



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Access | Affordability | Excellence

SC Scholarship & Grants Workshop 2021

Agenda

9:00 am Welcome
Residency Workshop

10:30 am Scholarship & Grant Workshop

- Funding Levels and Notes of Interest
- Grant Programs
- SCNG CAP
- Scholarship Programs
- Year-Round Scholarships
- Transcripts
- Other
- Legislative Updates

11:45 am Adjourn

* After the final workshop, a copy of this presentation can be found on the CHE website *



Regulations

<https://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/PayingForCollege/FinancialAssistanceAvailable/ScholarshipsGrantsforSCResidents.aspx>

The screenshot shows the website for the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. The page title is "Scholarships & Grants for SC Residents". The navigation menu includes: Home, About CHE, Meetings & Events, Data & Publications, Institutions & Educators, Students, Families & Military. The breadcrumb trail is: You are here: Students, Families & Military » Paying For College » Financial Assistance Available » Scholarships & Grants for SC Residents.

SOUTH CAROLINA Commission on Higher Education

Home About CHE Meetings & Events Data & Publications Institutions & Educators Students, Families & Military

You are here: Students, Families & Military » Paying For College » Financial Assistance Available » Scholarships & Grants for SC Residents

Scholarships & Grants for SC Residents

- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship**
 - Palmetto Fellows Scholarship - Additional Information
 - Math/Science Scholarship Enhancements
 - Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Regulations
 - Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Legislation
 - Year-Round Policy Guidelines (Summer Scholarship Award)
- LIFE Scholarship**
 - LIFE Scholarship - Additional Information
 - Math/Science Scholarship Enhancements
 - LIFE Scholarship Regulations
 - LIFE Scholarship Legislation
 - Year-Round Policy Guidelines (Summer Scholarship Award)
- South Carolina HOPE Scholarship**
 - South Carolina HOPE Scholarship - Additional Information
 - SC HOPE Scholarship Regulations
 - SC HOPE Scholarship Legislation

- South Carolina Need-based Grant**
 - South Carolina Need-based Grant - Additional Information
 - SC Need-based Grant Regulations
 - SC Need-based Grant Legislation
- Lottery Tuition Assistance**
 - Lottery Tuition Assistance - Additional Information
 - Lottery Tuition Assistance Regulations
 - Lottery Tuition Assistance Legislation
- South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program (SC NG CAP)**
 - SC NG CAP - Additional Information

Additional Information - All South Carolina Scholarship and Grant Programs

- Appeals
- Dayco Scholarship
- Eligible Home Schools
- Residency Consideration
- Information for Visually Impaired, Hearing Impaired and Multi-Handicapped Students
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Brochure **New**
- LIFE & Hope Scholarship Brochure **New**
- All Scholarships and Grants Brochure
- Foster Care Youth/Independent Living Brochure

Funding for FY2022

SC Need-based Grant:

➔ Funding increased to \$60,000,000

Lottery Tuition Assistance:

➔ Funding remained the same at \$51,100,000

➔ Starting Fall 2021: \$85/credit hour with 15 credit hour maximum

Merit Scholarships:

➔ Overall funding is \$318,315,550

➔ HOPE Scholarship: \$10,371,104

➔ LIFE Scholarship: \$236,771,166

➔ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship: \$71,173,280

SC National Guard College Assistance Program (CAP)

➔ Funding remained the same at \$2,631,129



Residency as it Pertains to State Scholarships

To be eligible for any State scholarships, students must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident that meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes whose lawful presence has been verified at the time of enrollment at the institution; *and*
 2. Be a South Carolina resident* for in-state purposes at the time of high school graduation *and* at the time of enrollment at the institution;
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**(As set forth by Section §59-112-10 – 140 and related R. 62.600-612). Unless listed under the five exceptions located in the residency regulations.*

Program Administration

Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTAP)
62-900.190. (A) Refunds and Repayments.

Need-Based Grants
62-495. (D) Refunds and Repayments.

SC HOPE Scholarship
62-900.140. (D) Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation.

LIFE Scholarship
62-1200.75. (D) Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
62-365. (C) Refunds and Repayments.

The institution is responsible for determining SC residency and lawful presence of all State Scholarship and Grant recipients. If it is determined that the institution has failed to verify the lawful presence and SC residency of all State Scholarship and Grant recipient, the institution shall immediately reimburse the funds disbursed in error.

