

Erskine College

State Programs

SC Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program

South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program

I. Student Notification

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education notifies students and the award will be included in the students' award notification from Erskine College. Eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, and for continued eligibility in subsequent years, is based upon the requirements below. Students receiving the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship must complete a state certification statement.

II. Initial Eligibility Requirements

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education determines initial eligibility. To view initial eligibility requirements, go to <http://www.che.sc.edu>

III. Renewal Eligibility Requirements

Students must earn a total of 30 credit hours for each academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer). Any credit hours earned before high school graduation, hours exempted by examination, and advanced placement credit do not count towards the 30 hour requirement.

IV. Continuing Eligibility

The student must earn a minimum 3.0 Erskine College cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale by the end of the academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer):

Only the cumulative grade point average earned at Erskine College will be considered in determining eligibility for continuing students.

If the student earned a 3.0 Erskine College cumulative grade point average by the end of the spring semester and chooses to enroll in a summer session(s) the student will NOT be eligible to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship if the student's Erskine College cumulative grade point average falls below a 3.0 at the end of that summer session(s).

V. Terms of Eligibility

The student may receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship for up to eight semesters of undergraduate studies.

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VI. Award Amount

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship award amount is determined annually by the South Carolina General Assembly. Currently, the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship award amount is \$6,700 for freshmen.

Note: The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship in combination with all other scholarships and grants may not exceed the on-campus resident budget as defined in Title IV regulations.

VI. Award Disbursement

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship will be disbursed in equal amounts at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is only available during the fall and spring semesters.

VII. Summer Courses

Summer school credits earned at another institution and accepted by Erskine College may be used toward the credit hour requirement. However, only the Erskine College cumulative grade point average will be considered for the 3.0 grade point average requirement. Remedial courses are not considered toward the credit hour requirement. If the student needs hours earned during summer to meet the renewal criteria, the student's eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship cannot be determined until Erskine College has received and processed the final summer school transcript.

VIII. Withdrawing or dropping a class

If the student is receiving the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or any other financial aid, dropping a class or withdrawing may affect the potential refund. Depending upon the type(s) of financial aid awards involved, the withdrawal date, the amount of the refund, and other factors, the student might receive a portion of the total refund amount or none of the refund amount. Under certain circumstances, if the student withdraws or drop classes, the student will be required to repay financial aid funds received including the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. This is necessary when the refund amount is insufficient to meet the financial aid fund recovery requirements. Students are encouraged to contact the FAO before withdrawing or dropping classes.

This information is subject to change by either the South Carolina Legislature or the Commission on Higher Education. To view the most recent guidelines for the Palmetto Fellows program, go to: http://www.che.sc.gov/New_Web/GoingToCollege/PF_Hm.htm

Procedures for selection and renewal for PF

- A. The first time recipient of the PF is selected by the high school based on the student's SAT/ACT scores, GPA and rank in class.
- B. The Commission of Higher Education (CHE) sends a roster of first time PF recipients to the FAO.

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- C. The FAO checks each student on CAMS admitted to Erskine College to determine the PF recipients.
- D. For upperclassmen, FAO runs a list of students on CAMS who are receiving PF and checks the 3.0/30 hour criteria for continuation of PF eligibility.
- E. All PF recipients must sign the state affidavit.
- F. The CHE sends a report to the FAO that is completed showing GPA and hours earned confirming the students' progress every August.

Procedures for selection and renewal of the Life and Hope Scholarships

Freshmen – The final transcript is sent from the student's high school containing the GPA, SAT/ACT and class rank.

The FAO checks each student on CAMS to identify the Life and Hope recipients. The appropriate scholarship is listed on the student's award letter.

Upperclassmen – The FAO runs a list of students who are receiving Life and Hope and checks the eligibility for the continuation of these state programs. The criteria are checked in May and August for the upcoming year.

