



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Access | Affordability | Excellence

SCISA 2025
State Scholarships, Grants, and College
Access Fall Updates

The deadline for Activating, Creating, and Establishing College Credit in SC for Prior Military Learning training registration is Aug. 31. Learn more and register on our [Military CPL Training page](#)!

[Subscribe to CHE updates via email](#)[Staff Directory](#)[Events and Meetings](#)

Search CHE Site



Subscribe to CHE Emails



Join Our Email Distribution Lists for CHE Updates and Information

If you're interested in joining our email distribution lists, please select the group(s) that you'd like to join. By subscribing, you'll receive updates, information, and important announcements from the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) regarding these specific areas.

* Last Name

* Affiliated School or Organization

Primary Phone

Primary Phone Number

Select which of the following you would like to receive information for:

- ☐ CHE Higher Ed News and Press Releases
- ☐ Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services
- ☐ High School Counselor
- ☐ Admissions Directors
- ☐ Financial Aid Directors
- ☐ Financial Aid Officers
- ☐ Institutional Need-based Grant Contacts
- ☐ Institutional Tucker Hipps Contacts
- ☐ Palmetto Fellows High School Contacts
- ☐ Residency Officers
- ☐ Retention Officers

Submit





STATE SCHOLARSHIP & GRANT PROGRAMS

- SC Need-based Grant
- Lottery Tuition Assistance
- SC HOPE Scholarship
- LIFE Scholarship
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

SC Need-based Grant

- Must complete the FAFSA application each year and be determined to have 'need' based on Title IV
- Can be used at any 2-year or 4-year public SC institution
- Must be considered a degree-seeking student
- Award amount up to **\$3,500** for full-time or **\$1,750** for part-time.

SC Need-based Grant Additional Programs

Foster Care Youth

Up to the maximum \$3,500 SC NBG award/year, plus an additional **\$3,500** award.

**Student needs to work with the Financial Aid Office, DSS and CHE to qualify.*

College Transition Program (CTP)

Programs at 6 eligible S.C. institutions for students with intellectual disabilities:

- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Charleston
- University of South Carolina – Aiken
- University of South Carolina – Columbia
- Winthrop University
- **Scholarship: Up to \$15,000**
- **Grant: Up to \$10,000***

**Student needs to be determined to have 'need' by Title IV guidelines*

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP)



Complete the
FAFSA

Enroll as a degree-seeking student at one of the: 16 technical schools, 2-year USC satellite campuses or Spartanburg Methodist College

\$75*/Credit hour up to 15 hours maximum

**Award amount may vary each term depending on availability of funding.*

SC HOPE Scholarship

Eligibility:

3.0

**Cumulative
GPA**

(based on the SC UGP upon
high school graduation)

No application process.

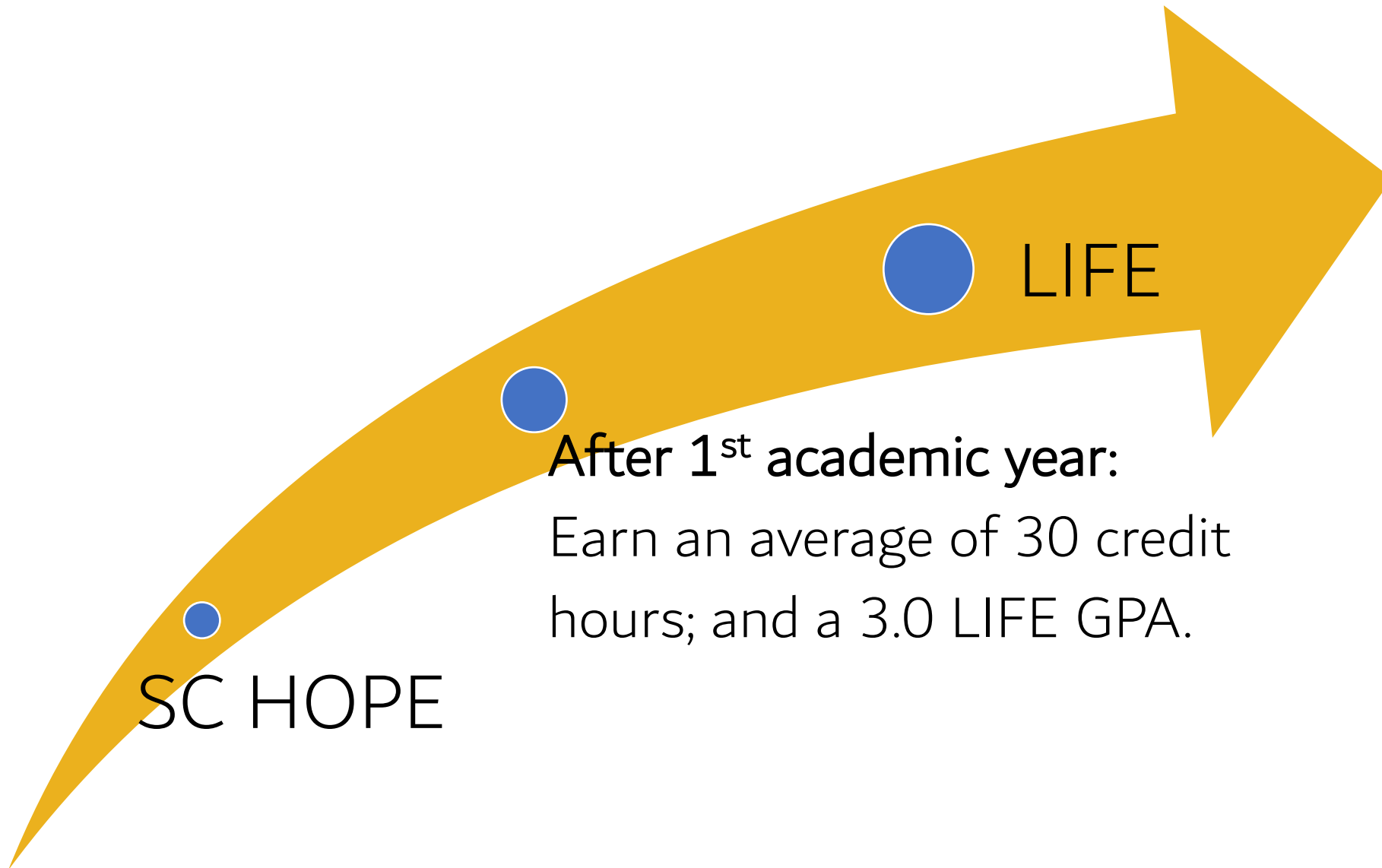
Institution reviews final high
school transcript.