GRANT PROGRAMS



SC Need-based Grant

In order to be eligible to receive S.C. Need-based Grant funds a student must:

- Complete a FAFSA; and
- Be 'needy' as defined by Title IV; and
- A US citizen/legal permanent resident and SC resident; and
- Enroll at least part-time as a degree seeking student at the time of grant disbursement; and
- Not convicted of any felonies or second or subsequent alcohol or drug related offenses within the past academic year; and
- Does not owe a refund or repayment on a state grant, PELL grant, or a Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and not be in default on a loan under the Federal Perkins Loan or Federal Direct Loan program; and
- Complete any other documentation required by the financial aid office at the institution at which the student is enrolled.



SC Need-based Grant Foster Care Youth

Proviso 11.8

- Enables *additional* need-based grant funds for youth in the custody of the Department of Social Services and attending an eligible South Carolina higher education institution

NBG Awarding Process Section 62-470 (F): Institutions must give first priority and award the maximum allowable NBG plus the additional Foster-Care grant up to \$2,000 toward unmet need (\$1,000 per term if full-time, \$500 per term if part-time) to Foster Care youth who are in the custody of DSS.

This may include Foster Care youth who have aged out of the system.



Before you can award, you need:

- A “SC Need-based Grant Waiver Form For Foster Care Youth” completed by the student’s DSS representative

AND

- A letter from the DSS representative indicating that the student is in custody of DSS or participating in Independent Living Services

** Students are only required to provide this documentation once per institution; copies must ALSO be sent to CHE.**

Eligibility Requirements for Foster Care Youth

If the student meets the eligibility requirements of the S.C. Need-based grant and submits proper documentation, you are free to award a full Need-based grant of \$2,500 (if full-time, \$1,250 if part-time) **plus** the additional Foster Care Youth grant up to \$2,000 toward unmet need (\$1,000 per term if full-time, \$500 per term if part-time).

Once you have awarded, please send CHE an invoice for the additional Foster Care Youth funds.

Send Foster Care Youth Invoices to kharris@che.sc.gov

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP)

62-900.165
Student Eligibility

Each academic year the following must be true:

- Student must complete the FAFSA or a FAFSA waiver
 - *A college may waive the FAFSA requirement when: 1) the student is in high school and is participating in a dual enrollment program; 2) the student has already earned a bachelor's degree; 3) the student is enrolled in a program that is not eligible for federal funds; or 4) the dependent student is not able to obtain his/her parents', guardians' or spouse's tax form.*
- Student has NOT used LTAP funding to earn a certificate, diploma, or degree within a five-year period unless the additional certificate, diploma, or degree constitutes progress in the same field of study
- Student must be making SAP towards the completion of the requirements of the program
- Student must be enrolled as a degree seeking student in a 2-year program at one of the: 16 technical schools, 2-year USC satellite campuses, or Spartanburg Methodist College.

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP)

Award Notification

“The Commission on Higher Education and the SC Technical College System staff have completed a review of Lottery Tuition Assistance awards for AY 2020. Based on our review of award activity over the past year and our expectations regarding future awards and funding levels, we have decided to maintain the award at the current level of **\$110 per credit hour for Summer 2021**. However, the current award amount appears unsustainable as we move into the new academic year, so the **award for Fall 2021 will be reduced to \$85 per credit hour for a maximum of 15 credit hours per semester.**”

- Bryce Wilson, Director, Office of Fiscal Affairs, SC Commission on Higher Education, April 1, 2021 Notification to institutions

Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP)

62-900.165 Student Eligibility

F. While the student is taking remedial/developmental coursework, an exception to the initial college enrollment applies only to first-time freshmen who met the eligibility requirements for the LIFE Scholarship upon graduation from high school, are enrolled in less than 12 credit hours of non-remedial coursework at an eligible two-year or technical college and taking a minimum of six credit hours of remedial/developmental education coursework during the term may be eligible to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance for the fall and/or spring terms only of their first academic year. First-time freshmen who are eligible for the LIFE Scholarship, attending an eligible two-year or technical college and enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours of non-remedial coursework shall receive the LIFE Scholarship. Once a student is awarded the LIFE Scholarship, they are no longer eligible to receive LTAP during the same academic year. See Section 62-1200.10 (I) of the LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement Regulation.

