South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Accessibility | Excellence | Accountability

COMMITTEE ON STUDENT SERVICES

11:00 am on Thursday, November 5, 2026
In person and via Zoom
https://che-sc-gov.zoom.us/j/96161735950?pwd=yKEsY71dqFx6m9hv4NoUSdjYNPQaae.1
Meeting ID: 961 6173 5950 Password: 506082

1.	Introduction and Approval of Minutes	Ms. Jenni Bryson, Chair
2.	Chair's Report	
3.	SC National Guard Report (For Information)	Ms. Alfie Mincy, Program Coordinator SGM (Ret) Mr. Paul Mead Education Services Officer SC Army National Guard TSgt. Whitney Perdue CAP Manager SC Air National Guard
4.	Tucker Hipps Report (For Information)	Ms. Tanya Weigold Program Manager
5.	Act 161: Campus Safety Act (For Information)	
6.	South Carolina State University South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) 5-Year Update (For Information)	Dr. Karen Woodfaulk Director
7.	Tuition, Fees, and State Merit-based Scholarships (For Information)	Dr. Gerrick Hampton Associate Director
8.	Review of Committee Charter	Ms. Jenni Bryson, Chair
9.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair	
10.	Other Business	
11.	Adjournment	

R. Wes Hayes, Jr.
Chairman

L. Jeffrey Perez, Ph.D.
President & Executive Director

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Minutes of the Committee on Student Services Meeting

September 3, 2026, 11:00 am

Committee Members Attending
Commissioner Jenni Bryson, Chair
Commissioner Paul Batson
Commissioner Amy Bigham
Commissioner Daniel Dukes
Commissioner Gene Fant
Commissioner Charles Schulze

Staff Members Present
Dr. Jeff Perez
Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Dr. Gerrick Hampton
Ms. Alantis Seckal
Ms. Kathryn Harris
Ms. Alfie Mincy
Dr. Angela Peters
Mr. Bryce Wilson
Ms. Kara Smith
Ms. Laura Belcher
Ms. Elizabeth Robinson
Mr. Mark Swart
Mr. Chris Glenn
Ms. Kinsey Phillips

Guests
Commissioner Mark Masters
Ms. Lane Goodwin, SC Technical College System
Ms. Kelli Fookes, Coastal Carolina University
Ms. Katie Stevens, SC Tuition Grants Commission
Dr. Walter Collins, USC Palmetto College
Mr. Zachary Christian, SC Tuition Grants Commission
Mr. Joey Derrick, USC Columbia
Ms. Beth Bell, Clemson University
Mr. John Lomax, Central Carolina Technical College

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Kinsey Phillips introduced the guests in attendance and confirmed that the meeting was held in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act. Chair Jenni Bryson provided greetings and reiterated the purpose of the meeting to all in attendance.

Chair Bryson called for a motion to approve the minutes of the Committee on Student Services August 6, 2026, meeting. A motion was made (Batson), seconded (Dukes), and carried to approve the minutes.

1. Chair Report

Chair Bryson provided a brief introduction of Addison Felkel, a student at University of South Carolina – Columbia. Ms. Felkel discussed her experience as a photography student and shared her love of the University of South Carolina. Ms. Felkel expressed that she is grateful to USC for its sense of community and for the way the university provides opportunities for students to work in their desired fields before they graduate. Ms. Felkel specifically affirmed that her experience working with the University's Athletics department was positive. An area of improvement that Ms. Felkel discussed was academic advisement at USC. She discussed that she has had many advisors despite staying in the same program and that this lack of consistency affects the kind and quality of information that students receive about their academics. Ms. Felkel also discussed the delays in student loan disbursement to just days prior to classes increases student anxiety surrounding being dropped from classes for non-payment, so she recommended that, if possible, institutions disburse student loans more quickly.

