



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Access | Affordability | Excellence

September 16, 2025

Financial Aid Advisory Group

SC Commission on Higher Education

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- SC Need-based Grant Allocations
 - Invoicing
 - New Reallocation Process
- Enhanced ACT – Science Optional
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Regulations
 - Regulation Changes
 - Regulation Timeline
- Enhancement Updates
- Palmetto Fellows Renewal Reports
- SC National Guard CAP Proviso
- Other Business
- Meeting Schedule
- Adjournment

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Mr. Bryce Wilson

Ms. Kathryn Harris
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Dr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Tanya Weigold
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Dr. Karen Woodfaulk

SC Need-based Grant: Allocations and Invoicing Deadlines

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NBG Allocations FY2025-26:

FY 2025-26 NBG Allocation Summary	
<u>Research</u>	
Clemson	\$ 8,944,148
USC	\$ 15,449,654
MUSC	\$ 89,351
Total Research	\$ 24,483,153
<u>Comprehensive Teaching</u>	
The Citadel	\$ 930,457
Coastal	\$ 4,652,941
College of Charleston	\$ 4,772,079
Francis Marion	\$ 3,321,485
Lander	\$ 3,762,613
SC State	\$ 3,555,189
USC Aiken	\$ 2,844,530
USC Beaufort	\$ 1,846,829
USC Upstate	\$ 5,221,269
Winthrop	\$ 4,842,200
Total Comprehensive Teaching	\$ 35,749,592

<u>Two Year Regional</u>	
USC-Lancaster	\$ 369,967
USC-Salkehatchie	\$ 202,549
USC-Sumter	\$ 478,103
USC-Union	\$ 206,940
Total Two Year Regional	\$ 1,257,559
<u>Two year Technical</u>	
Aiken	\$ 592,590
Central Carolina	\$ 631,866
Denmark	\$ 346,550
Florence-Darlington	\$ 1,080,125
Greenville	\$ 3,243,662
Horry-Georgetown	\$ 2,022,908
Midlands	\$ 2,636,108
Northeastern Tech	\$ 280,957
Orangeburg-Calhoun	\$ 689,796
Piedmont	\$ 1,706,149
Spartanburg	\$ 2,009,010
Tech. Coll Low Country	\$ 489,265
Tri-County	\$ 1,674,657
Trident	\$ 2,211,733
Williamsburg	\$ 157,759
York	\$ 1,185,369
Total Two Year Techs	\$ 20,958,504
Total Allocation - Publics	\$ 82,448,808
Total Allocation - Independents	\$ 12,947,845
Total All Institutions	\$ 95,396,653

NBG Invoicing Deadlines

- Fall term: Invoices due November 1
- Spring term & Fall term adjustments: Invoices due April 1
- Summer term & Spring term adjustments: Invoices due June 1
- Summer term adjustments: Invoices due August 20

also applies to: Palmetto Fellows, LIFE and HOPE Scholarships
and Lottery Tuition Assistance Program

Deadline Memo from May 2025:

https://che.sc.gov/sites/che/files/Documents/Institutions%20and%20Educators/Scholarship%20Policies%20and%20Regulations/2025-05-1_CHE%20Invoice_DeadlineandInstruc_.pdf

SC Need-based Grant Reallocation Process:

2025-26 Appropriations Act:

3.7. (LEA: FY 2025-26 Lottery Funding)

D) For Fiscal Year 2025-26, certified net lottery proceeds and investment earnings for the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2023-24 certified surplus, and Fiscal Year 2024-25 projected surplus and undesignated fund balance are appropriated as follows:

(5) Commission on Higher Education Need-based Grants **\$80,000,000**;

(P) Of the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for Need-based Grants, public colleges and universities must submit final invoices for Need-based Grants by a date determined by the commission. Funds allocated for Fiscal Year 2025-26 **must be distributed in the same academic year.**

***CHE staff is currently creating a NBG Reallocation Process for 2025-26.**

Enhanced ACT - Science Optional and Scholarship Eligibility:

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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



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:

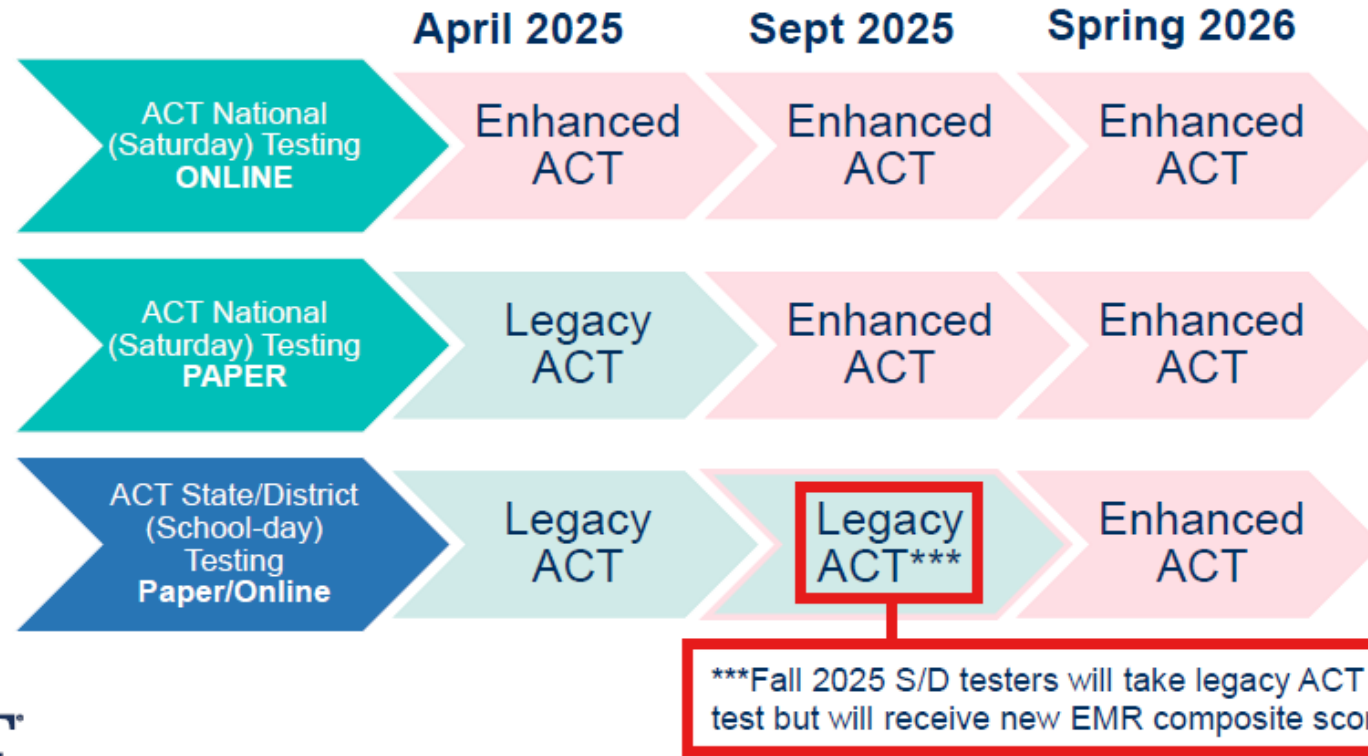
Legacy Composite: 0.5

Enhanced Composite: 0.6



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).

Proposed Permanent and Emergency Regulations:

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Next Steps – Proposed Emergency Regulations:

- Emergency Regulations were approved by CHE in September.
- Emergency Regulations were filed on September 11, 2025.
- Emergency Regulations will be valid for 90 days and will need to be renewed prior to the start of next legislative session in January 2026.
- Emergency Regulations will go before full CHE in December for renewal.

Next Steps – Proposed Permanent Regulations:

- Proposed Regulations approved by CHE in September.
- Throughout the month of October, Stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed regulations to CHE staff.
- Public Hearing will be held in November. During the public hearing, public comments will be provided to the Full Commission.
- After consideration of public comments, the final regulations will be provided to the Legislative Council, for submission to the General Assembly.
- The 110-day clock begins with the submission to the General Assembly.
- If no action is taken, the regulation will become automatically enacted.