South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP)

- SCNG CAP offers financial assistance to members of the South Carolina Army and Air National Guard by providing incentives for enlisting or remaining for a specified time in either the South Carolina Army or Air National Guard (SCNG).
- Statutory Authority - SC Code of Laws, Section 59-114-10 Et. Seq.
- The regulation can be accessed at:
<https://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/Military-EducationTraining/NationalGuardCollegeAssistanceProgram.aspx>
- If you or your colleagues need assistance regarding the SCNG CAP, please contact Laverne Sanders at 803-737-2226 or LSanders@che.sc.gov.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

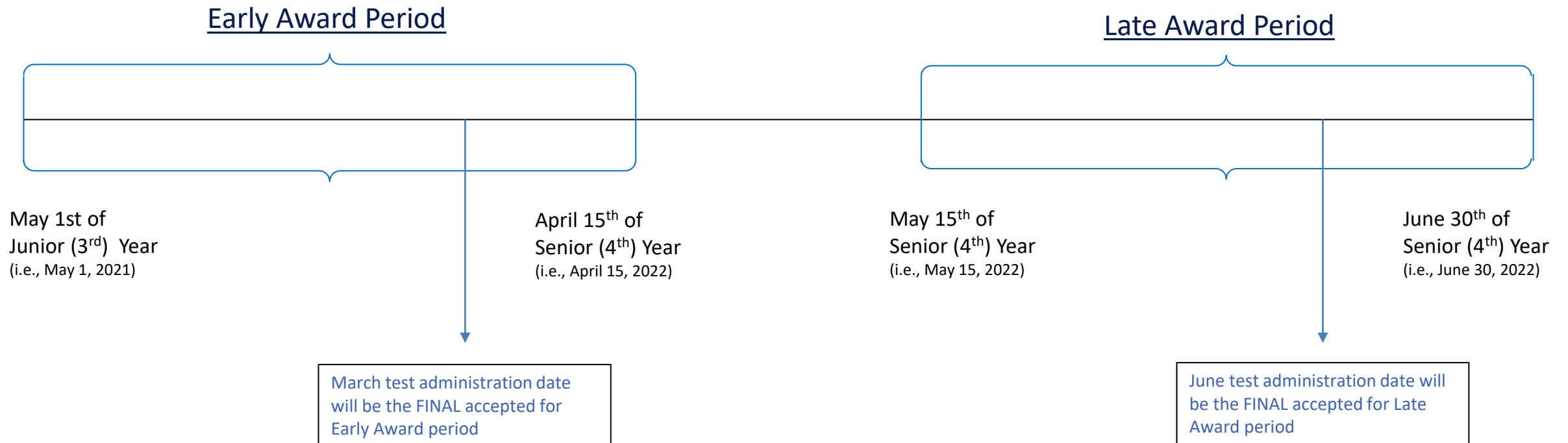


SOUTH CAROLINA
PALMETTO 
FELLOWS
SCHOLARSHIP



PFS Year-Round Processing Timeline

- CHE will review applications continuously (bi-weekly) to determine eligibility for the PFS
- Decisions will then be uploaded into CHE data system and released to students/schools
- Estimated processing time from date of paper application receipt to decision release: **1 month**



Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS)

Early Award

- 2,910 met the Academic Eligibility requirements

Late Award

- Application period will close July 15, 2021 at 5:00pm
- Notifications will be sent out in late-August*