Must attend an eligible SC 4-year
institution

Up to \$2,800

For the 1st academic year only (2
terms)

SC HOPE to LIFE Scholarship



LIFE Scholarship Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility at a 2-year institution

- *3.0 Cumulative GPA* (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation

Eligibility at a 4-year institution

- Earn *2* of the following *3* requirements:
 - 3.0 Cumulative GPA (based on the SC UGP) upon high school graduation
 - 1100/SAT or **22**/ACT
 - Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class (if applicable)

LIFE Terms & Award Amount

Terms of Eligibility

- Up to 4 consecutive semesters of eligibility at a 2-year institution (up to 6 semesters for students in Associate's Programs with minimum of 68 credit hours)
- Up to 8 consecutive semesters of eligibility at a 4-year institution

Up to \$5,000 per academic year

- Not to exceed to the Cost of Attendance
- Must attend an eligible SC institution



"FACTS OF LIFE" SCHOLARSHIP

No application
process

Not required to
begin college
immediately after
high school

Can *earn* LIFE
Scholarship after 1st,
2nd, or 3rd academic
year

Student has until the
end of an academic
year to earn the
GPA/Credit hours

LIFE GPA

Dual enrollment and college enrollment while in high school and/or prior to enrolling in college

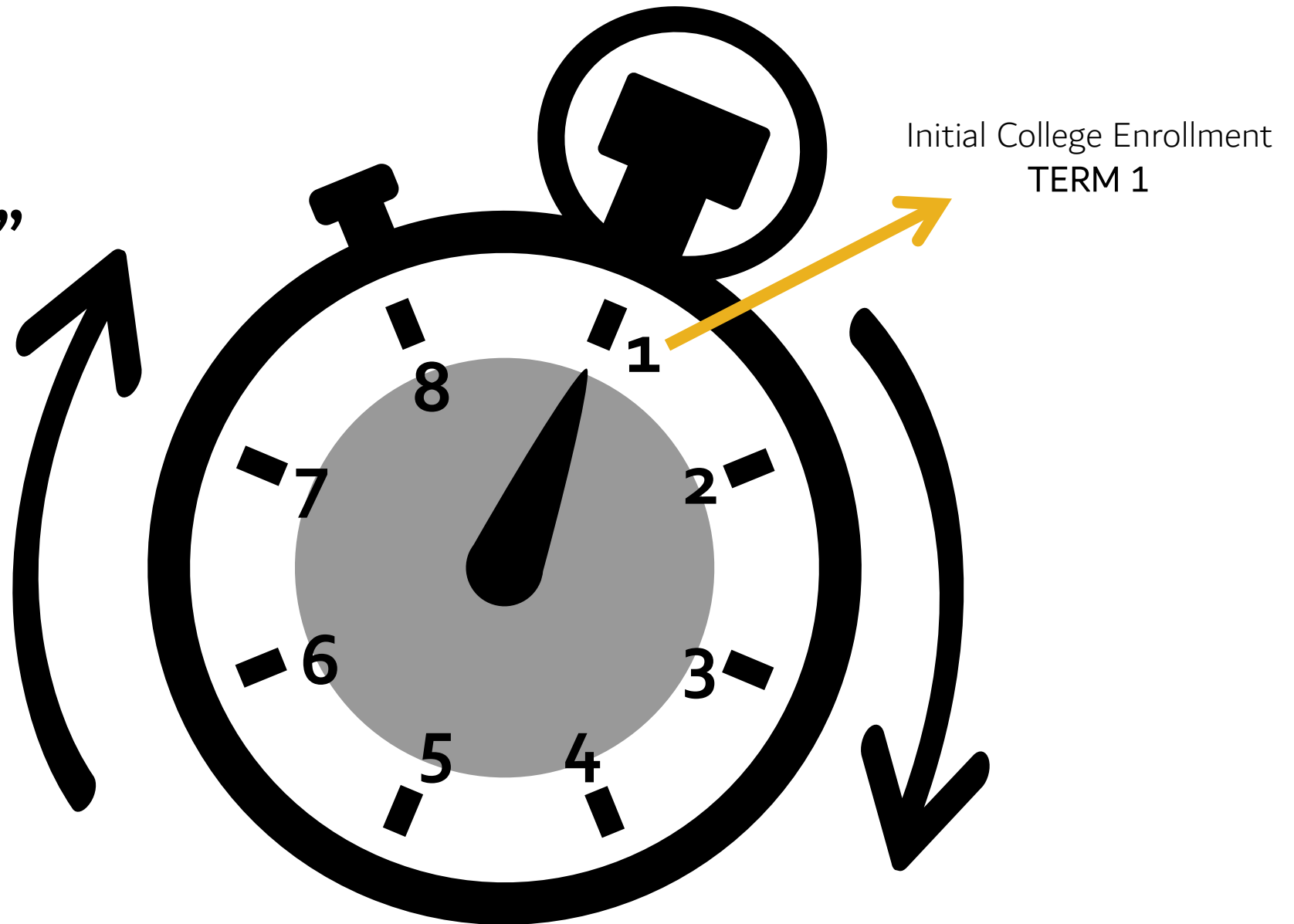
Grades and credit hours earned at colleges and universities (in-state, out-of-state, abroad)

LIFE GPA

Includes "F" and "D" grades

Grades and credit hours earned while enrolled in college (including summer school)

Terms of Eligibility “LIFE Clock”



Continuous
LIFE 62-1200.5.UU.
Palmetto Fellows 62-310.G.

A 'WALK THROUGH LIFE'



End of 1st
Academic
Year

Earn a 3.0
Cumulative
LIFE GPA

Earn at
least 30
credit hours

End of 2nd
Academic
Year

Earn a 3.0
Cumulative
LIFE GPA

Earn at
least 60
credit hours

End of 3rd
Academic
Year

Earn a 3.0
Cumulative
LIFE GPA

Earn at
least 90
credit hours

Palmetto Fellows

Qualifying Criteria

- 3.5 SC UGP GPA,
- 1200 SAT or 25 ACT, and
- Top 6% rank in Grade 10, 11, or 12

If class rank criteria not met...

- 4.0 SC UGP GPA, and
- 1400 SAT or 31 ACT

Continued Eligibility Criteria

- 3.0 institutional GPA, and
- Earn 30 credit hours per academic year*

*cannot include hours earned from AP, IB, CLEP, or dual enrollment.

Can be received for a maximum of 8 terms.

PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

ACT Equivalent Score: 62.320.C. and 62.320.D.

Student Starts Application

Once the student has met the Early Award eligibility criteria:

- email the student the Early Application invite or print and hand this to them.