Enhancement Update:

Ms. Tanya Weigold

Scholarships & Grants Program Coordinator

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Education Enhancement

- Email sent out September 4, 2025
 - Contractual Agreements
 - ▶ Wet signature/digital signature
 - Data spreadsheets
 - ▶ Once a semester
 - Invoice
 - ▶ Due by November 1, 2025

Enhancement Approvals

For S

For Institutions and Educators

Analytics, Data and Reports

About the CHE

- Transfer Excellence Center

- 2025 Transfer Excellence Convening
- 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

Advising, Counseling and Financial Aid

✓ Articulation Agreements and Academic Transfer

✓ State Scholarship (LIFE, HOPE, Palmetto Fellows) and Grant Regulations, Administration and Trainings

^ Scholarship Enhancement Eligibility Review (SEER)

- [SEER Procedures for Academic Programs and Courses - August 2025 \(PDF\)](#)
- [SEER Application for Education Programs \(PDF\)](#)
- [SEER Course Application for Math, Science and Accounting \(PDF\)](#)
- [SEER Program Application for Math, Science and Accounting \(PDF\)](#)

Coming Soon



STEM Enhancement Course List Survey

2016/17

STEM ENHANCEMENT COURSE LIST SURVEY

Palmetto Fellows Renewal Report:

Ms. Tanya Weigold

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Palmetto Fellows Portal

<https://etl.che.sc.gov/SSO5/Login.aspx?ClientID=Connect>

Login to SC Commission on Higher Education Systems

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Login

Change Password

Account/Password Resets: helpdesk@che.sc.gov
Staff Changes/New Access Requests: Scholarships@che.sc.gov

Palmetto Fellows Portal

Institution Users

View Eligible Palmetto Fellows Students

Palmetto Fellows Renewals

View High Schools With Ranking

SC National Guard CAP Updates:

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UPDATE

SC National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP)

SCNG CAP funding amounts are effective for the FY2025-26. Funding amounts are set each year by the General Assembly.

117.140. (GP: National Guard College Assistance Program) For the current fiscal year, a member of the SC National Guard may qualify for college assistance program grants **for more than one hundred thirty semester hours or related quarter hours**. Additionally, service members may receive college assistance program benefits up to an amount equal to one hundred percent of college tuition and fees not to **exceed twelve thousand dollars for the academic year**. **The lifetime maximum amount** received shall not **exceed twenty-five thousand dollars**. Tuition and fees are defined as the amount charged for registering for credit hours of instruction, costs of textbooks, and other fees and charges associated with attendance at an eligible institution. Service members shall be required to meet all other requirements. Service members may complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive all eligible federal and state scholarships and grants.

- Removal of the 130 semester hours maximum
- \$ 12,000 maximum per academic year (not to exceed COA); \$4,000 (full-time) max per semester (not to exceed COA)
- \$ 25,000 lifetime maximum
- Air National Guard and Army National Guard service members will receive the same amounts at two-year Institutions/Programs and four-year Institutions/Programs

SC National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP) UPDATES & DEADLINES

SCNG CAP UPCOMING DEADLINES

- Fall 2025 – SCNG CAP Web Portal
 - Enrollment Verification Deadline: Fall II – October 17th
 - Invoices due November 1st
- 2025-2026 SCNG CAP Invoicing Submission Process – NEW Centralized page
 - Element 451 <https://chesc-19333.page451.sites.451.io/> NEW CRM platform
 - Effective Fall 2025 – Secure site to upload SCNG CAP invoices
- SCNG CAP 2025-26 AY 2nd Application Window (*Only newly-eligible students or if you missed the first deadline should apply.*)
 - Opens: November 20th, Closes: December 15th (Spring 26, Summer 26 Awards Only)
 - SCNG CAP Application located on CHE webpage: <https://che.sc.gov/scngcap>

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SGM (Retired) Mr. Paul Mead Guidance Counselor/CAP Manager (803) 299-2734 paul.j.mead2.civ@army.mil	AIR NATIONAL GUARD MSgt. T. Jermaine Edmunds Retention Office Manager (803) 647-8854 thomas.edmunds@us.af.mil	CHE Dr. Karen Woodfaulk Director, Student Affairs (803) 856-0578 kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov	CHE Ms. Alfie B. Mincy SCNG CAP and Veterans Outreach Program Coordinator (803) 856-0579 amincy@che.sc.gov

Other Business



Meeting Schedule



Adjournment