Designation Forms

- 2,179**

Transfers

- Total Requests for Fall 2021: 40**

* The July 17, 2021, ACT test administration scores could delay notification

** As of June 21, 2021

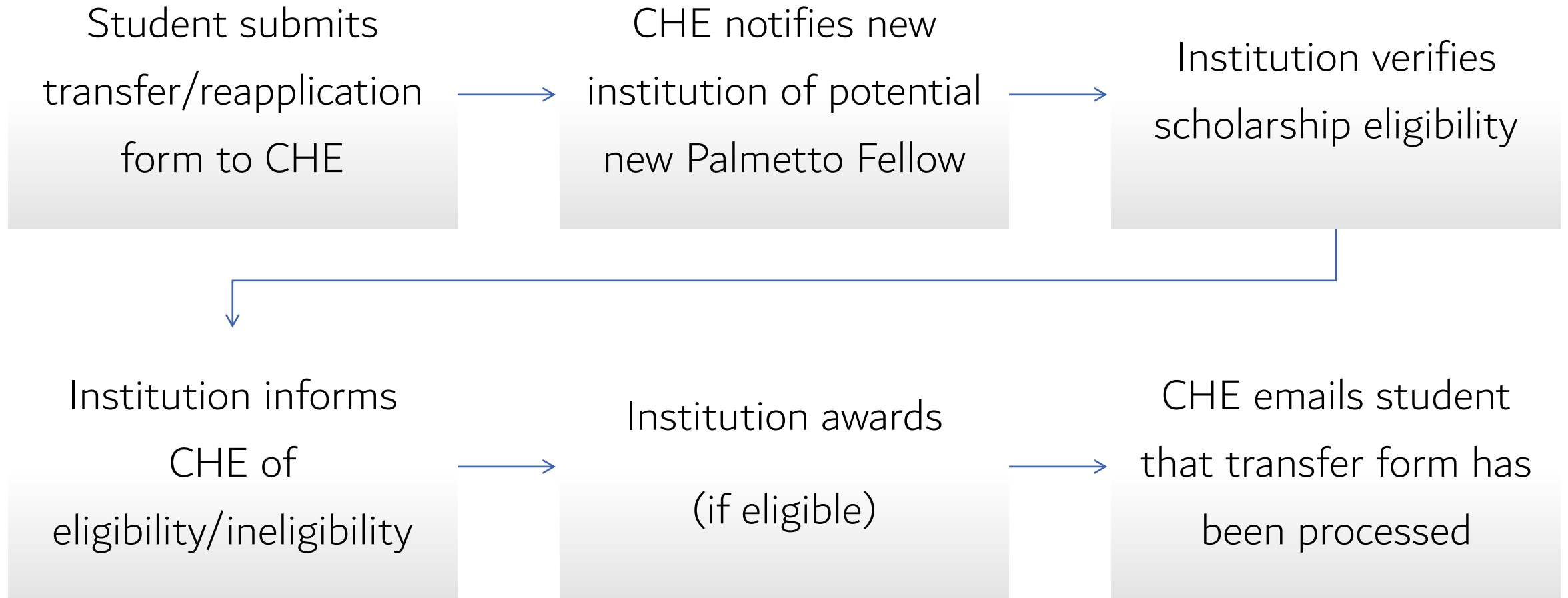


62-330 Policies and Procedures for Awarding

E. In determining the amount awarded for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement, all other sources of gift aid, including federal, State, private and institutional funds, must be applied to the unmet cost-of-attendance before calculating the Scholarship and Enhancement amounts and making the award. Adjustments to the financial aid package will be made to the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement in accordance with prescribed Title IV regulations in order to prevent an over-award.



PFS Transfer / Reapplication Process (62-340)



Reminder: 62-335 Duration and Renewal of Awards

E. By the end of the spring term each academic year, the institution must notify all Palmetto Fellows who have not met the continued eligibility requirements for the next academic year.

The notification should include information regarding the student's ability to attend summer term in order to meet the continued eligibility requirements.



ACT Superscore:

62.320.E.

Proration of Final Term:

62-330.B. and 62.335.C.

Two-Year Institutions:

(H.3017) Act #36

Regulatory
Changes to
the Palmetto
Fellows
Scholarship



PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

Frequently Asked Questions

Scenario

- Gap Year -



- A student applies for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and is determined to meet the academic eligibility requirements during the Early Award process. Should this student decide to not enroll at an eligible college/university the following fall, can they still receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship?
- What if a student begins their enrollment and decides to “take a break” after their first year?

Response

- This student can still receive the scholarship if they begin their initial enrollment by the fall term one year following graduation.
 - Graduated June 2021 -> Must enroll by Fall 2022 term
 - Student must complete a reapplication form (found on CHE’s webpage) prior to their initial enrollment in order for their status to be updated and the proper institution to be notified.
 - Student **CANNOT** attempt/earn any college credits during the gap period.
 - Institutions are responsible for verifying that the student has not attempted/earned credit hours during the gap period
- A student may only take a “gap year” immediately following high school graduation. Any break in “continuous enrollment” at an eligible 4-year institution after that point will result in a forfeit of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship.