**This on the HS Counselor Resources webpage and was linked in the July 15, 2025 Application email.*

This is a fillable pdf.

CLASS OF 2026

PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

EARLY APPLICATION: DEADLINE TO APPLY - MAY 1, 2026 AT 11:59PM

Submit your application online at apply.che.sc.gov or use the QR code below; select the **Early Application - Fall 2026 Cohort**
Your High School Counselor's Information is:

Name:

Email:



QUESTIONS, CONTACT CHE:
[SCHOLARSHIPS@CHE.SC.GOV](mailto:scholarships@che.sc.gov)
OR 803-737-2260.

School Counselor Authorization Request

School Counselor Authorization and Parental Consent Requests

 Tips and info  Katie H.

★ Application
invite comes into
play – student will
enter High School
Counselor’s Name
and email from the
invite here.

Choose a request type

School Counselor Authorization

School Counselor Authorization

* Counselor First Name

Chris

* Counselor Last Name

Harris

* Counselor Email

Field is required

Do you waive your right to view information sent on your behalf?

Yes

No

SEND REQUEST

CANCEL



HS Counselor's Secure Authorization Form



Hello Chris,

Please help Katie Harris provide required information to South Carolina Commission on Higher Education by completing the form below.

* Your First Name

Christopher

* Your Last Name

Harris

* Are you submitting this information for an Early or Late Award applicant?

Early Award

Academic Standing and Test Scores of the Applicant

1. **REQUIRED:** All grade point averages (GPA) must be based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (SC UGP) and be cumulative. All GPAs must be reported with at least two decimal places and cannot be rounded. Please note that the reported GPAs must match the GPA submitted on the official high school transcript. All transcripts submitted must have a June 15th date calculated or earlier. No exceptions. **All eligible Early applicants must have a junior year transcript submitted on their behalf. Late applicants must have a final senior year transcript submitted.**

* Final 11th Grade GPA

Counselor Request

Student transcript

- Early Award: submit an 11th grade transcript for all applicants;
 - Only submit 10th grade transcripts if student is qualifying with 10th grade rank (if using rank)
 - DO NOT send final, end of year transcript in May/June.
- Late Award: submit 12th grade transcripts for all applicants;
 - Only submit 10th or 11th grade transcripts if student did NOT qualify with 12th grade rank (if using rank)

Student test scores

- High school score reports (printed/saved from K12 portal)
 - signature/initials **not** needed. (NO STUDENT REPORTS)
- Score labels/stickers - **must** sign/initial, and/or stamp
- Please have students taking the June test, send scores directly to CHE via SAT 4313 or ACT 6326.

Student Notification

- Students will be notified:
 - Approx. 1 month after CHE receives their School supporting documents.
 - Late Award: Late August*
- Dashboard will be updated automatically, and student will receive an email.
 - Emails are sent from Scholarships@che.sc.gov



Designation Form

- In order for the student to receive scholarship funds they **MUST** complete the DESIGNATION FORM
 - This is the SOLE responsibility of the student
 - This is an online form that will show on the student's dashboard once the application is processed
- Final deadline to submit Designation Form: August 31st
 - Please remind students to check their email and dashboard!

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

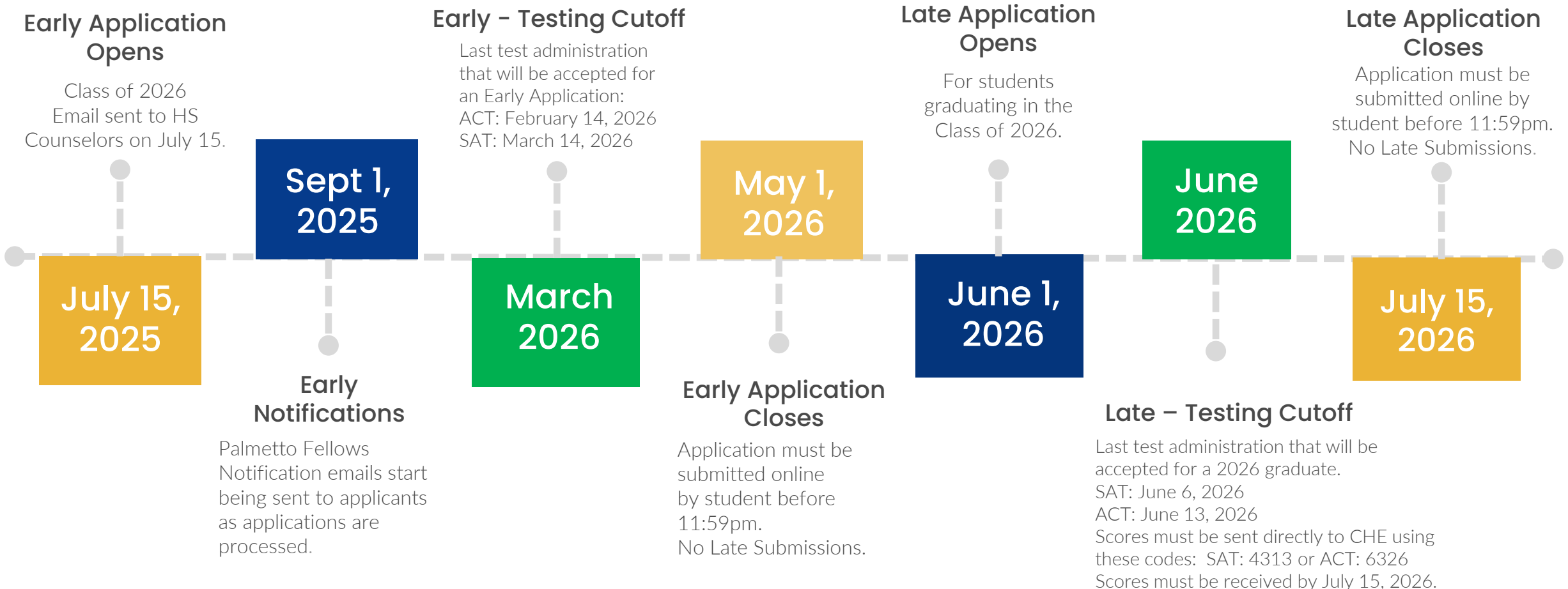


2025–2026 Palmetto Fellows Application Timeline



UPDATED

Palmetto Application Timeline for the Class of 2026 graduating class.





Most Common Issues from 2024-25 Apps

1. No Parental Consent
2. No Counselor Authorization
3. Missing Transcript and/or Test Score
4. No rank report
5. Uploading entire class of transcripts to one student profile
6. Incorrect Transcript(s)
 - Work-in-Progress Transcript
 - No signature
 - Wrong date calculated
 - Wrong grade in top left-hand corner

Most Common Issues from 2024-25 Apps

If you are a 2026 High School Graduate, please contact your high school counselor to discuss the process for applying for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.