2. State Scholarship Regulations

Dr. Gerrick Hampton presented updates to the South Carolina LIFE, HOPE, and Palmetto Fellows scholarship regulations. Dr. Hampton explained the regulatory process and the timeline that the CHE needs to follow in order for the proposed changes to be submitted in the next legislative session. Dr. Hampton then provided an overview of the proposed changes to all of the three scholarship programs. One of the primary changes discussed was changing LIFE GPA to "State Scholarship GPA" in order to simplify the scholarship renewal process across all three programs, reducing confusion on the part of students and financial aid staff. Commissioner Dukes asked if the requirements for retaining scholarships would remain the same. Dr. Hampton affirmed that the GPA requirement for renewing Palmetto Fellows would now match the LIFE scholarship.

Chair Bryson asked to clarify that the institutions requested these changes and asked how those requests were collected. Dr. Hampton explained that a notice of drafting was sent to institutions. After the notice was sent, CHE staff met with institutions at three separate regional workshops throughout the state where changes were requested. Finally, updates and feedback were requested via a request form where suggestions were sent from institutions to CHE.

Kathryn Harris discussed the changes to the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship regulations and affirmed that the changes were made in order to align requirements across the three scholarship programs and to simplify. Dr. Jeff Perez agreed that the changes will help to clarify scholarship requirements with the state legislature and with the public.

Commissioner Dukes asked to clarify whether students needed to earn 30 credit hours annually in order to renew their scholarship. Ms. Harris stated that the updated regulation would allow students to earn an average of 30 credit hours per academic year (Fall, Spring, Summer) in order to renew their scholarship, and that the updates would allow Palmetto Fellows to make use of AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, and CLEP hours toward their renewal. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk confirmed this and that reminded that students needed to maintain full-time status in order to retain eligibility. Commissioner Bigham asked to clarify if all credit hours earned prior to college enrollment would be accepted. Ms. Harris stated that those hours earned prior to college enrollment would need to be hours that the institution accepted towards the student's degree program in order to count towards scholarship eligibility.

Commissioner Batson asked to what extent these regulatory updates could affect the overall expenditures of the agency. Dr. Woodfaulk stated that the updates could potentially increase student eligibility and retention. Dr. Hampton stated that data was requested from the institutions to determine the fiscal impact of the update to the residency requirement, and that not all institutions had responded yet. However, he stated that the current data shows a potential increase of $2.7 million in scholarship awards. Ms. Harris stated that the potential fiscal impact of the "State Scholarship GPA" change could result in an increase of $287,500 due to increased retention of Palmetto Fellows Scholarships.

Chair Bryson called for a motion to approve the State Scholarship Regulations. A motion was made (Dukes), seconded (Batson), and carried to approve the report.

3. FAFSA First

Alantis Seckal explained the background of FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which is an application that students in the United States complete in order to apply for financial aid for college or graduate school. Ms. Seckal provided data on national FAFSA completion rates, as well as South Carolina's current completion rate of 63.9%, which is an increase of 9.7% over the 2025-2026 statistics. At the time of the meeting, South Carolina ranked #15 in the nation for FAFSA completion. Dr. Perez asked how many of the top 15 states mandate FAFSA. Ms. Seckal presented data that showed six states with FAFSA mandates rank more highly than South Carolina. However, three states with a rank lower than South Carolina mandate FAFSA completion. The Committee briefly discussed the possibility of South Carolina implementing a FAFSA mandate.

Ms. Seckal then discussed CHE's FAFSA First program, which is a FAFSA completion initiative. High schools host events for students to complete the FAFSA with the assistance of financial aid counselors at local institutions. Ms. Seckal presented information about

the 2025-2026 FAFSA First Challenge, which was a statewide competition between schools, designed to boost FAFSA completion and expand students' access to financial aid, along with recognizing schools that excel in supporting college and career readiness. Ms. Seckal also explained the other programs and initiatives CHE is promoting in order to increase FAFSA completion. These programs include FAFSA Ready Workshops featuring presentations from financial aid professionals, the previously discussed FAFSA First Challenge, and the FAFSA First Toolkit to provide resources, templates for events, and recordings of previous trainings.

4. Other Business

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm.