Procedure for transfer of funds for PF, LIFE and HOPE from CHE to Erskine College

- A. Approximately one month before the start of each semester, the FAO is sent a statement from CHE in which the funds for each of the state programs are requested.
- B. Every semester, a disbursement report is sent to CHE. (See the CHE website for the file layout).
- C. PF, Life, and Hope funds are sent by check from the CHE at the beginning of each semester.
- D. Once a year the FAO reconciles the funds received from CHE to the funds disbursed to the students by Erskine College.
- E. CHE is sent a letter requesting funds by the Erskine College FAO in August for the fall semester and in December for the Spring semester.
- F. If the student withdraws, the Director calculates the refund and sends a check request to the Business Office which is sent to CHE.

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Procedure for tracking terms of eligibility for PF and Life Scholarships

After the initial awarding of the scholarship, the student's file is reviewed at the end of the school year, at the end of each summer term, and at the beginning of the new school year to determine eligibility and to track how many semesters the student has already received these scholarships. A transfer student's file color (green) indicates to the FAO to review the student's transcript on an individual basis.

I. How Eligibility is Determined

Eligibility is determined by CHE per application submitted by student

Forms Required

Students must sign and return to FAO Affidavit for Palmetto Fellows Program.

Administration of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship awards are to be used only for payment for cost of attendance as established by Title IV regulations with modification set forth in C below for the academic year for which the scholarship award is made at the designated institution.

In determining the amount for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, all other sources of grant funds, including federal, state, institutional funds, and gift assistance must be applied to the unmet total cost of attendance in accord with Title IV.

C. Charges for room and board are to be limited as follows:

Room charges shall not exceed the average cost of on-campus residential housing; and Board charges shall not exceed the cost of the least expensive campus meal plan that includes 21 meals per week

D. Erskine College must retain the following documentation:

Award notification

Institutional disbursements to students (annually)

Refunds and repayments

Student residency status (annually)

Enrollment status, cumulative grade point average and cumulative number of credit hours earned (annually)

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Affidavit documenting that the student has never been convicted of any felonies and /or alcohol/drug related convictions as stated in R62-540C (annually)

Affidavit documenting that the student is not in default or owes a refund on Federal or State financial aid or repayment, including a State Grant, Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Perkins Loan and Federal Stafford Loan as stated in R62-540D (annually)

High school graduation date (or home school completion date)

High school grade point average (first-time entering freshmen)

SAT or ACT scores (first-time entering freshmen)

Financial Needs Analysis

Satisfactory academic progress as stipulated in these regulations

Enrollment and curriculum requirements

E. A Palmetto Fellows Scholarship shall be initially awarded for one academic year. Erskine College must adjust the amount of the Scholarship award during the academic year in the event of a change in the student's financial status.

IV. Renewal of Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

A. In order to retain eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship after the initial year, the student must:

Enroll full-time during the period of scholarship disbursement

Earn and maintain at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 GPA scale reviewed annually after each academic year; and earn an average of thirty (30) credit hours by the end of the academic year.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarships may be renewed annually for no more that a total of eight terms of full-time study toward the first baccalaureate degree. Renewal decisions will be made annually.

V. See attached Guidelines and Policies and Procedures from CHE

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South Carolina L.I.F.E. Scholarship Program

South Carolina LIFE Scholarship Program

Recently, the South Carolina General Assembly passed a bill, H.3906, which, beginning in 2006-2007, mandates that continuing LIFE Scholarship eligibility be based in part on a LIFE GPA. Recipients must earn a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA which will be based on grades earned at all institutions, including those earned at the home institution and at other institutions, even while dually enrolled during high school. Courses classified as remedial/developmental, non degree credit courses for an associate degree or higher, or continuing education courses will not be utilized to calculate a student's LIFE GPA. This GPA will be used only for LIFE Scholarship determination and may differ from the official institutional GPA that will be used for most, if not all, other purposes.

If the student is awarded a LIFE Scholarship, the award will be included in the award notification. Eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship, and for continued eligibility in subsequent years, is based upon the requirements below. If the student is awarded the LIFE Scholarship, the student must complete a state affidavit. Lost eligibility may be regained by meeting eligibility requirements in the next academic year.