Contact your HS Counselor for Application instructions >

THIS IS NOT THE PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION.

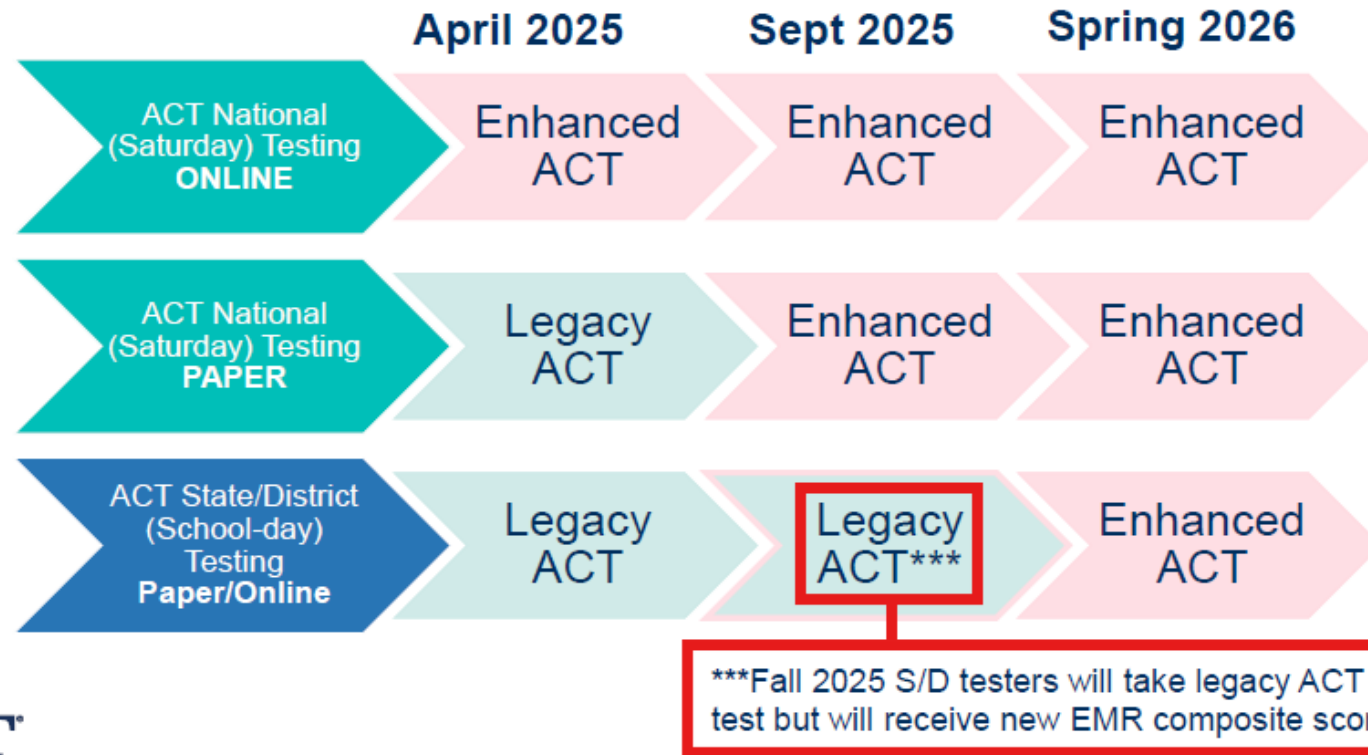
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship In-State Transfer or Reapplication Request

To be eligible for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, students must be determined as recipients during their senior year of high school.

*Students NOT using the application website or QR code to apply. This is the Transfer/Reapplication Form for CURRENT College students. We had 100 Class of 2025 students that submitted this during 24-25.

ACT Superscore Update

Phased Rollout: Enhanced ACT & New Composite Score



- **CHE:** For the purposes of meeting the ACT test score requirement, the student must use the highest English, Math, and Reading scores, which may come from different test administrations. A Science score may be included to improve the composite score but is not required. (LIFE and Palmetto Fellows).

ACT Superscore Update

Here's how to find your ACT superscore if you want to do it yourself:

Step 1: Gather all of your ACT score reports.

Step 2: Fill out a table with your test dates and corresponding scores from all your ACT tests so you can easily compare subject scores.

Step 3: Identify your best score in each subject by circling the highest number in each column.

Step 4: Calculate the average based on your last valid test attempt.

If your last valid test attempt was on the:

- **Legacy ACT:** Calculate the average by adding the English, math, reading and science scores together, dividing by four, and rounding to the nearest whole number.
- **Enhanced ACT:** Calculate the average by adding English, math, and reading scores together, dividing by three, and rounding to the nearest whole number.

Legacy: English + Math + Reading + Science = Total / 4 = Superscore Composite

Enhanced: English + Math + Reading = Total / 3 = Superscore Composite

ACT's Rounding Integer:

Legacy Composite = 0.5

Enhanced Composite = 0.6



QUICK
TIPS

ACT Superscore Update

Test Date	English Score	Math Score	Science Score	Reading Score	Total Legacy (Enhanced)	Legacy Composite (Rounded)	Enhanced Composite (Rounded)
September 2025	32	27		33	(92)	----	30.6 (31)
April 2025	22	20	27	22	91 (64)	22.75 (23)	21.3 (21)
February 2025	26	22	30	25	103 (73)	25.75 (26)	24.3 (24)
October 2024	34	30	27	30	121 (94)	30.25 (30)	31.3 (31)
May 2024	25	22	24	33	104 (80)	26	26.6 (27)
April 2024	26	22	25	27	100 (75)	25	25

ACT's Rounding Integer:

Legacy Composite: 0.5

Enhanced Composite: 0.6



Opening Regulations

○ Palmetto Fellows

- Emergency Regulation: ACT score for Class of 2026
- Permanent Regulation



- Preparing for College

- Colleges and Universities in SC
- SC College Graduate Earning Trends
- Paying for College
- Apply for College
- College Process Ambassador Program

- SC Scholarships and Grants

- SC Residency Information
- LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements
- New FAFSA Completion Toolkit
- SC Scholarship Appeals
- External Scholarship & Grant Resources
- Minority & Multicultural Financial Aid Resources
- Nursing Educator Tuition Reimbursement

- Student

- Trans
- In Sta
- In Sta
- Optom
- Stude
- Transp
- SC Tr
- Center
- Retur

CHE
Scholarships
& Grants
webpage



South Carolina provides direct support to students pursuing higher education through a number of need-based and merit-based scholarships and grants; however you must prove residency in the state of South Carolina to apply for state-funded financial aid. For specific information on residency requirements, visit our [SC Residency Information](#) page.