Scenario

- Mid-Year Enrollment -



- A student completed their high school requirements (graduates) in December and enrolls at an eligible institution the spring term immediately following. Will they be eligible to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship?
- Student skips 11th grade, can the be submitted for Palmetto Fellows during the Early Award period?

Response

- This student must apply for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship during the Early Award Period prior to graduating from high school. If determined to be eligible, they will be able to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship during the spring term. In order to maintain scholarship eligibility, the following year the student must earn 15 credit hours with a cumulative institutional GPA of 3.0.
- The Early Award period application requires a final 11th grade SC UGP GPA. Student would need to be submitted during the Late Award period, using their final 12th grade SC UGP GPA.

Scenario



- A student applied for and was determined to be academically eligible for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. This student completed the Designation Form indicating that they will be attending a 4-year institution outside of SC. If this student were to transfer to an eligible in-state institution, could they still receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship?

Response

- This student must complete the Reapplication Form found on the CHE website in order to “transfer” back in-state. CHE Staff will then verify that the student did, in fact, apply for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and that they were academically eligible for the scholarship. This student MUST have met the continued eligible requirements (3.0 cumulative GPA and 30 credit hours per year) in order to be eligible to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship upon transferring to an approved in-state institution. A student cannot receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship if they have completed their undergraduate degree or have been enrolled for more than 8 terms at the out-of-state institution.

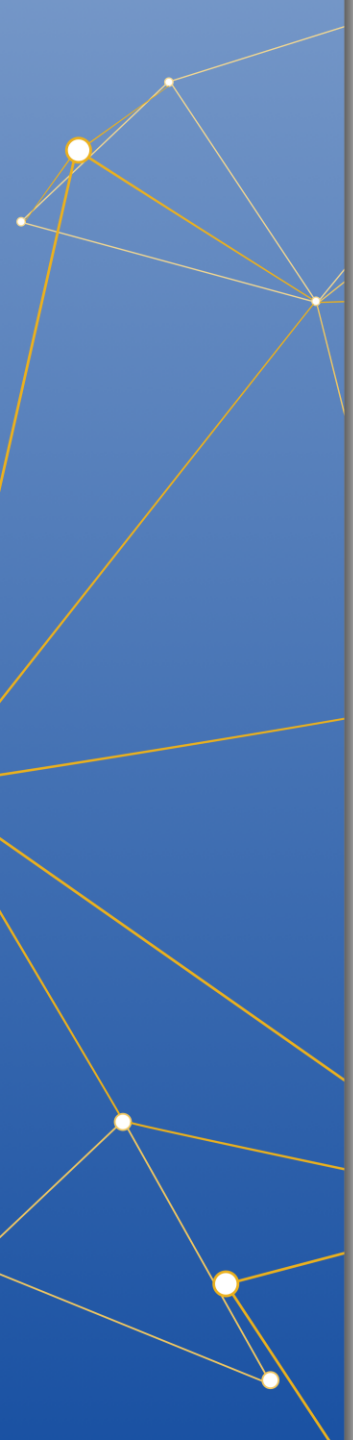
Scenario



- Can a student take courses at a local 2-year institution during the summer in order to increase their GPA and meet the continued eligibility requirements?

Response

- A Palmetto Fellow must take courses at their home institution in order to increase their GPA.
- A student may attend an institution other than their home institution for the purpose of increasing earned credit hours if the home institution accepts these hours back for credit (we always recommend a transient student form be completed).
 - *(62-335.G.2. Earn at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the home institution for graduation purposes by the end of each academic year)*



SOUTH
CAROLINA

L I F E

SCHOLARSHIP



LIFE SCHOLARSHIP REGULATORY CHANGES



LIFE Scholarship Regulatory Changes

62-1200.5. Program Definitions

- M. “Degree-seeking student” is defined as...with the exception of students declaring a major in the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at South University, the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at Presbyterian College, the Master’s of Science in Physician Assistant Studies Program at the Medical University of South Carolina, the Master’s of Science in Cytology and Biosciences Program and the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the University of South Carolina-Columbia, and the Doctor of Pharmacy Program at the Medical University of South Carolina.
- U. “Full-time student” shall mean a student who has matriculated into an eligible program of study and who enrolls full-time...Eligible LIFE Scholarship recipients may prorate their award amount for the term of graduation (see section 62-1200.10.P.).