I. General Eligibility Requirements

You must meet all general eligibility requirements:

- A. The student must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen under state residency statutes.
- B. The student must be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and during the period of award.
- C. The student must have graduated from a South Carolina high school or graduated from a high school outside of South Carolina while a dependent of a parent or legal guardian who is a legal resident. If the student graduated from a high school outside of South Carolina, the student is expected to self-identify to the Financial Aid Office in order to be assured that the student is not overlooked during the college's review of LIFE eligible students.
- D. The student must be a full-time undergraduate student seeking his/her first baccalaureate degree.
- E. The student must not be receiving the South Carolina Palmetto Fellows or Hope Scholarships. The student must not have been judged delinquent, nor have been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any felony in any state.
- F. The student must not have been convicted of any alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor in any state within the past academic year.
- G. The student must not be in default or owe a refund or repayment on any

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Federal or State financial aid.

II. Eligibility requirements for entering freshmen

A. The student must meet all general eligibility requirements

B. The student must meet two of the three requirements listed below:

1. Have a 3.00 final high school grade point average based on the Uniform Grading Policy.
2. Have a minimum SAT test score of 1100 or ACT test score of 22.
3. Have graduated in the top 30% of your high school graduating class.

III. Eligibility requirements for continuing students

A. The student must meet all general eligibility requirements.

B. The student must earn an average of 30 credit hours for each academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer) equaling a minimum of 30 credit hours if a rising second year student, 60 credit hours if a rising third year student, or 90 credit hours if a rising fourth year student.

If the initial college enrollment was mid-year, the student must earn 15 credit hours by the beginning of the next academic year (fall semester). In subsequent years, the student must earn an average of 30 credit hours for each academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer) equaling a minimum of 45 credit hours after the first full academic year, 75 credit hours after the second full academic year, and 105 credit hours after the third full academic year. The LIFE Scholarship will not be awarded mid-year in subsequent years.

Any credit hours earned before high school graduation, hours exempted by examination, and advanced placement credit approved by the institution as academic credit will be used toward the credit hour requirement;

C. Beginning in 2006-2007, the student must earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE grade point average on a 4.0 scale by the end of the academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer):

The LIFE grade point average will include all grades earned (excluding remedial coursework) at all eligible public or independent institutions attended by the student. Any credit hours and GPA earned before high school graduation and approved by the institution as academic credit will be used.

If the student earned a 3.0 LIFE grade point average by the end of the

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spring semester and choose to enroll in a summer session(s) the student will NOT be eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship if the LIFE grade point average falls below a 3.0 at the end of that summer session(s).

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D. The LIFE grade point average will be used to determine LIFE Scholarship eligibility only and will not be used in determining graduation eligibility or standing.

IV. Eligibility requirements for transfer students

A. The student must meet all general eligibility requirements.

B. The student eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship during the first year at Erskine College is based on the initial college enrollment and all non-remedial hours earned and cumulative grade point average at the student's previous institution(s).

C. Beginning in 2006-2007, the grade point average requirement must be based on the LIFE grade point average.

V. Terms of eligibility

The student may receive the LIFE Scholarship through the eighth semester following initial college enrollment. The eight-semester limit is based on enrollment only. The limit is not determined by the number of semesters the LIFE Scholarship has been received and includes periods of non-enrollment after the initial college enrollment.

VI. Award Amount

The LIFE Scholarship award amount is determined annually by the South Carolina General Assembly. Currently the LIFE Scholarship award amount at Erskine College is \$5,000.

Note: The LIFE Scholarship in combination with all other scholarships and grants may not exceed the cost-of-attendance as defined in Title IV federal student aid regulations.

VII. Award Disbursement

The LIFE Scholarship will be disbursed in equal amounts at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. The LIFE Scholarship is only available during the fall and spring semesters.

VIII. Summer courses

Summer school credits earned at any institution and accepted by Erskine College may be used toward the credit hour requirement. Beginning in 2006-2007, the grade point average requirement must be based on the LIFE grade point average.. Remedial courses are not considered toward the credit hour or grade point average requirement. If the student needs hours or grades earned during

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summer to meet the renewal criteria, the eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship cannot be determined until Erskine College has received and processed the student's final transcript.