R. Wes Hayes, Jr.
Chairman

L. Jeffrey Perez, Ph.D.
President & Executive Director

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South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Report

November 5, 2026

Historical Background

A postsecondary financial assistance program for South Carolina National Guard members - the SC National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP) - was implemented in the academic year 2007-08 to better support the recruitment goals of the SC National Guard (SCNG) through a loan repayment program. Legislation closed the SC National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program and replaced the loan program with SCNG CAP **(Attachment III).** The Commission on Higher Education (CHE), in consultation with the SCNG, developed program guidance, and CHE promulgated regulations for the operation and administration of the SCNG CAP pursuant to SC Code of Laws Section 59-114-10 et seq. in 2009. The SCNG CAP is administered by CHE in consultation with the SCNG and provides financial assistance for eligible enlisted servicemembers enrolled in undergraduate programs at the two-and four-year public and independent colleges and universities.

Previous Award Cycles through FY 2021-2022

The total SCNG CAP benefits received in previous cycles through FY2021–22 could not exceed $18,000, and the maximum number of credit hours earned was limited to 130 semester hours or the equivalent in quarter hours from the time of initial eligibility. Eligible Army National Guard servicemembers previously received up to $4,500 per year, and eligible Air Guard servicemembers received up to $9,000 per year. During the FY20-21 legislative session, proviso 117.167 (under General Provisions) was approved by the General Assembly to allow eligible members of the SC National Guard to qualify for CAP funds beyond the 130-credit hour maximum, provided that Air and Army Guard members meet all eligibility requirements. This proviso, effective FY2021-22, allowed additional

opportunities for eligible Air and Army Guard members to use CAP funds to pursue less than one-year or one-year certifications, two-year programs, or first or second associate degrees without credit hour limits, not to exceed $18,000.

Award Cycles FY 2022- 2023 through FY 2025-2026

Under General Provisions from FY22-23 through FY2024-2025, the credit hour limit was removed, and a member of the SC National Guard may qualify for college assistance program grants for more than 130 semester hours or equivalent quarter hours. Eligible Air and Army National Guard service members received up to $5,500 per year at a four-year institution, and eligible Air Guard service members received up to $11,000 at a two-year institution. Additionally, service members could receive a total of twenty-two thousand dollars ($22,000) in total CAP funds to cover up to one hundred percent of college tuition and fees for the academic year. This increase in the lifetime maximum award was used by recruiters to encourage applicants to enlist in the South Carolina National Guard. The increase in the award amount provided educational opportunities for service members to obtain their degrees without the burden of student loans or paying out of pocket, as well as pursue less than one-year or one-year certifications, two-year programs, or first or second associate degrees without credit hour limits, not to exceed the lifetime maximum of $22,000.

Although the CAP lifetime benefit was increased to $22,000 in FY 2023-2024, South Carolina National Guard leaders and stakeholders continued discussions on expanding educational opportunities to better support service members pursuing undergraduate degrees. As a result, the General Assembly approved Proviso 117.140 during the FY 2025-2026 legislative session. Effective July 2025, the proviso increased the annual CAP award to $12,000 per academic year (up to $4,000 per semester for full-time students), raised the lifetime benefit from $22,000 to $25,000, and continued eligibility for members pursuing more than 130 semester hours.

Current FY 2026-2027 Award Cycle

For FY 2026-2027, the General Assembly continued support for the South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program through Proviso 117.140, maintaining eligibility beyond 130 semester hours, an annual award maximum of $12,000, and a $25,000 lifetime benefit cap. The program entered the fiscal year with a carryforward balance of $10.24 million and continued to receive an annual Lottery appropriation of $6.2 million, ensuring the program's long-term sustainability and capacity to support future growth.