LIFE Scholarship Regulatory Changes

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

P. The LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement are to be annual awards. Half of the Scholarship and Enhancement funds are to be disbursed in the fall and half are to be disbursed in the spring...During the student's final term of attendance, not to exceed the eighth term of enrollment based on initial college enrollment, the institution may prorate the LIFE Scholarship and the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement award amount, for the number of credit hours attempted for the current term of attendance, which must be the term of graduation for the student. Proration will be based on 12 credit hours.



LIFE Scholarship Regulatory Changes

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

A. To be eligible for a LIFE Scholarship, students must:

3. Meet two of the following three criteria if a first-time entering freshman at an eligible four-year institution:

b. Score at least an 1100 on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or an equivalent ACT score of 24. Test scores will be accepted through the June national test administration of the SAT and ACT during the year of high school graduation. The student must use the highest SAT Math score combined with the highest SAT Critical Evidenced-based Reading score (~~formerly known as the Verbal score~~). It is permissible to select scores from different test administrations in order to obtain the qualifying composite score. ~~Students cannot use the Writing subsection score to obtain the qualifying composite score. The composite ACT score must be based upon one test administration.~~ For purposes of meeting the ACT test score requirement, the student can use the highest English, Math, Reading and Science scores. It is permissible to select scores from different test administrations in order to obtain the qualifying composite score.



LIFE Scholarship Regulatory Changes

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

A. To be eligible for a LIFE Scholarship, students must:

3. Meet two of the following three criteria if a first-time entering freshman at an eligible four-year institution:

c. To determine the top thirty percent for graduating classes with three or less students, the student who is ranked number one in the class would be considered in the top thirty percent for LIFE Scholarship eligibility. Institutions shall use the final ranking as reported by the high school on the official transcript, and on a submitted rank report provided by the high school the student graduated from. ~~If a student is a member of an approved home school association that ranks, a~~ A ranking report must be attached to the official transcript regardless of the graduating high school.



LIFE Scholarship Regulatory Changes

62-1200.15. Continued Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

- G. At the end of the spring term each academic year, the institution must notify all LIFE Scholarship recipients who have not met continued eligibility requirements for the next academic year. The notification should include information regarding the student's ability to attend summer school in order to meet the continued eligibility requirements.

- Also inserted in LIFE Section 62-1200.60.R
- Also inserted in SC HOPE Section 62-900.125



LIFE Scholarship Regulatory Changes

62-1200.20. Terms of Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

D. The maximum number of terms of eligibility for a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement is based on the student's continued eligibility for a LIFE Scholarship and beginning with the student's second year of college enrollment (based on initial date of college enrollment), with the exception of the summer term immediately prior to the student's initial college enrollment and up to one academic year of full-time enrollment in remedial/developmental coursework. A student may receive a LIFE Scholarship for a maximum of two terms towards a one-year certificate/diploma, four terms for a two-year associate's degree at an eligible two year institution, and eight terms towards a bachelor's degree at an eligible institution. The terms of eligibility that may be used towards a certificate, diploma or associate's degree at a two year institution must be taken within the first two years of college, based on initial college enrollment.



LIFE Scholarship Regulatory Changes

62-1200.40. Enrollment in Internships, Cooperative Work Programs, Travel Study Programs and National and International Student Exchange Programs: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

C. Students who enroll in one academic term at the home institution and also enroll in an internship, cooperative work program, travel study program or National or International Student Exchange Program that are approved by the home institution and that do not award full-time transfer credit during the same academic year, must complete ~~fifteen~~ an average of thirty credit hours and earn a 3.0 “LIFE GPA” by the end of the academic year to be eligible for LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement renewal for the next academic year. Students who did not use the entire eligibility for LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement funds during this period shall be allowed to receive LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement funds during the succeeding summer or at the end of the maximum terms of eligibility based on their initial college enrollment date (provided the student meets continued eligibility requirements).



LIFE Scholarship Statutory Change A.36 (H.3017)

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION [59-104-20](#), CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO ELIGIBILITY FOR PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIPS, SO AS TO INCLUDE TWO-YEAR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING AND TECHNICAL COLLEGES AMONG INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING WHOSE STUDENTS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS; AND TO AMEND SECTION [59-149-60](#), RELATING TO THE DURATION OF LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS, SO AS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS MAY NOT RECEIVE LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MORE THAN SIX SEMESTERS FOR THREE-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS.