IX. Withdrawing or dropping a class

If the student is receiving the LIFE Scholarship or any other financial aid, dropping a class or withdrawing may affect the potential refund. Depending upon the type(s) of financial aid awards involved, withdrawal date, the amount of the refund, and other factors, the student might receive a portion of the total refund amount or none of the refund amount. Under certain circumstances, if the student withdraws or drops a class, the student will be required to repay financial aid funds received including the LIFE Scholarship. This is necessary when the refund amount is insufficient to meet the financial aid fund recovery requirements. Students considering withdrawing or dropping classes are encouraged to contact the FAO before taking this action.

How Eligibility is Determined

- A. The SC Commission on Higher Education (CHE), through the CHEMIS report, determines eligibility at Erskine College.
- B. The student must be a US citizen.
- C. Must be a SC resident at the time of high school graduation.
- D. The student must graduate from high school or complete a home school as prescribed by law.
- E. Be enrolled as a full-time degree seeking student at an eligible SC Public or Private College or University..

Forms Required for L.I.F.E. Scholarship

- A. Valid high school transcript or college transcript if the student is a transfer student.
- B. Certification form for each academic year the L.I.F.E. is received

Administration of the L.I.F.E. Scholarship

- A. Contingent eligibility is determined during the awarding process
- B. The student must return the completed and signed certification.
- C. All eligible students are then reported to the CHE through the CHEMIS report.
- D. The SC L.I.F.E. funds are received by EFT from the CHE.

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- E. The SC L.I.F.E. funds are then disbursed to the student accounts.
- F. LIFE Scholarship awards are to be used only for payment for cost of attendance as established by Title IV regulations.
- G. Erskine College must retain the following documentation:
 - Award notification
 - Institutional disbursements to students (annually)
 - Refunds and repayments
 - Student residency status (annually)
 - Enrollment status, cumulative grade point average and cumulative number of credit hours earned (annually)
 - Affidavit documenting that the student has never been convicted of any felonies and /or alcohol/drug related convictions as stated in R62-540C (annually)
 - Affidavit documenting that the student is not in default or owes a refund on Federal or State financial aid or repayment, including a State Grant, Pell Grant, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), Perkins Loan and Federal Stafford Loan as stated in R62-540D (annually)
 - High school graduation date (or home school completion date)
 - High school grade point average (first-time entering freshmen)
 - SAT or ACT scores (first-time entering freshmen)

Renewal of LIFE Scholarship

In order to retain eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship after the initial year, the student must:

- Enroll full-time during the period of scholarship disbursement
- Earn and maintain at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 GPA scale reviewed annually after each academic year; and
- Earn an average of thirty (30) credit hours by the end of the academic year

Awarding Parameters

Maximum award - \$5,000 Students must be enrolled full-time (as determined by the Title IV of the Higher Education act). Incoming freshmen must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and a 1100 SAT or 24 ACT and/or be in the top 30% of their HS graduating class.

Each eligible student must have a signed certification form each academic year that they receive the L.I.F.E. scholarship.

See attached Guidelines and Policies and Procedures from CHE

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South Carolina Hope Scholarship Program

- I. How Eligibility Is Determined
 - A. The student must be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen under state residency statutes.
 - B. The student must be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and during the period of award.
 - C. The student must have graduated from a high school or complete a home school as prescribed by law.
 - D. The student must be a full-time, first-year undergraduate student seeking your first baccalaureate degree.
 - E. The student must not be receiving the South Carolina Palmetto Fellows or LIFE Scholarships.
 - F. The student must not have been judged delinquent, nor have been convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any felony in any state.
 - G. The student must not have been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor in any state within the past academic year.
 - H. The student must not be in default or owe a refund or repayment on any Federal or State financial aid.
 - I. The student must have a 3.00 final high school grade point average based on the Uniform Grading Policy.

II. Terms of Eligibility

The student may receive the HOPE Scholarship for no more than two semesters and only during the initial year of college enrollment. After the first year, the student may be eligible for the LIFE Scholarship. See LIFE Scholarship guidelines for eligibility requirements.