Recruitment and College Assistance Approved Applications: Attachment I

The SC Air and Army National Guard set annual recruitment goals. The South Carolina Air National Guard successfully achieved its FY2026 annual recruitment goal, enlisting 161 Air servicemembers and surpassing its goal of 160 recruits, achieving 100 percent of its target recruitment goal. For FY 2026-2027, the recruiting target has increased to 200 Airmen to support evolving mission demands and force readiness requirements. As the fiscal year began on October 1, 2026, recruitment data for FY2027 are preliminary, with 2 Air recruits enlisted as of the reporting date. The Air National Guard expects recruiting efforts to continue throughout the year in support of achieving its annual goal. The Air National Guard representatives shared that increased marketing through social media, building state partnerships, and pushing this year's branding "Everyone wants to be a Swamp Fox" have boosted their recruitment footprint, and they anticipate this media campaign will be successful. In FY 2025-26, the Army National Guard exceeded its recruitment goal by enlisting 1,087 Soldiers, surpassing its target of 933 by 16 percent. For FY 2026-27, the Army National Guard has recruited 1,214 soldiers, exceeding its recruitment goal of 1,107 by 9.7 percent. The Army National Guard reported that the increase in recruitment goals from FY 2026 to FY 2027 was due to the increase in education benefits, service, and job opportunities. Education benefits remain the top reason soldiers enlist. According to the Army National Guard, marketing, conducting in-person briefings, and podcasts are initiatives that have increased recruitment. Currently, SC is ranked 7th in the nation for market branding.

South Carolina National Guard members seeking assistance through CAP are required to apply each year to receive benefits. CAP offers two annual application opportunities, with the first application period occurring from June 1 to August 1 and the second, which began in November 2022, from November 20 to December 15. The approved applications and award data presented in this report for Academic Year 2026-27 reflect only the results from the first application cycle. Therefore, the number of approved applications does not represent the full participation and funding levels for the current academic year and will be updated after the second application window has been concluded.

The number of approved applications for Air servicemembers for 2025-2026 was 90, and as of October 2026, 88 applications have been approved for 2026-2027, which reflects a slight 2 percent decrease from the previous year; however, the total dollar amount to be awarded ($900,000) for the 26-27AY to Airmen increased by 7 percent. The number of applications approved for Soldiers for 25-26AY was 1,118, and as of October 2026, 999 applications were approved, which also reflects a slight 11 percent decrease; however, the total dollar amount to be awarded ($11.3 million) for the 26-27AY increased by 31 percent.

Although the total number of approved Army and Air National Guard applications declined from 1,208 in AY 2025-26 to 1,087 in AY 2026-27, the total amount to be awarded increased significantly from $9.49 million to $12.27 million. After the SCNG CAP second application window, it is anticipated that the number of approved applications and the amounts to be awarded may increase. It is important to note that the increase in funding despite fewer recipients indicates a higher average award amount per student in AY 2026-27, reflecting support for increased educational costs and expanded financial support provided through the program **(see Attachment I).**

The number of approved applications does not actually reflect the actual headcount of eligible service members that receive a college assistance award. Eligible members may apply for CAP benefits, but some choose not to enroll, enroll part-time, or not receive an award due to other eligibility requirements. The official number of awards and eligible service members will be reported through the CHE Information Management System (CHEMIS) and will be reflected in the **summary - Attachments IV and V.**

CAP Students Pursuing Degrees and Credentials- Attachment II

As mentioned earlier, educational benefits remain the top reason servicemembers enlist. The educational pursuits of South Carolina National Guard service members in the 2026-27 academic year reveal similar patterns between the Army and Air divisions. Among Army National Guard service members, a strong majority, 77 percent, are pursuing bachelor's degrees, with 20 percent working toward associate degrees and three percent seeking academic certificates. The Air National Guard service members show: 75 percent are pursuing bachelor's degrees, 25 percent are pursuing associate degrees, and no students are pursuing academic certificates. These trends suggest Bachelor's degree programs represented the largest area of study, accounting for 76.7% of all National Guard service members, followed by associate degree programs at 20.8%. An additional 2.4% of students pursued academic certifications. These figures highlight a strong emphasis on service members pursuing higher educational attainment and workforce development.

Air National Guard Awards- Attachment II

Over the past decade, the Air National Guard has demonstrated a stable increase in the number of servicemembers awarded college assistance. From 87 awards in 2016-2017 to 74 in 2025-2026, data fluctuates but remains relatively steady. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the yearly award amounts rose due to the increase in the maximum SCNG CAP award amount from the $18,000 lifetime award amount to $22,000, and the additional

open enrollment opportunities during the second application window that began in November 2022. While the number of recipients has not returned to historical highs, total award funding reached a record $476,000 in 2025-2026 (74 awards) due to the maximum lifetime amount increasing from $22,000 to $25,000. This trend indicates that CAP is providing greater financial support per recipient, supporting increased educational costs and enhanced benefit levels should continue to support the recruitment, retention, and educational advancement of South Carolina Air National Guard members.

