



South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

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Memorandum

TO: Mr. Paul O. Batson, III, Chairman
Members of the Access & Equity and Student Services Committee

From: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Services

Date: June 7, 2018

Approval of Regulations Regarding the Palmetto Fellows Year-Round Process

At the request of the President's Council Scholarship Task Force, Commission staff has developed a Palmetto Fellow Year-Round application process.

Revisions to the existing regulation for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship are being considered to clarify the policies and procedures for administrating the program. In the proposed amendment, the application process is being updated. This will include changing the opening, closing, and test administration dates. In addition, the award period definitions are updated to reflect the new dates and class ranking policies are clarified. There are also additional changes being proposed to allow a Palmetto Fellow recipient to enroll at an eligible institution up to one year after high school graduation, language was modified to reflect the updated S.C. Uniform Grading Scale and Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), clarifying language was added to explain current high school transcript requirements, and additional changes are being proposed to allow a Palmetto Fellow recipient to prorate their award during their final term of college enrollment. Lastly, other changes to the regulation include updating of definitions and minor language changes to promote consistency.

Section by Section Summary:

Section 62-310. Definitions

B. "Annual credit hour requirement" Language added to allow proration of award during student's final term of enrollment (pg.4).

L. "Degree-seeking student" Language modified to update current programs; Removed M.S. in Cytology and Biosciences at MUSC and included PharmD programs at MUSC and USC (pg.5).

N. "Eligible high school" Language added to expand types of eligible high schools (pg.5)

O. "Early awards" Language modified to expand awarding period (pg.6).

Section 62-310. Definitions (cont.)

W. “Full-time student” Language added to allow proration of award during student’s final term of enrollment (pg.6).

BB. “Late awards” Language modified to update opening date (May, pg. 7).

HH. “Program of study that is structured so as not to require a bachelor’s degree” Language modified to update current programs; Removed M.S. in Cytology and Biosciences at MUSC and included PharmD programs at MUSC and USC (pg. 7-8).

JJ. “Reapplication student” Language modified to allow a student to enroll at an eligible institution up to one year after high school graduation (pg.8).

Section 62-315. Initial Eligibility for Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.

C. Language modified to allow a student to enroll at an eligible institution no later than the fall term one year immediately following high school graduation (pg. 9).

D. Language modified to allow a mid-year graduate student to enroll at an eligible institution no later than the Spring term one year immediately following high school graduation. Language also added to clarify mid-year high school ranking requirements, high school transcript requirements, and mid-year enrollment and continued eligibility requirements (pg.9-10).

Section 62-318. Eligibility for Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement.

C. Created new section concerning scholarship enhancement information for mid-year enrollments to include enhancement start date and continued scholarship eligibility requirements (pg. 11).

D. The old ‘C’ section, is now the ‘D’ section (pg. 11).

Section 62-320. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Application.

C. Language modified to remove December deadline for the early award application period (pg.11).

C.1. Language modified to update the test administration date (March, pg. 11).

C.2. Language modified to update the test administration date (March, pg. 12).

E. Language modified to update SAT language to reflect new name for test sections (pg. 12).

F. Language modified to update current high school transcript requirements (pg. 12).

G. Language modified to update current rank policies/procedures and current high school transcript requirements (pg. 13).

H. Clarifying language added about rank for schools with 20 students or less (pg. 13).

I. Language modified to update rank policies and procedures (pg. 13).

K. Language modified to update current name for counselors (School, pg. 13).

K.2. Numeric averages updated to reflect current S.C. Uniform Grading Policy (pg. 13-14).

K.5. Numeric averages updated to reflect current S.C. Uniform Grading Policy (pg. 14).

L. Language modified to update current name for counselors (School, pg. 14).

M. New section added to explain late award may not be granted prior to institutional fee payment deadline (pg. 14).

Section 62-330. Policies and Procedures for Awarding the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

- A.1.** Clarifying language added concerning fifth year (scholarship). Language added to allow proration of award during student's final term of enrollment (pg. 15).
- A.2.** Clarifying language added concerning fifth year (enhancement). Language added to allow proration of award during student's final term of enrollment (pg. 15).
- A.3.** Created new section. Language added concerning mid-year awarding (pg. 15).
- B.** Language added to allow proration of award during student's final term of enrollment (pg. 15).
- L.** Language modified to update current required information (pg. 17).

Section 62-335. Duration and Renewal of Awards.

- B.** Language modified to allow a student to enroll at an eligible institution up to one year after high school graduation. Language clarified concerning enrollment at two-year institutions (pg. 17).
- C.** Language modified to allow proration of award during student's final term of enrollment (pg. 17).

Section 62-340. Transfer of or Reapplication for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement.

- A.** Comma added for clarification (pg. 19).
- B.** Language modified to allow a student to enroll at an eligible institution up to one year after high school graduation (pg. 19).
- E.** Language added to clarify transfer process (pg. 19).

Section 62-360. Institutional Disbursement of Funds.

- A.1.** Clarifying language added concerning fifth year (scholarship). Language added to allow proration of award during student's final term of enrollment (pg. 23).
- A.2.** Clarifying language added concerning fifth year (enhancement). Language added to allow proration of award during student's final term of enrollment (pg. 23).
- A.3.** Created new section. Language added concerning mid-year awarding (pg. 23).
- C.** Language modified to update current programs; Removed M.S. in Cytology and Biosciences at MUSC and included PharmD programs at MUSC and USC (pg. 23).
- I.** Language modified to update current required information (pg. 24).

Recommendation

The Commission staff recommends that the Committee on Access & Equity and Students Services approve the proposed amendments to the regulation for the Palmetto Fellows Year-Round Application Process. If approved by the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services and the Commission on Higher Education, the proposed regulation will be submitted to the SC General Assembly during the 2019 legislative session for approval under the Administrative Procedures Act.