Helping You Gain Access to Higher Education

Scholarships & Grants
(Administered by the SC Commission on Higher Education)

Scholarships & Grants
♦ Must be a South Carolina resident*;
♦ Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident*;
♦ Must be enrolled as degree-seeking student at an eligible South Carolina public or independent institution;
♦ Must not owe a refund or repayment on any State or Federal financial aid and not be in default on a Federal student loan; and
♦ Must have never been convicted of any felonies and have not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol/drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year (excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance).

*This must be determined at the time of high school graduation for State scholarship eligibility.

Mission Statement
The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education will promote quality and efficiency in the State system of higher education with the goal of fostering economic growth and human development in South Carolina.

The Student Affairs Division of the Commission is responsible for coordinating activities including:
♦ LIFE Scholarship
♦ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
♦ LIFE & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements
♦ SC HOPE Scholarship
♦ Lottery Tuition Assistance
♦ SC Need-based Grant
♦ Veteran Education and Training Benefits
♦ Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

Contact Information:
For detailed information about the scholarship and grant programs administered by the SC Commission on Higher Education:
♦ Visit our website at www.che.sc.gov
♦ Call us at 803-737-2260
The General Assembly established the Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Program in 1996 to increase access to higher education, improve employability of South Carolina’s students, provide incentives for students to be better prepared for college, and to encourage students to graduate from college on time. Eligible full-time students may receive the following:

- Up to $5,000 (including a $300 book allowance) each academic year toward the cost of attendance at an eligible four-year institution in S.C. Funding limited to eight (8) consecutive terms at an eligible four-year institution or ten (10) consecutive terms for an approved five-year bachelor’s degree.

- Up to the cost of tuition (including a $300 book allowance) each academic year at an eligible technical college in S.C. At the eligible two-year public and independent institutions in the State, students must apply by the 10th of the month up to the cost of tuition at the USC’s Regional Campuses, but cannot exceed the maximum award of $8,000. Funding limited to two (2) consecutive terms for the same term or four (4) consecutive terms for the first associate’s degree program or a two-year program that is acceptable as full credit toward a bachelor’s degree.

- Up to $2,500 in additional funds beginning with their second academic year.

- Up to $6,700 during the first academic year of college enrollment.

- Second and subsequent academic years up to $7,500 per year.

- The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship must be applied directly toward the cost of attendance, less any other gift aid received.

- The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is limited to eight (8) consecutive terms at an eligible four-year institution or ten (10) consecutive terms for an approved five-year bachelor’s degree program.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT®) by the June test administration; earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) at the end of the junior year, and rank in the top 6% of the class at the end of the sophomore or junior year.

- Score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT®) by the June test administration and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGP at the end of the junior year.

Applications for Early Awards must be submitted by the high school/home school association to the Commission on Higher Education for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by December 15th each academic year. Students may be eligible to apply during their year of graduation from high school if they meet one of the following two sets of academic requirements:

- Graduate from high school with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA based on the SC UGP.

Additional Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a SC resident at the time of high school graduation AND at the time of college enrollment.

- Must be a recipient of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance within the same academic year.

- Must meet all general eligibility criteria.

No application required for the LIFE Scholarship. The eligible institution will notify students if they qualify for the Scholarship.

The SC HOPE Scholarship

The SC HOPE Scholarship was established under the South Carolina Education Lottery Act in 1996. It is a one-year merit-based Scholarship created for first-time entering freshman attending eligible public institutions in S.C. Eligible full-time students may receive the following:

- Up to $2,800 (including a $300 book allowance) toward the cost of attendance.

- Up to two (2) consecutive terms of funding.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- Earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) upon high school graduation.

- Be a SC resident at the time of high school graduation AND at the time of college enrollment.

- Be a resident of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, LIFE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance in the same academic year.

- Meet all general eligibility criteria.

There is no separate application required for the SC HOPE Scholarship. The eligible four-year institution will notify students if they qualify for the Scholarship.