

# Important Information for Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Applicants

**Class of 2026: Early Application Deadline: MAY 1**  
**Late Application Deadline: JULY 15**

(All application must be submitted electronically by the student prior to 11:59pm on the established deadline date. If the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the deadline is the preceding Friday)

This info packet is for the student/parent/guardian to retain.

The purpose of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program is to recognize the most academically talented high school seniors in South Carolina and to encourage them to attend college in the State. Students must meet both general and academic requirements to be eligible for the Scholarship.

## Initial Eligibility Requirements for the Program:

- **Graduate from high school** or complete an approved home school program as prescribed by law;
- **Attend** and be enrolled as a **full-time** degree-seeking student at an eligible South Carolina **two or four year** public or private college or university the fall term **IMMEDIATELY** following high school graduation, unless the student completes the requirements to utilize a Gap Year/Term;
- **Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident** (green card holder) at the time of high school graduation and be a legal resident of South Carolina as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes at the time of high school graduation;
- **Have not been convicted of any felonies or been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor offenses** within the past academic year by submitting a signed affidavit to the Financial Aid Office at the institution at which the student is enrolled.

Out-of-State institutions, private schools, home school associations, and home schools must contact the Commission on Higher Education to determine if your school is able to use rank as a criteria or if the Alternate Criteria must be used for students from the out-of-state school. **A rank report for the school year being used for eligibility is required to be submitted for ALL SCHOOLS.**

#### Federal Privacy Act Information

Public Law 93-579, referred to as the Federal Privacy Act, became effective September 27, 1975. Section 7b of this law requires any Federal, State, or local agency that requests an individual to disclose his/her social security number to inform the individual whether that disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by which statutory or other authority the number is solicited, and what uses could be made of it. The Commission requests that each applicant for its student aid programs submit a social security number.

This Commission uses a student's social security number for the following purposes:

- To serve as a unique number for applicant and recipient identification in processing forms used in the application and in collating resulting data;
- To report awards to educational institutions on enrollment rosters; and;
- To report the number of awards to the comptroller who issues checks.

#### Description of South Carolina Residency for Tuition and Fee Purposes\*:

Generally, to be a resident of South Carolina, one must reside in South Carolina with the intention of remaining in the State indefinitely. One cannot be a resident of South Carolina if one resides in the State solely for securing an education or if one recognizes some other state or foreign jurisdiction as one's true home.

\*Please Note: While the verification of academic eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is completed by CHE, each eligible applicant is subject to verification of SC Residency at the institution they choose to attend. The determination of resident status made at the institution may impact eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.

For more information regarding the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship go to <http://che.sc.gov/>

## Academic Eligibility Criteria of the Program:

### For high schools that rank and use the SC Uniform Grading Policy:

High School Counselors will notify the student to submit an **electronic application by the established deadline**. Students must meet one of the following sets of academic criteria in order to be eligible to apply for Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.

### Early Award

Deadline: May 1

- ☐ Score at least 1200 on the SAT (math and evidenced-based reading & writing) or 25 on the ACT through the March national test administration of year of graduation. To calculate your superscore, use the the following instructions: **SAT:** Use the highest combined Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing scores. **Enhanced ACT (Science optional):** "Superscore" by summing the highest Math, English, and Reading subject scores and dividing by 3. Round up for .6 or higher. **Legacy ACT Score:** Students can use their Science subject score to qualify. Sum the highest Math, English, Reading, and Science scores, then divide by 4. Round up for .5 or higher.
- ☐ Earn a cumulative 3.50 GPA on the SC UGP at the end of the **junior year**. Grade point averages must be reported with at least two decimal places and may not be rounded; and
- ☐ Rank in the top six percent of either the end of the **sophomore or junior year** based on the SC UGP. The number eligible may be rounded up to a whole number if the top six percent does not yield a whole number of students. *Two students may not occupy the same rank. In the event of a tie, the high school/home school association is responsible for determining the legitimate rank for each eligible applicant.*

### Late Award

Deadline: July 15

- ☐ Score at least 1200 on the SAT (math and evidenced-based reading & writing) or 25 on the ACT through the June national test administration of the year of graduation. To calculate your superscore, use the following instructions: **SAT:** Use the highest combined Math and Evidence-Based Reading & Writing scores. **Enhanced ACT (Science optional):** "Superscore" by summing the highest Math, English, and Reading subject scores and dividing by 3. Round up for .6 or higher. **Legacy ACT Score:** Students can use their Science subject score to qualify. Sum the highest Math, English, Reading, and Science scores, then divide by 4. Round up for .5 or higher. Commission on Higher Education (CHE) Codes: **SAT 4313 and ACT 6326.** *Students who are registered for the June SAT/ACT test administration **MUST** have their scores sent directly to CHE using the above codes. Score reports **must** be received by CHE by July 31.*
- ☐ Earn a cumulative 3.50 GPA on the SC UGP at the end of the **senior year**. Grade point averages must be reported with at least two decimal places and may not be rounded; and
- ☐ Rank in the top six percent of either the end of the **sophomore, junior, or senior year** based on the SC UGP. The number eligible may be rounded up to a whole number if the top six percent does not yield a whole number of students. *Two students may not occupy the same rank. In the event of a tie, the high school/home school association is responsible for determining the legitimate rank for each eligible applicant.*

\*\*\*SUBMITTED TRANSCRIPTS & RANK REPORTS (if Rank Report is required), REGARDLESS OF ACADEMIC YEAR, MUST DISPLAY A JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> DATE CALCULATED OR EARLIER.