Scholarship and Grant Overview

Qualifying Criteria		Continued Eligibility Criteria	
SC HOPE \$2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded on eligible four-year institution 3.0 SC UGP GPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.0 LIFE GPA, and Earn an average of 30 credit hours by the end of the first academic year 	<p>If a SC HOPE recipient satisfies the above criteria, they move into the LIFE scholarship program beginning in their 2nd academic year.</p>
LIFE \$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two-Year Institution: 3.0 SC UGP GPA Four-year Institution (Must 2 out of 3): 3.0 SC UGP GPA, 1100 SAT or 22 ACT, Rank in top 10% of graduating class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.0 LIFE GPA; and Earn an average of 30 credit hours by the end of the first academic year 	<p>Up to eight terms of eligibility towards first Bachelor's degree</p>
Palmetto Fellows \$6,700 year 1 \$3,600 year 2-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.5 SC UGP GPA, and 1200 SAT or 25 ACT; and Top 6% rank in either 10, 11, 12 <p>Without regard to race (Alternative Criteria):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4.0 SC UGP GPA, and 1400 SAT or 31 ACT <p>Mid-year graduates (MGT) apply prior to mid-year graduation date</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.0 Institutional GPA; and Earn 30 credit hours each academic year 	<p>Up to eight terms of eligibility towards first Bachelor's degree</p>
Lottery Tuition Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-Year institutions only Complete the FAFSA or FAFSA waiver; Enroll in at least six credit hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.0 Institutional GPA; and Earn 30 credit hours each academic year 	<p>Up to eight terms of eligibility towards first Bachelor's degree</p>
SC Need-based Grant \$12,000 (1st-3rd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determined "in need" by completing the FAFSA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.0 GPA, and Earn 24 credit hours; and Complete the FAFSA annually, so "in need" status can be confirmed. 	<p>Students are not eligible to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance for more than one certificate, diploma, or degree earned within any five-year period unless the additional certificate, diploma, or degree constitutes progress in the same field of study.</p>

Detailed Scholarship and Grant Information

- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- LIFE Scholarship
- South Carolina HOPE Scholarship (Freshmen)
- South Carolina Need-based Grant
- Lottery Tuition Assistance
- South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP)
- South Carolina Workforce & Industry Needs Scholarship (SC-WINS)
- Free Tuition for Residents Over 60
- Nursing Educator Tuition Reimbursement

Retaining state scholarships and grants:
Find out what you need to know in this video of our latest workshop!



Palmetto Fellows & LIFE Scholarship Updates:

[Associate Degree Programs \(66+ hours\) eligible for Three-Year LIFE Scholarship \(PDI\)](#)

[2023 State-Funded Scholarships and Grants \(PDI\)](#)

[List of Eligible Homeschools](#)

Additional Financial Aid Resources:

[Fact Sheet: Upcoming changes to the FAFSA](#)

[Residency Information for Tuition and Scholarship Eligibility](#)

[Paying for College: Step-by-Step Guide to Financial Aid](#)

[Most Common Back-to-School Financial Aid Questions](#)

[Scholarship Appeals Information](#)

[Student Resources](#)



- Transfer Excellence Center

- 2023 Transfer Action Plan
- Transfer Outcomes Dashboard
- Transfer and Articulation Center (SC TRAC)
- Military Credit Mobility Task Force
- Credit for Prior Military Learning Training

- Licensing of Non-Public Postsecondary Institutions

- Pay Licensing Fees Online
- Pay SC SARA Fees Online

- Nursing Educator Initiative

- Academic Programs, Policies and Administration

- Academic Programs and Career Clusters Dashboard
- REACH Act Compliance Guidelines

- CHEMIS

- High School Counselor Resources

- SC CAN GO (College Access and FAFSA Completion Events)
- Veteran's Education and Training (SAA)
- EIA Centers of Excellence for Teacher Education

High School Counselor Resources

Welcome to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education's resource page for high school counselors! Our goal is to enhance college access by providing resources to support our counselors as they help students on their higher education journey. As a partner for counselors across the state, the CHE Office of Student Affairs is committed to supporting your efforts in shaping the academic and personal growth of students as they pursue their higher education dreams.

Join us for our 2025 Palmetto Fellows Workshops!

We are excited to announce four virtual workshops this fall designed to support administrators and counselors in navigating the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship application process.

- The first workshop, in September, will be tailored specifically for **homeschool administrators**.
- The following three workshops will be for **counselors and administrators at public and independent high schools**.

Each session will provide an overview of the digital application process and guidance on how Early Applications for the Class of 2026 can be successfully submitted electronically. We encourage homeschool administrators, high school counselors, and school administrators to register for the workshop most relevant to their setting. Simply click the "Register" link for your preferred session.

Dates and Registration:



Updates:

[REGISTRATION FOR COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH AND COLLEGE GOAL SC EVENTS IS OPEN!](#)

[College Application Month Student Survey Link](#)

[Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Fall 2025 Workshops Flyer \(PDF\)](#)

Training Workshops:

[FAFSA Counselor Training](#)

[Palmetto Fellows Late Award Workshop \(PPT\)](#)

[VIDEO: Palmetto Fellows Late Award Workshop](#)

[VIDEO: College Goal SC Site Coordinator Training](#)



CHE High School Counselor Resources Webpage

CHE High School Counselor Resources Webpage

- Transfer Excellence Center

- 2023 Transfer Action Plan
- Transfer Outcomes Dashboard
- Transfer and Articulation Center (SC TRAC)
- Military Credit Mobility Task Force
- Credit for Prior Military Learning Training

- Licensing of Non-Public Postsecondary Institutions

- Pay Licensing Fees Online
- Pay SC SARA Fees Online

- Nursing Educator Initiative

- Academic Programs, Policies and Administration

- Academic Programs and Career Clusters Dashboard
- REACH Act Compliance Guidelines

- CHEMIS

- High School Counselor Resources

- SC CAN GO (College Access and FAFSA Completion Events)
- Veteran's Education and Training (SAA)
- EIA Centers of Excellence for Teacher Education

Scroll
Down

✓ SC CAN GO College Access Events and Campaigns

✓ Important Memos

✓ FAFSA

✓ Guides

^ State Lottery Scholarship Information and Resources

Note: General information on state scholarships and grants is located on our [Scholarships and Grants Page](#)