LIFE Scholarship Statutory Change A.36 (H.3017)

LIFE Scholarships, eligibility, duration

SECTION 2. Section [59-149-60](#) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

"Section [59-149-60](#). The student may receive a LIFE Scholarship for not more than ten semesters for a five-year degree program, eight semesters for a four-year degree program, four semesters for a two-year degree program, or six semesters for a three-year degree program."

Time effective

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

- Approved the 6th day of May, 2021.



LIFE Scholarship Statutory Change A.36 (H.3017)

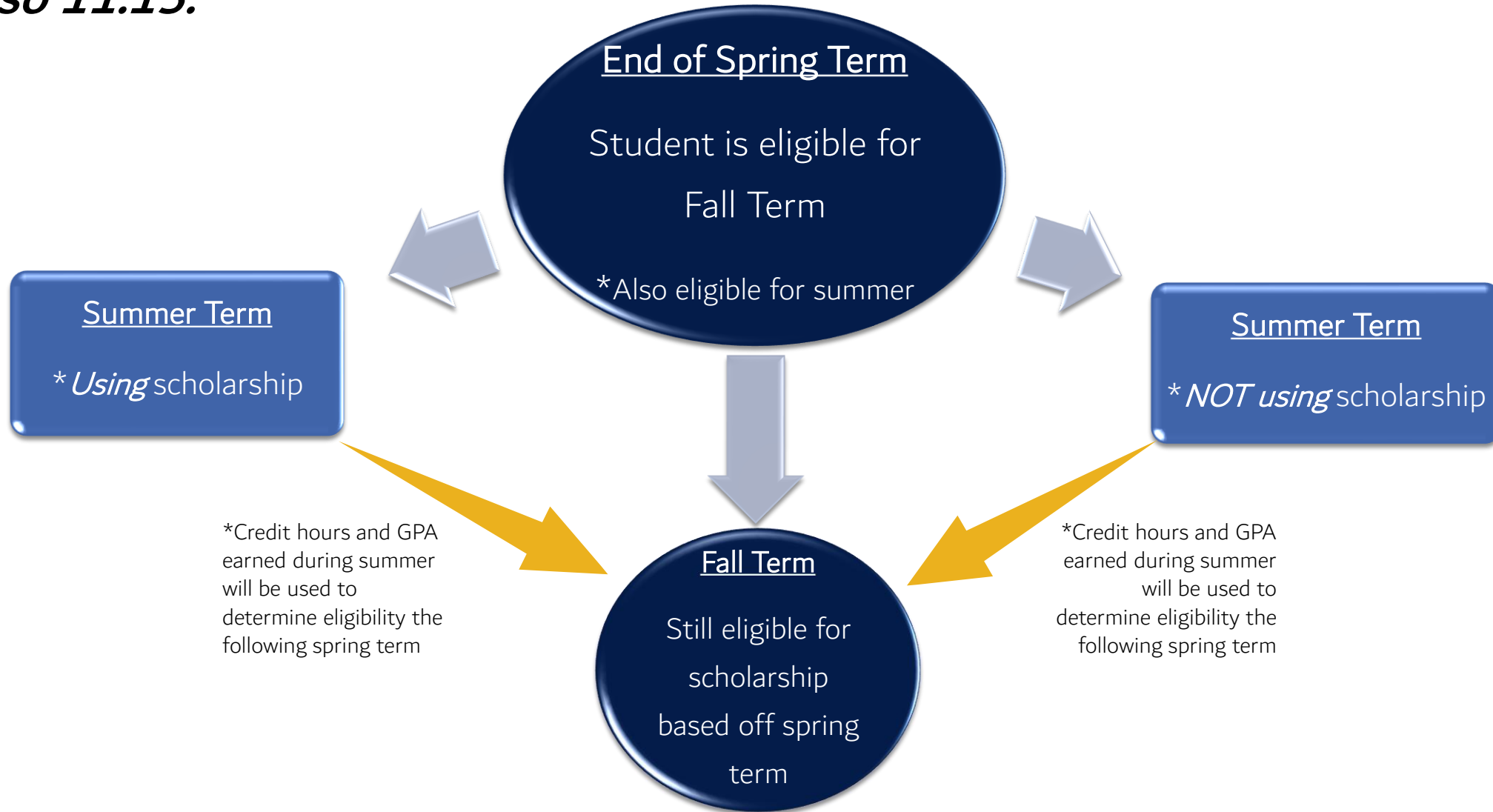
What does this mean?

