

R. Wes Hayes, Jr.
Chairman

L. Jeffrey Perez, Ph.D.
President and Executive Director



MEMORANDUM

To: Provosts and Financial Aid Directors, Public and Independent Colleges and Universities

From: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director, Office of Student Affairs

Date: May 29, 2025

Subject: Finalization of ACT 156 and Permanent Regulations for LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and H. 3632

We are pleased to share that as of April 28, 2025, the Governor officially ratified the permanent regulations for both the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship programs, finalizing the implementation of ACT 156. Until now, we have been operating under emergency regulations as the new policies and processes were developed. With this ratification, the new Education and Accounting enhancements outlined in ACT 156 are now formally incorporated into the state's scholarship programs moving forward.

ACT 156 expanded scholarship enhancement opportunities to include sophomore, junior, and senior LIFE and Palmetto Fellows recipients majoring in CHE approved Accounting programs and Education programs that lead to teacher certification. Eligible students may receive an additional \$2,500 scholarship enhancement beginning Fall 2024, provided they meet the following requirements:

General Eligibility for Scholarship Enhancements

- Must be LIFE or Palmetto Fellows eligible
- Must be in 2nd academic year (based on initial college enrollment)
- Must be enrolled in academic programs that have been reviewed and approved by either:
 - The Scholarship Enhancement Eligibility Review Committee (SEER); and/or
 - The Department of Education as leading to teacher certification
- Listed on the CHE website as an approved program/major

STEM specific requirements (*which includes Accounting*)

- Earn 14 credit hours of approved STEM coursework prior to start of 2nd academic year (can use AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, CLEP).



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NEW: [H. 3632](#) was ratified on May 8, 2025. This bill states that, beginning with the 2024–25 school year, freshmen majoring in CHE approved Accounting programs may count Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, and Business Statistics taken during their first academic year toward the 14-credit-hours of math and science required to qualify for the LIFE or Palmetto Fellows STEM Scholarship enhancement. Please note: This change applies only to Accounting majors. Students in other eligible STEM enhancement majors are not able to use these courses to meet the 14-credit-hour requirement.

Education specific requirements

- Must sign a contractual agreement to either:
 - A. Work in a SC public school for each year the enhancement was received; OR
 - B. Pay back the funds received.
- Must obtain teacher certification

Education students who were already receiving the STEM Enhancement prior to Fall 2024 are exempt from the service agreement, but moving forward, all STEM education enhancement recipients must sign the contractual agreement.

The 2025–26 Education Enhancement Contractual Agreement has already been shared with institutions. If you did not receive a copy or need it resent, please contact Tanya Weigold at tweigold@che.sc.gov.

Scholarship Enhancement Program Approval Deadline

SEER Applications and the [Education Scholarship Enhancement Eligibility Applications](#) are due by **August 15th, 2025** to academicprograms@che.sc.gov.

We appreciate your continued partnership as we work to implement these enhancements and expand support for students pursuing high-need fields. For additional questions about student eligibility or scholarship administration, please contact:

- **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk**, Director of Student Affairs – kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov | 803-856-0578
- **Ms. Tanya Weigold**, Scholarships and Grants Coordinator – tweigold@che.sc.gov | 803-856-0672
- **Dr. Jessica Berry**, Acting Director of Academic Affairs and Licensing – jberry@che.sc.gov | 803-869-0460

Thank you for your ongoing support of South Carolina's students.