Army National Guard Awards - Attachment II:

The Army National Guard has demonstrated steady growth in the number of servicemembers awarded college assistance over the past decade. From 621 awards in 2016-17 to 1074 in 2025-26, the data reflects an increase in the number of awards and the yearly award amounts. During the 2022-2023 through 2024-2025 period, the award amounts have climbed significantly due to the increase in the maximum SCNG CAP award amount from the $18,000 lifetime award amount to $22,000. Award funding reached a record $6.86 million in 2025-26 (1074 awards) due to the maximum lifetime amount increasing from $22,000 to $25,000. The increase in annual award limits and expanded educational opportunities have enabled more Army National Guard members to pursue postsecondary education while reducing their out-of-pocket expenses; however, some soldiers have reached the $25,000 lifetime maximum.

Ten-year Summary by Institution - Attachments IV and V

The data of the ten-year summary is in Attachments IV and V for Air and Army Guard SCNG CAP servicemembers, show the unduplicated headcount by institution and the award amounts per academic year. This means that a servicemember who receives a SCNG CAP award at any point over the three semesters (fall, spring, and summer) during the academic year will only be counted once, while students who transferred during the year may be counted twice for the academic year. Also, the award amounts vary among SCNG CAP recipients in general. Awards are counted by semesters, which means that the award amounts for the same number of students will differ between years and institutions. Data are reported to the CHE Office of Information Technology and Data Analysis on an annual cycle and provided based on availability. Institutional reporters have one calendar year (12 months) from the initial reporting deadline to make changes or revisions. Data received during this period is considered provisional.

SCNG Recruitment Goals 2025 -26 & 2026-27

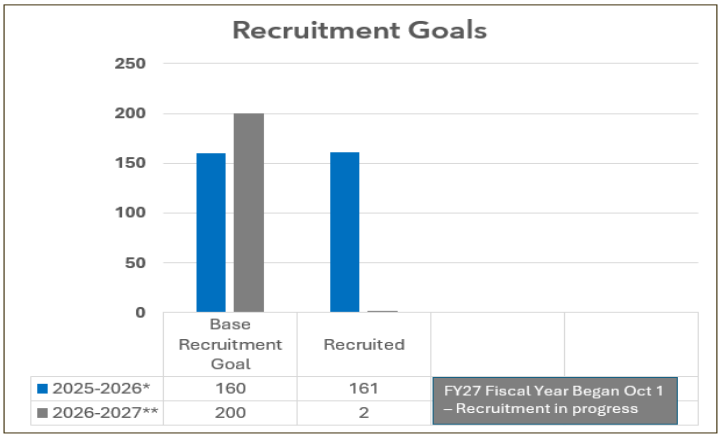
As of October 2026

Army National Guard



Source: SC Air and Army National Guard 10/2026

Air National Guard



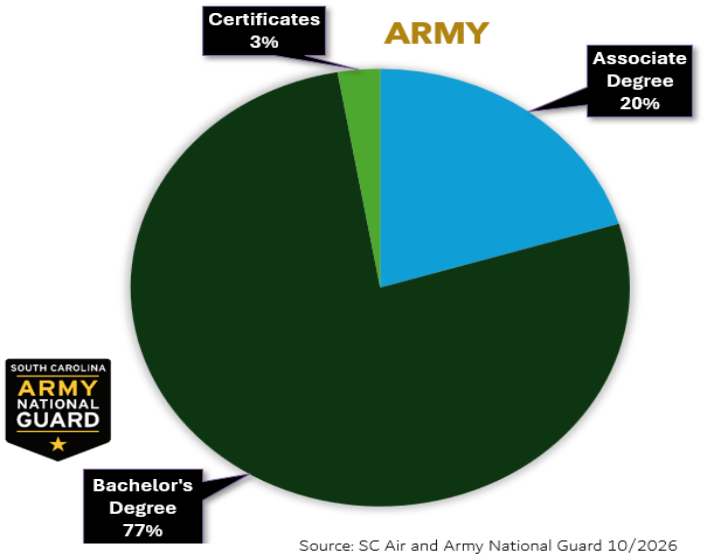
*20 per recruiter and adjusted goal (25-26)
**36 per recruiter with an adjusted goal (26-27)