- Students in identified Associates Degree programs may receive up to three years or 6 consecutive terms of LIFE Scholarship funding.
- Eligible programming has been identified by SC Technical College System, USC Regionals and Spartanburg Methodist College. List will be on CHE website.
- There will be a developed process to add additional programs to the list in an annual review process.
- A student **MUST** still meet the continued eligibility requirements to get the third year of funding (3.0 LIFE GPA and a minimum of 60 earned credit hours after second year of attendance).
- The scholarship is still operating on an continuous clock. Time spent at an ineligible institution, or time spent in an ineligible program will count against terms of eligibility.
 - Ex. Cannot spend a year in a two year program, switch, and still have all three years.



Year-Round LIFE Scholarships

Proviso 11.13.





TRANSCRIPTS

Transcript Requirements:

Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

All state scholarships and grants are based on the SC UGP, therefore all transcripts must specifically state “SC UGP.”

- Any transcript that states, “Weighted and Unweighted GPA” OR “Total GPA” will not be accepted for the purposes of awarding state scholarships as it must comply with the **SC UGP**.

All final official transcripts must be date calculated between the date of the high school graduation and no later than June 15th

The final grades/ranking cannot include grades earned after the official graduation date of the school year. Summer school grades earned after high school graduation cannot be used in the calculation.

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

Out-of-State High Schools & Scholarship Eligibility

For Scholarship purposes, out-of-state schools must comply with SC UGP GPA and ranking (*if applicable*).

- If the institution is not converting the grades, the out-of-state high school must submit a converted transcript in addition to the official out-of-state high school transcript
 - No handwritten or strikethrough edits can be demonstrated on the submitted transcript for scholarship eligibility determination
- If a student is attempting to use rank as an eligibility criterion from an out-of-state high school:
 - The high school or home school association must have a policy on rank; *and*
 - If using rank, the entire academic class must be converted to the SC UGP and a ranking report that reflects all students in that academic class, the out-of-state GPA, the SC UGP GPA, and the rank based on the SC UGP GPA must be included in order to determine eligibility and award a State scholarship.
- If the high school or home school association does not rank as a policy, or the student does not meet the rank eligibility requirement once a conversion of the grades to meet the SC UGP GPA and rank requirement then student must use the Alternate Criteria for eligibility (SC UGP GPA and SAT/ACT score).



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

Scholarship Appeals

- The 2021-2022 Appeals Cycle for the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and SC HOPE scholarship opened in early-April 2021. All appeals materials must be in receipt of CHE by the deadline close of [5:00 pm on September 3, 2021](#).
- Students are encouraged to review the Guidelines for Appeal on the CHE website to determine if their circumstance truly meets the definition of an extraordinary circumstance or a traumatic event.
- Students should be advised that their appeal is not guaranteed to be granted, nor is it a guarantee that a decision will be rendered prior to the due date of their college bill. Students should make arrangements with the institution for payment.
- The link to the appeals information and application is:
<https://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/StudentAppeals.aspx>

Correspondence will be sent electronically - both to students and institutions. Initial emails will go to Financial Aid Directors, who can then inform us if there is a more appropriate contact.



Scholarship Appeals *(continued)*

As part of the Scholarship Appeals Guidelines:

Note: If the student's extenuating circumstance is related to disruptions on campus (course changes, scheduling, availability of coursework, change to distance education, etc.) due to COVID-19, it is the expectation of CHE staff that the student will exhaust all institutional appeal processes to address grades and/or credit hours PRIOR to submitting an appeal to the SC Commission on Higher Education.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Pending Legislation



- H. 3588 - A BILL TO AMEND SECTION 59-104-20, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE CRITERIA FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS, SO AS TO STRENGTHEN ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, AND COMPUTER SCIENCE FOUNDATIONS OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS SEEKING LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS BY REQUIRING SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF CERTAIN ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS OR COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSEWORK DURING THEIR SENIOR YEARS, TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE 2022-2023 SENIOR CLASS FROM THESE REQUIREMENTS.

QUESTIONS?

Please submit questions in the chat box. We will collect and answer them and then post them on the website with the presentation.



CHE Contact Information

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