Southern Wesleyan University administers South Carolina state aid programs in accordance with applicable state statutes, regulations, and guidance issued by the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission and the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE). Should any conflict arise between this policy and current state regulations, the applicable state regulations shall govern.

4.1 South Carolina Tuition Grant (SCTG)

SCTG is a grant for Independent Colleges and Universities that is given by the state of South Carolina. This grant has several stipulations; the SCTG Regulations must be consulted in situations that are questionable; however, the basics are as follows:

1. FAFSA must be completed by August 1st each year.
2. Meet the Tuition Grants Program's academic requirements: First-time freshmen must have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED or Adult Education Diploma) and be fully admitted as a degree-seeking student, without provisions or conditions, based on the college's academic requirements for admission; Returning students must be meeting the college's Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements.
3. Independent students or the parent(s) of dependent students must be a legal South Carolina resident domiciled in the State for a period of not less than 12 months prior to the start of the Fall Semester.
4. Complete the required State Felony, Drug and Alcohol Affidavit annually
5. Complete a one-time SC Residency form upon enrollment.
6. Enroll full-time (at least 12 eligible credit-hours per semester) at one of the 21, eligible by law, independent colleges and universities in the State, as a degree-seeking, undergraduate student who has not yet received a bachelor's degree
7. Meet all eligibility requirements for Title IV financial aid programs, including completing the Verification process, if selected.
8. Students who do not enroll during the Fall semester forfeit their eligibility for the entire academic year.
9. Returning students must satisfy SAP standards.

Eligibility for the South Carolina Tuition Grant is determined by the Financial Aid Administrator (FAA) awarding the student. The following are the criteria for determining eligibility:

- Verify full-time enrollment (to include only courses that count toward degree)
- Verify that the student's name appears in the Applicant's Report provided by the Tuition Grant Commission.

- Verify the ISIR is valid and has been received no later than August 1st.
- Verify the residency.
- All first-time awarded students must complete the SC Residency form and submit the supporting documentation required. See the SC Residency Policy.
- Verify students meet the SCTG program requirements for new students and SAP requirements for returning students.
    - This can be done by viewing data in the admissions and/or Registration module of Jenzabar or physically viewing and evaluating the prospective student's transcripts housed in the Admissions Office.
- Verify there is a need for an SCTG award.

4.2 SC HOPE Scholarship

The South Carolina HOPE Scholarship provides eligible students with an award of $2,800, subject to state appropriations and CHE regulations. This award is for U.S. Citizens and SC residents who did not qualify for the LIFE scholarship but had at least a 3.0 GPA. This award is **a one-time award** for the freshman year only. The student may gain eligibility for the LIFE scholarship if they meet the LIFE requirements in their freshman year (3.0 GPA and at least 30 hours completed during the Fall, Spring, and summer sessions).

Eligibility for the SC HOPE Scholarship is determined by the Financial Aid Administrator awarding the student. The following are the criteria for determining eligibility:

- Verify full-time enrollment (to include only courses that count toward degree)
- Verify SC residency
- All first-time awarded students must complete the SC Residency form and submit the supporting documentation required. See the SC Residency Policy.
- Verify the high school GPA by viewing the documented GPA in the Admissions module of Jenzabar that has been recorded from an official transcript.
- All awards that are completed prior to the receipt of the final high school transcript are verified once the transcript is received to determine if the student-maintained eligibility.

4.3: SC LIFE Scholarship

The Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarships were designed to provide scholarships to qualified students attending colleges within South Carolina. Awards at four-year institutions are $5,000 each year.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. A U.S. Citizen (or a legal permanent resident that meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes).

2. A S.C. resident by state guidelines.
3. Must not be receiving a HOPE or SC Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.

Freshman Applicants (must meet 2 of 3 criteria)

1. Minimum SAT score of 1100 or ACT score of 22
2. Minimum final high school GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale based on UGS.
3. Graduate in the top 30% of the graduating class.

Transfer Applicants:

1. Minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale by the end of the academic year at the institution where the student is currently enrolled.
2. Official high school transcript and all official college transcripts must be on file.
3. Earn an average of 30 credit hours per academic year with a LIFE GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Renewal Criteria for SC LIFE:

To be eligible for renewal, students must meet both of the following criteria:

1. Maintain a minimum LIFE GPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale.
2. Earn an average of 30 credit hours per academic year.