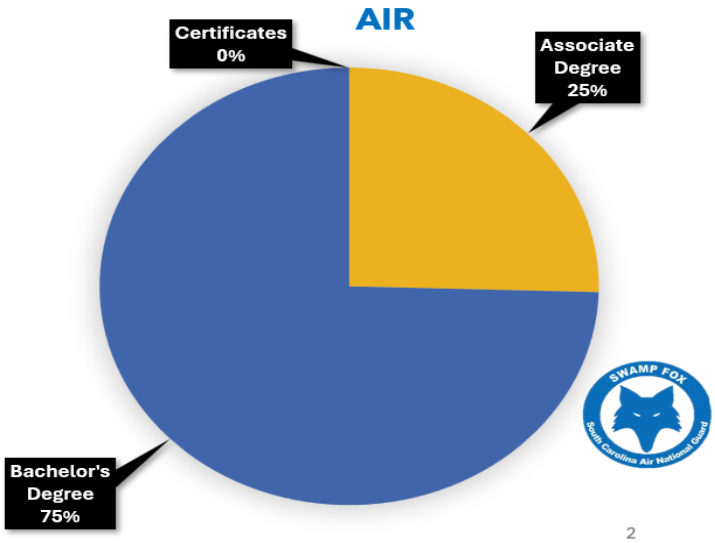
SCNG CAP Approved Applications*

Academic Year 2025 – 2026**			Academic Year 2026 - 2027**	
Applications Approved	Dollar Amount Approved		Applications Approved	Dollar Amount Approved
1118	$8,652,000	ARMY NATIONAL GUARD	999	$11,374,717
90	$840,575	SWAMP FOX	88	$900,000
1208	$9,492,575	Total	1087	$12,274,717

*Approved but not actual awards as of October 2026
** 25-26AY, 26-27AY CAP award amounts: $ 25,000 maximum lifetime limit
Source: SC Air and Army National Guard

Education Demographics
SC National Guard Service Members
Degree Pursuits 2026-2027 AY





Source: SC Air and Army National Guard 10/2026

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10-Year Summary of Actual Awards
2016-2017 through 2025-2026**

*Academic Year	SC AIR NATIONAL GUARD		SC ARMY NATIONAL GUARD		Total # Air and Army Awards	Total Amount Awarded
	# of Award	Amount Awarded	# of Award	Amount Awarded		
2016-2017	87	$ 472,491.00	621	$ 2,137,406.75	708	$ 2,606,522.75
2017-2018	73	$ 430,099.50	565	$ 1,812,411.25	638	$ 2,239,697.75
2018-2019	62	$ 354,228.50	558	$ 1,831,016.50	620	$ 2,181,870.00
2019-2020	52	$ 337,915.00	522	$ 1,735,888.75	574	$ 2,073,803.75
2020-2021	53	$ 271,335.00	595	$ 2,091,893.50	648	$ 2,363,228.50
2021-2022	54	$ 355,986.50	694	$ 2,580,581.50	748	$ 2,936,568.00
2022-2023	84	$ 430,802.00	832	$ 3,593,279.25	917	$ 4,024,081.25
2023-2024	68	$ 333,285.00	855	$ 3,637,015.31	923	$ 3,962,050.31
2024-2025	67	$ 343,482.50	932	$ 3,927,920.50	999	$ 4,254,849.00
2025-2026	74	$ 476,000.00	1074	$ 6,869,004.50	1148	$ 7,300,504.50

*AY 2016-17 through AY 2025-26

***Unduplicated headcount as of September 2026

Source: CHEMIS 9.18.2026 – Provisional Data

*Academic year includes Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer.
**Data are reported to the CHE Office of Information Technology and Data Analysis on an annual cycle and provided based on availability. Institutional reporters have one calendar year (12 months) from the initial reporting deadline to make changes or revisions. Data received during this period is considered provisional.
***Headcounts are unduplicated at the institutional level; students who transferred during the year may be counted twice in totals.

