

R. Wes Hayes, Jr.
Chairman

Rusty L. Monhollon, Ph.D.
President & Executive Director

Agenda Item 6.03.C.
CHE Meeting



June 3, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chair Wes Hayes and Members, SC Commission on Higher Education

FROM: Chair Paul Batson, Chair and Members
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program 2019-2020 Summary

Palmetto Fellows History

The South Carolina General Assembly established the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program in 1988 to recognize the most academically talented high school seniors and encourage these students to attend college in the State. From 1988 until 1995, the SC Commission on Higher Education awarded an average of 42 new Palmetto Fellows Scholarships each year. The State awarded \$2,500 per academic year to each recipient, and the institution in which the recipient was enrolled was required to match that amount.

In 1996 the SC General Assembly increased the funding for the program thereby increasing the average number of new Palmetto Fellows Scholarships awarded each year as well as the average award amount. Institutions were no longer required to provide matching funds. With the implementation of the SC Education Lottery in 2002, the General Assembly approved an increase in the maximum Palmetto Fellows Scholarship award amount. Palmetto Fellows may receive up to \$6,700 their first academic year and up to \$7,500 for their second, third, and fourth years for a maximum of eight terms towards their first bachelor's degree at an eligible higher education institution in South Carolina.

2019-20 Palmetto Fellows Report

In 2019-20, the Palmetto Fellows Program was appropriated \$73,809,959 (\$61,809,959 Lottery Funding, \$12,000,000 General Funds/Children's Endowment). The annual data and invoices for the FY2020-21 academic year will not be final until end of 2021 summer term.

Initial Eligibility Requirements

- Rank in the top 6% at the end of the 10th, or the 11th, or the 12th grade academic year; *and*
- Earn a 1200 on the SAT or a 27 on the ACT; *and*
- Earn a 3.5 cumulative GPA (based on SC UGP)

OR qualify by meeting the Alternative Criteria eligibility requirements without regard to rank



803-737-2260

1122 Lady St, Ste 400
Columbia, SC 29201

www.che.sc.gov



- Earn a 1400 on the SAT or a 32 on the ACT; *and*
- Earn an 4.0 cumulative GPA (based on SC UGP)

2019-2020 High School Student Profile (Fall 2020 College Cohort)

- 3,405 students met the academic eligibility (*178 less students than last year*)
 - 1,436 used the Alternative Criteria to qualify (*About 42%*)
- Average SC UGP GPA: 4.90
- Average SAT: 1308
- Average ACT: 30

Demographic Breakdown

- American Indian/Alaskan Native: less than 1%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 6%
- Black/African American: 5%
- Hispanic: 5%
- White/Non-Hispanic: 80%
- Two or More Races: 4%
- Unknown: 1%
- Gender
 - Male: 41%
 - Female: 59%

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements

During the 2007 legislative session, the General Assembly created the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement. The Scholarship Enhancement increases the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship maximum award from \$7,500 to \$10,000. The enhancement is available to students majoring in the mathematics, science, and health fields at eligible South Carolina four-year institutions. Eligible students can be awarded a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement to meet their cost of attendance for up to six consecutive terms starting the second year of college enrollment.

To be eligible for the Scholarship Enhancement a student must:

- Be a recipient of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship; *and*
- Earn at least 14 credit hours of instruction in approved mathematics or life and physical sciences or a combination of both by the end of the first academic year of college enrollment; *and*
- Declare an approved major in science, mathematics, or health related field at the institution.

Table 1.

Fall Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements

	Palmetto Fellows Total Scholarship Recipients	Palmetto Fellows Receiving Enhanced Awards Recipients
Fall 2007	5,148	1,480
Fall 2008	5,516	1,837
Fall 2009	5,894	1,979
Fall 2010	6,125	2,151
Fall 2011	6,415	2,355
Fall 2012	6,672	2,509
Fall 2013	6,823	2,680
Fall 2014	6,993	2,849
Fall 2015	7,192	2,992
Fall 2016	7,507	3,164
Fall 2017	8,165	3,316
Fall 2018	8,741	3,646
Fall 2019	9,177	3,894
Fall 2020	9,352	4,099

Note: Fall data reported by all institutions in the fall term

**As of 4/1/2021, Fall 2020 data may be incomplete and will not be finalized until Fall 2021.*

Continued Eligibility

In order to maintain the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship each academic year, a student must earn 30 credit hours and maintain a 3.0 cumulative institutional GPA. Students cannot use credit hours earned in AP, IB, CLEP, or Dual enrollment towards their annual 30 credit hour requirement.

Table 2.