- [Early Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Student Invite \(PDF\)](#)
- [Palmetto Fellows Application Status Report Guide](#)
- [Palmetto Fellows 25-26 Application Timeline](#)
- [2026 Palmetto Fellows Student Info Packet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Class Rank Reports Process \(PDF\)](#)
- [Scholarship Regulations](#)
- [State Lottery Scholarships and Grants Printable Flyer \(PDF\)](#)
- [Act 156 Enhancements Guidance for Education and Accounting Majors - Fall 2024 \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Education programs eligible for scholarship enhancements \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Emergency LIFE Scholarship regulations \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Emergency Palmetto Fellows Scholarship regulations \(PDF\)](#)



CHE SCCANGO Webpage

For Students, Families and Military

For Institutions and Educators

Analytics, Data and Reports

About the CHE

- Transfer Excellence Center

- 2023 Transfer Action Plan
- Transfer Outcomes Dashboard
- Transfer and Articulation Center (SC TRAC)
- Military Credit Mobility Task Force
- Credit for Prior Military Learning Training

- Licensing of Non-Public Postsecondary Institutions

- Pay Licensing Fees Online
- Pay SC SARA Fees Online

- Nursing Educator Initiative

- Academic Programs, Policies and Administration

- Academic Programs and Career Clusters Dashboard
- REACH Act Compliance Guidelines

- CHEMIS

- High School Counselor Resources

- **SC CAN GO (College Access and FAFSA Completion Events)**
- Veteran's Education and Training (SAA)
- EIA Centers of Excellence for Teacher Education

[Home](#) » [SC CAN GO: Promoting College Access and a College-Going Culture in South Carolina](#)

SC CAN GO: Promoting College Access and a College-Going Culture in South Carolina



South Carolina CAN Go To College (SC CAN GO), facilitated by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Student Affairs Office, promotes a college-going culture for students in our state, and also raise needed college access awareness. The primary goal of this campaign is to encourage South Carolina students and families to take an active role in pursuing higher education. The campaign also helps students and families overcome perceived barriers to higher education and provides resources to assist school counselors and education professionals to help facilitate a college-going culture for all students.

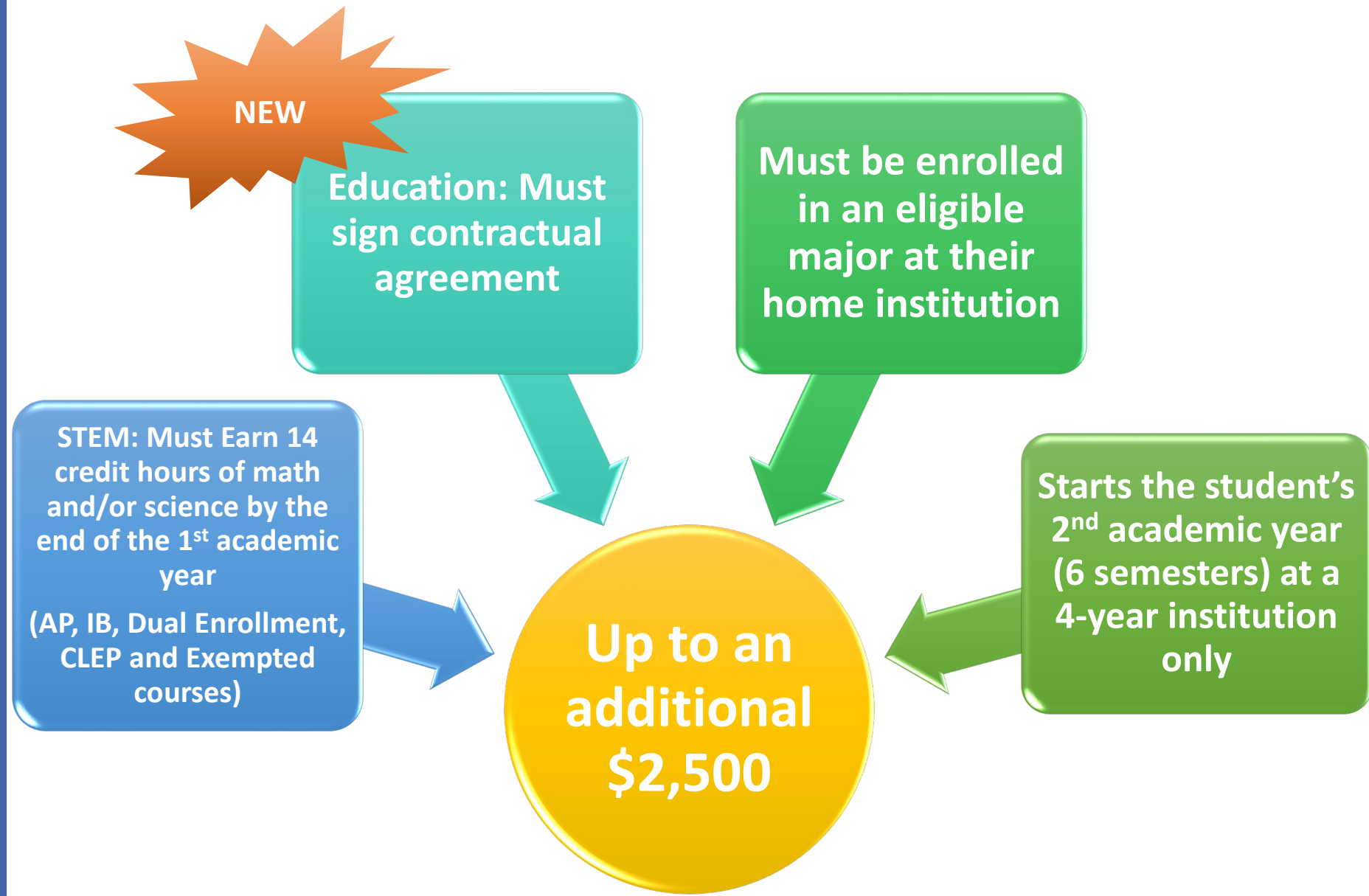
SC CAN GO facilitates three major programs throughout the school year including College Application Month in the fall, College Goal SC to support Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion in the winter and spring, and College and Career Decision Day to celebrate our graduating seniors each May.