CHAPTER 114
South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program Act

SECTION 59-114-10. Short title.
This chapter may be cited as the "South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program Act".

HISTORY: 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year.
Effect of Amendment
The 2007 amendment substituted "College Assistance Program" for "Tuition Assistance".

SECTION 59-114-20. Definitions.
As used in this chapter:
(1) "Academic year" means a period of three hundred sixty-five days beginning with the first day of enrollment for a course of instruction by a National Guard member.
(2) "College assistance program" means the South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program.
(3) "Commission" means the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.
(4) "Eligible institution" means:
(a) a public institution of higher learning as defined in Section 59-103-5 and an independent institution of higher learning as defined in Section 59-113-50; and
(b) a public or independent bachelor's level institution chartered before 1962 whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina; or an independent bachelor's level institution which was incorporated in its original charter in 1962, was granted a license to operate in 1997 by the Commission on Higher Education, has continued to maintain a campus in South Carolina, and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Institutions whose sole purpose is religious or theological training, or the granting of professional degrees do not meet the definition of 'public or independent institution' for purposes of this chapter.
(5) "National Guard" means South Carolina Army or Air National Guard.
(6) "Tuition and fees" means 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 as approved by the commission.

HISTORY: 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year.
Effect of Amendment
The 2007 amendment rewrote this section.

SECTION 59-114-30. College assistance program grants; restrictions.
Qualifying members of the National Guard may receive college assistance program grants up to an amount equal to one hundred percent of college tuition and fees, provided, however, the total of all grants received may not exceed eighteen thousand dollars. A member may not qualify for college assistance program grants for more than one hundred thirty semester hours or related quarter hours. Grants are not to be awarded for graduate degree courses. A new application must be submitted for each separate academic year prior to the beginning of the academic year. The annual maximum grant must be determined for each academic year based on the amount of available program funds.

HISTORY: 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5; 1997 Act No. 155, Part II, Section 53A; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year; 2014 Act No. 151 (H.3784), Section 1, eff April 7, 2014.
Effect of Amendment
The 2007 amendment rewrote this section.

2014 Act No. 151, Section 1, in the second to the last sentence, added "prior to the beginning of the academic year", and added the last sentence, relating to annual maximum grant.

SECTION 59-114-40. Qualification requirements.

(A) Members of the National Guard enrolled or planning to enroll in an eligible institution may apply to the commission for a college assistance program grant. To qualify, an applicant must:

(1) be in good standing with the active National Guard at the beginning of each academic year and remain a member in good standing with the active National Guard throughout the entire academic year for which benefits are payable;

(2) have valid tuition and fee expenses from an eligible institution;

(3) maintain a cumulative grade point average that the institution requires to remain as a student; and

(4) satisfy additional eligibility requirements as may be promulgated by the commission.

(B) Individuals joining the National Guard become eligible for college assistance program grants upon completion of basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Enlisted personnel shall continue their service in the National Guard during the term of the courses covered by the grant received. Officers shall continue their service with the National Guard for at least four years after completion of the most recent grant awarded or degree completion.

(C) National Guard members receiving a full Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship are not eligible for college assistance program grants.

HISTORY: 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5; 1997 Act No. 155, Part II, Section 53B; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year; 2014 Act No. 151 (H.3784), Section 2, eff April 7, 2014.

Effect of Amendment

The 2007 amendment rewrote this section.

2014 Act No. 151, Section 2, in subsection (B), substituted "upon completion of basic training and Advanced Individual Training (AIT)" for "on the day of enlistment".

SECTIONS 59-114-50, 59-114-60. Omitted by 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007.

Editor's Note

Former Section 59-114-50 was entitled "Administration of program; regulations" and was derived from 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5.

