resolved at that level, the school/district office can then contact the SC Department of Education PowerSchool Administrator.

# SC Independent/Private/Home School Association Transcripts

- All transcripts being used for scholarship eligibility must demonstrate the SC UGP GPA on the transcript
- All final transcripts must demonstrate a date calculated date between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and **no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>**
- If the school/ home school association ranks its students as a policy, rank must be demonstrated on the transcript
- Rank must be on the transcript if there is a rank policy and students are using rank. Transcripts would need to demonstrate the following:
  - Student ranks 3 out of 112
  - Class Rank: 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 56
  - Rank: 1 of 20
- No numerical GPA's, transcript would need to demonstrate the following:
  - Need to state the SC UGP is being utilized
  - Totals/Averages cannot be used- a Cumulative GPA would need to accompany a numerical total or average

# Year-Round Scholarships

- Proviso 11.19 allowing for summer disbursements for the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarships passed July 1, 2014
- Students who meet the continued eligibility requirements at the end of a spring semester will be able to use their LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship for a summer semester
  - Students graduating from high school will not be able to use their scholarship the summer prior to their first fall term of enrollment
  - This does not provide any scholarship recipient with extra terms of eligibility
- If you have any questions feel free to contact our office or the financial aid office at the post-secondary institution

# Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

“On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the United States as children and meet several key guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and would then be eligible for work authorization.

Deferred action is a discretionary determination to defer removal action of an individual as an act of prosecutorial discretion. Deferred action does not provide an individual with lawful status.”

# DACA (continued) – Federal Q&A

## Updated 1/18/13

- **New - Q6: If my case is deferred, am I in lawful status for the period of deferral?**

A6: No. Although action on your case has been deferred and you do not accrue unlawful presence (for admissibility purposes) during the period of deferred action, deferred action does not confer any lawful status. The fact that you are not accruing unlawful presence does not change whether you are in lawful status while you remain in the United States. **However, although deferred action does not confer a lawful immigration status, your period of stay is authorized by the Department of Homeland Security while your deferred action is in effect and, for admissibility purposes, you are considered to be lawfully present in the United States during that time.** Apart from the immigration laws, “lawful presence”, “lawful status” and similar terms are used in various other federal and state laws. For information on how those laws affect individuals who receive a favorable exercise of prosecutorial discretion under DACA, please contact the appropriate federal, state or local authorities.



# What does this mean?

- Students may attend an eligible South Carolina institution once their status has been verified and confirmed by a federal process.
- Students will not be eligible to participate in the State scholarship programs\*, the SC Need-based grant program, or Lottery Tuition Assistance program
- Students will be charged at out-of-state rates
  - Should the student become a US Citizen/legal permanent resident they will be able to work with their home institutions in respect to in-state rates.
- Institutions are only verifying the student's lawful presence. The institution is not involved in determining a student's citizenship or legal permanent residency status.

*\*At no time will a student be eligible to participate in the State scholarship programs should their US Citizenship/legal permanent residency status be determined **after** they graduate high school*

# CHE Contact Information

- **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk**, Deputy Executive Director for Academic and Student Affairs  
803-737-2244 or [kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov](mailto:kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov)
- **Elizabeth Caulder**, Associate Director of Student Financial Support  
*Palmetto Fellows & LTAP*  
803-737-2262 or [ecaulder@che.sc.gov](mailto:ecaulder@che.sc.gov)
- **Stephanie Charbonneau**, Assistant Director, Student Financial Support  
*SC HOPE, LIFE, & SC Need-based Grants*  
803-737-8348 or [scharbonneau@che.sc.gov](mailto:scharbonneau@che.sc.gov)
- **Leslie Williams**, Program Assistant, Student Financial Support  
803-737-2290 or [lwilliams@che.sc.gov](mailto:lwilliams@che.sc.gov)
- **Gerrick Hampton**, Associate Director of Student Affairs for Pre-College Youth, SC Residency & SC GEAR UP  
803-734-7397 or [ghampton@che.sc.gov](mailto:ghampton@che.sc.gov)