- ✓ College Application Month
- ✓ College Goal SC
- ✓ College and Career Decision Day (2025 Date TBA)

New Scholarship Enhancement



LIFE & PFS Enhancements



Other Reminders



In order to determine eligibility for the State scholarship programs, the financial aid office/institution and/or CHE for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship must have an official transcript on file (electronic or otherwise) that demonstrates the following items:

- A valid signature (electronic or otherwise) from the Principal.* In the event that the Principal is not available, the Superintendent signature is acceptable.
 - ***For Independent/Private and home school students: The administrator, registrar, or an official from the home school/accountability group. Should provide letter stating designated school rep.*
- SC UGP GPA must be demonstrated
- Date calculated date to be date calculated no later than June 15th (regardless of academic year)
 - For the LIFE Scholarship and the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Late Award the transcript MUST demonstrate that it is the final official transcript, as well as reflect a graduation date
- Rank
 - If an independent high school or home school association has an approved policy on rank, a rank must be demonstrated on the official transcript (even if the student is not using rank for scholarship eligibility).
 - A rank report must also be submitted with a date calculated matching the transcripts even if the student is not using rank. (LIFE 62-1200.10.C)

Transcript Requirements:

Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

SC UGP GPA

62-1200.10. Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

3. (a) Earn a cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA) based on the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) upon high school graduation. No other grading policy will be allowed to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship. **Final high school GPAs shall be based on the four-year period of high school attendance, with the exception of Carnegie Units earned prior to high school.** There may be other exceptions, as deemed necessary by the Commission. Grade point averages must be reported to two decimal places (minimum) and may not be rounded. For example, a student who earns a 2.99 GPA is not eligible. Institutions shall use the final GPA as reported on the official transcript. The final official high school transcript must be dated in accordance with the Commission established date(s). If a South Carolina resident student is graduating from an out of state high school, it is the responsibility of the out of state student's school counselor to convert the student's final high school GPA and class ranking to an eligible final high school GPA based on the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy.

SC UGP GPA

62-320. Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Application.

F. Grade point averages must be based on the current South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy, reported with at least two decimal places, and may not be rounded up. The South Carolina UGP GPA and class rank (if school/association officially ranks as a policy) must be printed on an official final end of year high school transcript, which must also include a uniform date of calculation as determined by the Commission on Higher Education. The graduation date must also be printed on the final end of senior year high school transcript. No coursework completed after the date of uniform calculation can be included in the end of the year GPA. **Student must meet the scholarship eligibility criteria within four years of high school coursework.**

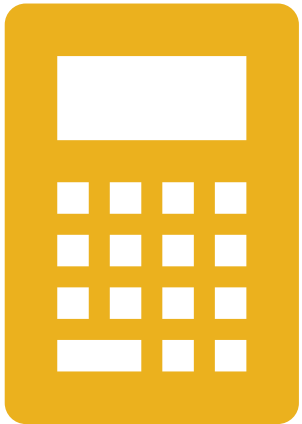
Transfer Students

If a student transfers into your school, and they would like to be considered for state scholarships, the new school must provide a cumulative SC UGP GPA either on the new schools' transcript or provide a conversion document that shows the student's cumulative SC UGP GPA.

Class rank uses a cumulative SC UGP GPA, if the student does not have a cumulative SC UGP GPA on their transcript, the student cannot be ranked. The student would be included in the class size and listed on the rank report as not ranked.

If there is no cumulative SC UGP GPA provided, a student will not be eligible for state scholarships.

Rank & State Scholarship Eligibility



- For the purposes of the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS) programs two students may not occupy the same rank.
 - **LIFE Scholarship:** Top 30% of the graduating class (NOT rounded up to the next whole number)
 - **PFS:** Top 6% (rounded up to the next whole number)
- In the event of a tie, the high school/home school association is responsible for determining the legitimate rank for each eligible applicant.
 - For the purposes of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship the student's GPA may need to be truncated past two decimal points in order to determine the true rank for each student.
 - *Inquire about your School District or Board's approved policy*
- Commission staff will NOT be able to participate in a process to determine a student's true rank.

Rank Reports

Per the memo sent to institutions and high schools on June 15, 2023, beginning with the Class of 2024, all ranking schools MUST submit their final 12th grade ranking report to CHE no later than June 30 of each academic year. Must be in pdf format.

Rank reports can be sent to Scholarships@che.sc.gov

Ranking high schools no longer need to send ranking reports to SC Colleges and Universities.

Information on rank report MUST match information on Transcript.



Early Graduate vs. Graduating Early

Early Graduate

(Senior graduating mid-year > not during the Spring Cohort)

LIFE Scholarship

- For scholarship eligibility the student **CANNOT** use rank as an eligibility criterion.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

- Student can qualify with class rank from the end of the 10th or 11th grade year.
- **Palmetto Fellows: can only apply during the Early Award Period PRIOR to completing their high school graduation requirements.**

Graduating Early

(Student graduates academic year(s) early > graduates with Spring Cohort)

SC HOPE / LIFE Scholarship

- Eligibility is based on the end of the academic year with the student's "new" graduating class

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

- Early Award Application Period can use the end of 10th or 11th grade rank, must use end of 11th grade GPA
- Late Award Application Period can use the end of 10th or 12th grade rank, must use end of 12th grade GPA



COLLEGE ACCESS UPDATES

College Access Additions



Get to Know Your College Access Team

Kathy Rollins

Duration with CHE: 1 year

Hobbies: Traveling, photography, and cooking

Passions: Ensuring that every student has the opportunity for higher education!

Contact Information: karollins@che.sc.gov | 803-856-0137

Alantis Seckal

Duration with CHE: 5 months

Hobbies: Art, Reading, and Traveling

Passions: Volunteering and advocating for students to obtain higher education

Contact Information: sseckal@che.sc.gov | 803-856-0346



College Access Programs

1. College Application Month

- Events run from September to November
- College reps assist/Fee waivers
- End of Event reports due 12/31/2025

2. College Goal SC

- Statewide FAFSA Completion Campaign
- Events run from October to March

3. College Decision Day SC

- South Carolina's College & Career Signing Day Program
- Celebrates high school Seniors and their decision to enter college, workforce or military service!
- We plan to do another rally at the statehouse this Spring.

CHE College Access Program Events and Updates

8/11 College Goal SC Registration Opens

8/14 College Application Month (CAM) Season Kicks Off

Our College Goal SC Refresher Trainings provides guidance on hosting a College Goal SC event.

8/26 College Goal SC Refresher Training at 10:30-11:00 AM (Virtual)

8/27 College Goal SC Refresher Training at 1:30-2:00 PM (Virtual)

8/28 College Goal SC Refresher Training at 10:30-11:00 AM (Virtual)

Upcoming:

Our FAFSA Counselor Trainings equip counselors to guide students and their families through the FAFSA completion process.

Registration link: <https://chesc-21420.page451.sites.451.io/>

9/16 FAFSA Counselor Training at 10:00-11:00 AM (Virtual)

9/18 FAFSA Counselor Training at 1:00-2:00 PM (Virtual)

9/24 FAFSA Counselor Training at 10:00-11:00 AM (Virtual)

10/1 College Goal SC Season Kick Off

Interested in joining our College and Career Decision Day Committee register with the following link

<https://forms.office.com/g/ksAtcg48vS>

FAFSA Completion Status Portal

Now Available!