Any date after June 15<sup>th</sup> will NOT be accepted. \*\*\*

## Alternative Criteria

For schools that **DO NOT RANK** as a policy AND for students qualifying without regard to rank:

- Score at least 1400 on the SAT or 31 on the ACT through the March (EARLY AWARD) or June (LATE AWARD) national test administration of their year of graduation. In order to determine the highest combined score, the score on the SAT must be calculated by using the highest Math score combined with the highest Evidenced-Based Reading & Writing Score. To calculate the ACT Superscore, add the highest subject scores together and then divided by 3. CHE Codes: **SAT 4313 and ACT 6326** (Students who are registered for the June SAT/ACT test administration **MUST** have their scores sent directly to CHE using the aforementioned codes. Score reports for the LATE AWARD **must** be received by CHE by July 31; AND
- Earn a cumulative 4.00 GPA on the UGP at the end of the Junior (EARLY AWARD) or Senior (LATE AWARD) year. Grade point averages must be reported with at least two decimal places and may not be rounded.

## Scholarship Notification AND Next Steps



The Commission on Higher Education makes the determination of academic eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.

For the **EARLY AWARD** and **LATE AWARD** processes, applications will be reviewed on a continuous basis.

*Students will be notified of their application status through their e-mail and their Palmetto Fellows dashboard.*

**Please make sure students are checking their application dashboard and email.**

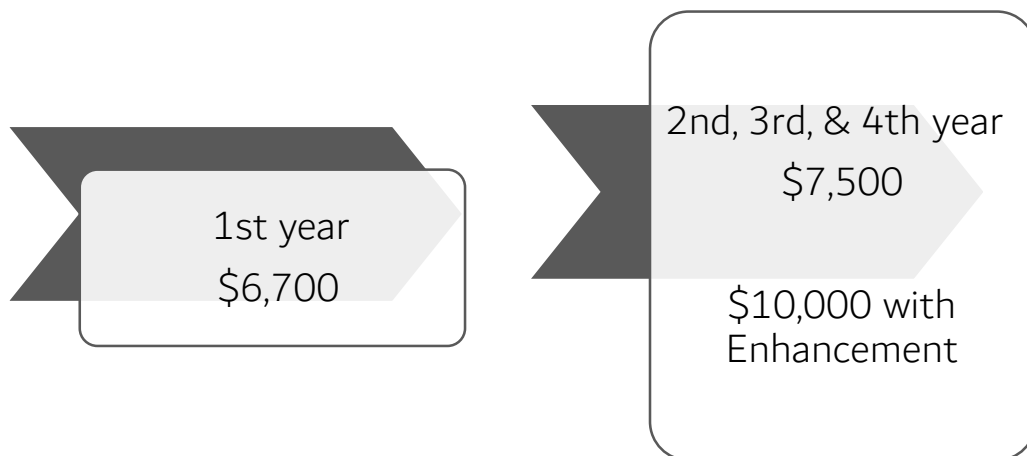
**MANDATORY:** If you are notified as meeting the academic requirements as a Palmetto Fellow, you must [complete the Designation Form](#) indicating the institution you plan to attend in Fall. [Submit the College Designation Form](#) from the left-side menu on your Palmetto Fellows dashboard. **This form is required to be submitted even if the student is attending an out-of-state institution.**

A list of eligible institutions can be found on our website: [http://che.sc.gov/sites/che/files/Documents/General%20Public/PFS\\_Participating\\_Institutions\\_2021.pdf](http://che.sc.gov/sites/che/files/Documents/General%20Public/PFS_Participating_Institutions_2021.pdf)

Failure to return the form **MAY** affect the timing of your award disbursement.

# Annual Award Amount

Under current Palmetto Fellow Scholarship Regulation



Up to four terms of full-time study at a two-year institution, or up to eight terms of full-time study at a four-year institution leading to the first bachelor's degree. In order to determine the exact award amount, all other sources of gift aid must be applied toward the cost-of-attendance before calculating the scholarship amount. Renewal decisions will be made annually.

Scholarship recipients may be eligible to receive an additional \$2,500 Enhancement beginning their sophomore year. To do so,

1) recipients must earn 14 credit hours in an approved enhancement courses by the end of the first year of college enrollment;

2) declare an approved enhancement eligible major. For eligible majors, courses and institutions, visit the Commission's website at:

<http://che.sc.gov/life-and-palmetto-fellows-math-and-science-scholarship-enhancements>

## Requirements for Renewing the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Each Year

At the end of each academic year, the financial aid office at the home institution is responsible for determining a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipient's eligibility status and determining their scholarship award. Each year a recipient is required to:

1. Earn at least a cumulative **3.0 institutional grade point average** (GPA) for graduation purposes each academic year (includes fall, spring and summer terms);
2. Take and earn a **minimum of 30 credit hours** for graduation purposes at the end of **each academic year** (includes fall, spring and summer terms). *Any exempted credits (i.e., AP, CLEP), credit hours earned before high school graduation (i.e., dual enrollment credit hours), and credit hours earned the summer term immediately following high school graduation cannot be used toward the required annual credit hours;*
3. **Maintain residency** for tuition and fee purposes under residency statutes of South Carolina; and
4. **Complete a Scholarship Affidavit/Certification form** each year at your institution.
5. **Be a continuously enrolled full-time student** at an eligible two or four year institution (excluding summer).