Retention Rate from Year 1 to Year 2

Fall 2005	89.0%
Fall 2006	88.5%
Fall 2007	89.7%
Fall 2008	90.7%
Fall 2009	88.5%
Fall 2010	90.2%
Fall 2011	91.3%
Fall 2012	91.1%
Fall 2013	91.8%
Fall 2014	89.4%
Fall 2015	90.7%
Fall 2016	90.6%
Fall 2017	90.5%
Fall 2018	89.1%
Fall 2019	89.4%
Fall 2020	89.8%
Average Retention from year 1 to year 2	90.01%

2019-20 High School Cohort Attendance at in-state and out-of-state institutions

In 2019-20, during the open award periods, high school counselors from public, independent, charter virtual, and home school associations submitted a total of 3,628 Palmetto Fellow applications. Of the 3,628 applicants, 3,405 students met the academic criteria to be considered a Palmetto Fellow.

When students are determined to be an eligible Palmetto Fellows, they receive an e-mail with a link to the Designation Form. Eligible students are responsible for submitting the Designation Form to notify CHE where they will be attending during the Fall term. As of October 15, 2020:

- o 2,709 students have completed the Designation Form
 - 2,514 have selected in-state colleges and universities
 - 159 have elected to attend an out-of-state institution
 - 17 students took a GAP year
 - 19 students have forfeited their scholarship to attend a two-year institution*
- o 696 students did not complete the Designation form

**During the 2020-2021 legislative session, language has been introduced to allow students to use Palmetto Fellows Scholarship at two-year technical institutions.*

As seen in Table 3, Clemson University has the highest number of new Palmetto Fellows with USC in second place. Almost every institution in South Carolina received at least one Palmetto Fellow with the exception of Allen University, Benedict College, Columbia College, Morris College, South Carolina State University and Voorhees College.

Table 4 illustrates the out-of-state college or university selection for the 159 students who have elected not to attend a South Carolina institution. The top ten colleges and universities included: North Carolina State University (7 students), Duke University (6 students), Auburn University (5 students), Georgia Institute of Technology (5 students), University of Alabama (5 students), Belmont University (4 students), University of Georgia (4 students), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (4 students), Western Carolina University (4 students), and Yale University (4 students).

In 2020-21, the Palmetto Fellows Program was appropriated \$73,809,959 (\$61,809,959 Lottery Funds, \$12,000,000 General Funds/Children's Endowment). The annual data and invoices for the FY2020-21 academic year will not be final until end of 2021 summer term.

Table 3.

Students Electing to Attend In-state Colleges & Universities

**student reported on Designation Form*

Anderson University	92
Bob Jones University	22
Charleston Southern University	50
Clafin University	3
Clemson University	1,056
Coastal Carolina University	36
Coker College	9
College of Charleston	158
Columbia International University	5
Converse College	6
Erskine College	5
Francis Marion University	27
Furman University	52
Lander University	33
Limestone University	6
Newberry College	1
North Greenville University	25
Presbyterian College	31
Southern Wesleyan University	11
The Citadel	12
USC – Aiken	25
USC – Beaufort	5
USC – Columbia	688
USC – Upstate	27
Winthrop University	50
Wofford College	79
Total Palmetto Fellows Recipients attending in-state	2,514

Table 4.

2020-21 Eligible Palmetto Fellow recipients electing to attend out-of-state Colleges & Universities

**student reported on Designation Form*

North Carolina State University	7	Purdue University	2
Duke University	6	Rochester Institute of Technology	2
Auburn University	5	Southern Methodist University	2
Georgia Institute of Technology	5	Stanford University	2
University of Alabama	5	University of Central Florida	2
Belmont University	4	University of Florida	2
University of Georgia	4	University of Kentucky	2
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	4	University of Miami	2
Western Carolina University	4	University of Tennessee	2
Yale University	4	Vanderbilt University	2
Appalachian State University	3	Wake Forest University	2
Baylor University	3	Arkansas Tech University	1
Emory University	3	Bennington College	1
Savannah College of Art and Design	3	Boston College	1
United States Air Force Academy	3	Boston University	1
University of Maryland	3	Brown University	1
University of North Carolina at Charlotte	3	Carson Newman University	1
University of Notre Dame	3	Colorado State University	1
University of Virginia	3	Cornell University	1
Washington and Lee University	3	Dartmouth College	1
Brigham Young University	2	East Carolina University	1
Davidson College	2	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	1
Florida State University	2	Freed-Hardeman University	1
Georgetown University	2	George Washington University	1
Harvard University	2	Georgia Southern University	1
Johns Hopkins University	2	Georgia State university	1
Mercer University	2	Gettysburg College	1
New York University	2	Grand Canyon University	1
Northeastern University	2	Haverford College	1
Northwestern University	2	Liberty University	1
		Loyola Marymount University	1

Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	University of Michigan	1
Milligan College	1	University of Mississippi	1
Oglethorpe University	1	University of Pennsylvania	1
The College of William and Mary	1	University of Pittsburgh	1
The Jewish Theological Seminary	1	University of Richmond	1
University of Georgia	1	University of Texas at Austin	1
United States Military Academy at West Point	1	Virginia Wesleyan University	1
United States Naval Academy	1	Washington State University	1
University of Colorado Boulder	1	Wesleyan University	1
University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign	1	Total Palmetto Fellows Recipients attending out-of-state	159