FAFSA Completion Data AAA High School				
Academic Year 2025 - 2026				
Export to Excel Close				
Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth	Zip Code	FAFSA Status
Abel	Mary	01/07/2006	01234	Complete
Clark	Susan	07/14/2006	22345	Complete
Jones	Laura	10/28/2005	12256	Missing Signature
Martin	Doug	03/30/2006	01234	Complete
Washington	James	09/04/2005	12256	Not Found
Young	Sarah	03/13/2006	01234	Complete

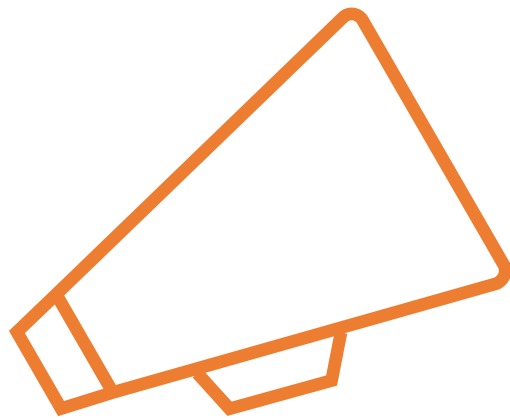
A FAFSA Completion/Matching Portal is in the works through the Tuition Grants Commission's system, "myTG" – with plans to implement with the 2025-2026 FAFSA Cycle for the Class of 2026:

- The SC Tuition Grants Commission (TGC) receives all FAFSA data for South Carolina residents. Through a partnership with the S.C. Department of Education, the Tuition Grants Commission will have the ability to match all publicly enrolled seniors with corresponding FAFSA Data
- High Schools/Districts will need to enter sign an MOU with the Tuition Grants Commission to participate; individual users will sign User Agreement/Access forms
- The Commission on Higher Education (CHE) will assist TGC communicate the availability with the high school counselor community
- More information forthcoming!



**SC Higher Education
Tuition Grants Commission**

Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.



Announcement

Meet Cosmos



Search CHE Site



Military

For Institutions and Educators

Analytics, Data and Reports

About the CHE

» Scholarships and Grants for SC Residents

Grants for SC Residents

Students pursuing higher education through a number of need-based and merit-based programs must prove residency in the state of South Carolina to apply for state-funded financial aid.

For specific information on residency requirements, visit our [SC Residency Information](#) page.

Scholarship and Grant Overview

General Eligibility requirements for all programs:

- US Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident*
- SC Resident*
- No felony convictions**
- No second or subsequent alcohol/drug misdemeanors
- Not in default on any state or federal loans
- Enroll in a degree-seeking program at an eligible SC institution

*This must be determined at the time of high school graduation & college enrollment.
**Excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

SC HOPE
\$2,800

- Attend an eligible four-year institution
- 3.0 SC UGP GPA

CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 3.0 LIFE GPA; and
- Earn an average of 30 credit hours by the end of the first academic year*

If a SC HOPE recipient satisfies the above criteria, they move into the LIFE scholarship program beginning in their 2nd academic year

Fall 2024 Scholarship Updates:

[Education and Accounting Majors now eligible for Palmetto Fellows, LIFE scholarship enhancements \(PDF\)](#)

[See the list of education programs eligible for scholarship enhancements \(PDF\)](#)

[Emergency LIFE Scholarship regulations as of August 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

[Emergency Palmetto Fellows Scholarship regulations as of August 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

Retaining state scholarships and grants:



Newest CHE Member

na
er Education



For Students, Families and Military

For Institutions and Educators

Analytics, Data and Reports

About the CHE

[Home](#) » [For Students, Families and Military](#) » Scholarships and Grants for SC Residents

Scholarships and Grants for SC Residents

South Carolina provides direct support to students pursuing higher education through a number of need-based and merit-based scholarships and grants, however you must prove residency in the state of South Carolina to apply for state-funded financial aid. For specific information on residency requirements, visit our [SC Residency Information](#) page.

Scholarship and Grant Overview

General Eligibility requirements for all programs:

- US Citizen/Legal Permanent Resident*
- SC Resident**
- No felony convictions**
- No second or subsequent alcohol/drug misdemeanors
- Not in default on any state or federal loans
- Enroll in a degree-seeking program at an eligible SC institution

*This must be determined at the time of high school graduation & college enrollment.
**Excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance.

QUALIFYING CRITERIA

SC HOPE
\$2,800

- Attend an eligible four-year institution
- 3.0 SC UGP GPA

CONTINUED ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 3.0 LIFE GPA; and
- Earn an average of 30 credit hours by the end of the first academic year*

If a SC HOPE recipient satisfies the above criteria, they move into the LIFE scholarship program beginning in their 2nd academic year

Fall 2024 Scholarship Update

[Education and Accounting Majors](#) now eligible for Palmetto Fellowship
[LIFE scholarship enhancements \(PDF\)](#)

[See the list of education programs](#) eligible for scholarship enhancements (PDF)

[Emergency LIFE Scholarship regulations as of August 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

[Emergency Palmetto Fellowship Scholarship regulations as of August 2024 \(PDF\)](#)

Retaining state scholarship and grants:



Welcome

How can we help you today?

WE TYPICALLY REPLY IN A FEW HOURS

Start New Conversation



POWERED BY ELEMENT451

Register for an Upcoming Virtual Workshops

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship In-Depth Workshops



Homeschool Associations:

- Tuesday, September 23 @ 1:00PM

High Schools:

- Wednesday, September 24 @ 11:00AM
- Friday, October 3 @ 10:00AM
- Thursday, October 9 @ 2:00PM

Register from the **High School Counselor webpage!**

CHE Contact Information

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

Director of Student Affairs
(803) 856-0578
kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov

Dr. Gerrick Hampton

Associate Director and Program Manager
(803) 856-0609
ghampton@che.sc.gov

Ms. Kathryn (Katie) Harris

Scholarships and Grants Program Manager
(803) 856-0738
kharris@che.sc.gov

Ms. Tanya Weigold

Scholarships and Grants Program Coordinator
(803) 856-0672
tweigold@che.sc.gov

Ms. Alfie Mincy

SCNG CAP Program Coordinator
(803) 856-0579
amincy@che.sc.gov

Ms. Kathy Rollins

College Access Program Manager
(803) 856-0137
karollins@che.sc.gov

Ms. Alantis Seckal

College Access Program Consultant
(803) 856-0346
sseckal@che.sc.gov