III. Award Amount

The HOPE Scholarship award amount is determined annually by the South Carolina General Assembly. Currently, the HOPE Scholarship award amount at Erskine College is \$2,800, \$2,500 related to tuition expense plus \$300 based on the cost of textbooks.

Note: The HOPE Scholarship in combination with all other scholarships and grants may not exceed the cost-of-attendance as defined in Title IV regulations.

IV. Award Disbursement

The HOPE Scholarship will be disbursed in equal amounts at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. The HOPE Scholarship is only available during the fall and spring semesters of the freshman year.

V. Withdrawing or dropping a course

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If the student receiving the HOPE Scholarship or any other financial aid drops a class or withdraws, the potential refund may be affected. Depending upon the type(s) of financial aid awards involved, the withdrawal date, the amount of the refund, and other factors, the student might receive a portion of the total refund amount or none of the refund amount. Under certain circumstances, if the student withdraws or drops classes, the student will be required to repay financial aid funds received including the HOPE Scholarship. This is necessary when the refund amount is insufficient to meet the financial aid fund recovery requirements. Students considering withdrawing or dropping classes, are encouraged to contact the FAO Aid and before taking this action.

South Carolina Tuition Grant

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The SC Tuition Grants Program is administered by the SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission through an annual appropriation by the State General Assembly. The program's purpose is to provide need-based grant assistance to eligible South Carolina undergraduate students attending, on a full time basis (12 hrs per semester), eligible independent non-profit in-state colleges.

How Eligibly is Determined

Eligibility is determined by the SC Tuition Grants Agency which completes a needs analysis on each applicant.

The student must complete and file the FAFSA.

The student must show financial need through a valid Student Aid Report (SAR) or Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR).

Forms Required for SC Tuition Grant

Completed and filed FAFSA

Valid SAR or ISIR

Administration of SC Tuition Grant

- A. The Central Processor must receive the FAFSA by August 1st
- B. Contingent eligibility is determined during the awarding process.
- C. The student must return the completed and signed certification.
- D. A fall and spring SC Tuition Grant Report are completed by the Director of Financial Aid and electronically sent to the SC Tuition Grants Agency.
- E. The Director of Financial Aid determines eligibility on the report by enrollment and financial need information.

Awarding Parameters

2017-2018 -\$3,200

Minimum State Grant Award is determined by the SC Tuition Grants Agency.

Students must be enrolled full-time (12 hours or more).

Incoming freshmen must show financial need and meet one of the following criteria:

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Minimum high school GPA of 2.0

Be in the top 75% of their high school graduating class

Minimum SAT of 900

Returning upperclassmen must attempt and pass 24 hours with the academic year if enrolled full-time.

Returning students who attended part-time (less than 12 hours per semester) must have completed 80% of hours attempted.

Meet other regulations as specified in the SC State Tuition Grant Regulations Manual.

SCTG Procedures

Eligibility to receive a SCTG is determined by the Tuition Grant Commission based on the student's EFC as generated by the FAFSA.

Starting in Feb./March, the commission generates a roster of Tuition Grant eligible students that is sent electronically to Erskine College every week.

The Director of Financial Aid checks the roster and adds a Tuition Grant award to the student's award letter in CAMS for eligible entering freshmen.

The Director of Financial Aid checks number of hours passed for eligibility to renew a Tuition Grant for the upcoming year for continuing students.

In mid/late September and in the spring, an electronic roster is sent to Erskine College. The Director of Financial Aid deletes those students who are not eligible and those students who are not enrolled at Erskine College.

Based on the roster, funds are sent electronically to the Erskine College Business Office from the Commission and applied to the students' accounts.

If the student withdraws, the Director calculates the refunds based on the date of withdrawal and the funds received and sends a check request to the Business Office which is sent to the Tuition Grant Commission.

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Procedure for establishing SC residency

SC residency is entered into CAMS by the Admissions Office. The state of residence the student lists as his/her primary residence on the student's admissions application is checked against the home address listed on the high school transcript. If a question arises regarding SC residency, the FAO calls the student to verify with the parent (or the student's responsible adult) the correct address. The state of residence is also checked against the Student Aid Report. The student is asked to confirm his/her SC residency if conflicting information is given.

Need-Based Assistance