Eligibility for the SC LIFE Scholarship is determined by the FAA awarding the student. The following are the criteria for determining eligibility:

- Verify full-time enrollment (to include only courses that count toward degree)
- Verify that the student is a United States Citizen (or a legal permanent resident who meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes) **and** a South Carolina Resident. (See Residency Policy.)
- Determination of SC Residency: All new students complete the SC Residency form. Resolve and clarify any discrepancies before awarding aid.
- Verify the high school GPA, SAT score, and class rank by viewing the documented items in the Admissions module of Jenzabar that have been recorded from an official transcript.
    - Review the Rank Reports provided to CHE once they are available in June.
- All awards that are completed prior to the receipt of the final high school transcript are verified once the transcript is received to determine if the student-maintained eligibility. The FAA pulls an SSRS report for SAT/ACT scores. Then uses that data to double-check all freshmen pending LIFE scholarships.
- Verify the current GPA and hours completed (30-60-90) for renewal of the LIFE scholarship by viewing the transcript in the Registration module of Jenzabar.
- All awards that are completed prior to the completion of the current academic year are verified once final grades have been recorded by the

Registrar. The FAA pulls the SSRS SAP report, which shows the LIFE Hours and GPA, then uses that data to double-check all pending LIFE scholarships.

4.4: SC Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

SC Palmetto Fellows was created to recognize the most academically talented high school seniors in South Carolina, and to encourage them to attend college in the state. High school guidance offices distribute applications. Incoming FR may receive up to $ 6,700, and SO, JR, and SR recipients may receive up to $7500.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. A U.S. Citizen (or a legal permanent resident that meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes).
2. A SC resident by state guidelines
3. Must not be receiving SC LIFE Scholarship.
4. Minimum SAT score of 1200 or ACT score of 25.5.GPA minimum of 3.5 (UGS) by the end of the junior year in high school
5. Rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of either the sophomore, junior, or senior year.

OR

1. SAT minimum of 1400 / ACT minimum 32
2. GPA of 4.0 minimum (UGS)

Renewal Criteria for SC Fellows:

- Students must earn a minimum of 30 credit hours during the school year and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Eligibility for the SC Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is determined by the Financial Aid Administrator awarding the student. The following are the criteria for determining eligibility:

- Verify full-time enrollment (to include only courses that count toward degree)
- Verify that the student is a United States Citizen (or a legal permanent resident who meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes) and an SC Resident. (See Residency Policy)
- Determination of SC Residency: All new students complete the SC Residency form. Resolve and clarify any discrepancies before awarding aid
- Verify the high school GPA by viewing the documented GPA in the Admissions module of Jenzabar that has been recorded from an official transcript.
- Verify ranking using the Rank reports provided to CHE in June.
- All awards that are completed prior to the receipt of the final high school transcript are verified once the transcript is received to determine if the student-maintained eligibility.

LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Enhancements

Enhancement may be awarded in the amount of $2500 after the first year of college for students who have a declared, approved STEM or Education Major and renew their LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.

STEM Enhancement:

Completed at least 14 credits of approved Math or Science courses during Freshman Year.

Education Enhancement:

There is a contractual agreement that must be signed that commits the student to teaching in SC public schools (any public school, any grade) to fulfill a one-year service requirement for the $2500 award. Students are notified of these details by email and must sign the contract and return it to the Financial Aid Office.

4.5: SC Teacher's Loan

This loan is for Education majors only. The South Carolina Teacher Loan Program was established by the State of South Carolina through the Education Improvement Act of 1984 to entice talented and qualified students into the teaching profession. This loan is canceled by teaching in a critical-need area in South Carolina public schools.

Eligibility Requirements (S.C. Teacher)

- Must be a United States Citizen (or a legal permanent resident that meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes).
- Must be a resident of South Carolina
- Must be enrolled in good standing at an accredited institution on at least a half-time basis
- Must be enrolled in a program of teacher education, or have expressed an intent to enroll in such a program
- Entering freshmen must have been ranked in the top 40% of their high school graduating class and have a SAT or ACT score equal to or greater than the S.C. average for the year of graduation from high school or the most recent year for which such figures are available
- Enrolled undergraduate students, including enrolled freshmen (2nd term of freshman year), **must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale and must have taken and passed the Praxis I Exam. Students with an SAT score of 1100 or greater (1650 for exams taken on or after March 1, 2005) or an ACT score of 24 or greater are exempt from the Praxis I requirement**. Entering graduate students must have at least a 2.75 grade point

Residency Verification

Residency eligibility for all South Carolina state aid programs will be determined in accordance with current South Carolina residency regulations. The Financial Aid Office will collect and review residency documentation as necessary and resolve any conflicting information before awarding or disbursing state aid funds.