Former Section 59-114-60 was entitled "Agreements for rebating or carrying forward credit on accounts" and was derived from 1979 Act No. 199, Part II, Section 5.

SECTION 59-114-65. Grants dependent on availability of funds; administration costs.

Grants provided pursuant to this chapter are subject to the availability of funds appropriated by the General Assembly. Funds appropriated for the college assistance program may be carried forward and expended for the same purpose. If a midyear budget reduction is imposed by the General Assembly or the Executive Budget Office, as appropriate, the appropriations for the college assistance program are exempt. Up to five percent of the amount appropriated to the college assistance program may be used to defray administrative costs incurred by the commission associated with the implementation of this chapter.

HISTORY: 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year; 2014 Act No. 151 (H.3784), Section 3, eff April 7, 2014.

Code Commissioner's Note

At the direction of the Code Commissioner, references in this section to the offices of the former State Budget and Control Board, Office of the Governor, or other agencies, were changed to reflect the transfer of them to the Department of Administration or other entities, pursuant to the directive of the South Carolina Restructuring Act, 2014 Act No. 121, Section 5(D)(1), effective July 1, 2015.

Effect of Amendment

2014 Act No. 151, Section 3, added the second and third sentences, relating to the carry forward of funds and midyear budget reduction.

SECTION 59-114-70. Omitted by 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007.
Editor's Note
Former Section 59-114-70 was entitled "Tuition assistance payments made directly to applicants" and was derived from 1979 Act No. 199 Part II, Section 5; 1997 Act No. 155, Part II, Section 53C.

SECTION 59-114-75. Grants to institutions; recovery of funds upon withdrawal of student; promulgation of regulations.

The commission shall disburse grants awarded pursuant to this chapter to the eligible institutions to be placed in an account established for each eligible student. In the event that a student who has received a grant withdraws, is suspended, or otherwise becomes ineligible, the institution must reimburse the college assistance program for the amount of the grant for the applicable term pursuant to the refund policies of the institution. The institution is responsible for collecting any amount due to the institution from the student. The commission shall administer the provisions of this chapter and shall promulgate regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter.

HISTORY: 2001 Act No. 41, Section 2; 2007 Act No. 40, Section 1, eff June 4, 2007, applicable beginning with the 2007-2008 academic year.
Effect of Amendment
The 2007 amendment rewrote this section.

South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program

Academic Year *2016-2017 to 2020-2021

****Unduplicated headcounts as of 9/18/2026**

Institutional Sector	2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021	
	Headcount	Amount	Headcount	Amount	Headcount	Amount	Headcount	Amount	Headcount	Amount
Research Institutions										
Clemson University	21	$80,437.50	15	$55,125.00	18	$62,437.50	25	$124,031.25	41	$161,437.50
U. S. C. - Columbia	75	$302,062.50	79	$314,828.00	64	$268,601.50	57	$248,062.50	83	$334,500.00
Medical University of South Carolina	1	$4,500.00	1	$4,500.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Research Institutions Total	**97**	**$387,000.00**	**95**	**$374,453.00**	**82**	**$331,039.00**	**82**	**$372,093.75**	**124**	**$495,937.50**
Comprehensive Teaching Inst.										
The Citadel	51	$214,312.50	38	$158,625.00	35	$134,437.50	29	$46,689.00	76	$306,827.50
Coastal Carolina University	44	$159,750.00	42	$175,500.00	50	$186,198.50	37	$147,375.00	46	$165,936.00
College of Charleston	9	$45,000.00	12	$45,000.00	12	$44,437.50	10	$33,750.00	11	$45,562.00
Francis Marion University	17	$63,562.50	12	$38,250.00	10	$39,375.00	21	$86,625.00	9	$36,562.50
Lander University	10	$40,500.00	17	$64,125.00	17	$59,625.00	20	$69,750.00	31	$118,687.00
South Carolina State University	16	$67,500.00	21	$76,125.00	26	$84,937.50	19	$70,017.50	9	$29,812.50
U. S. C. - Aiken	15	$69,750.00	11	$49,500.00	6	$20,812.50	12	$47,813.00	10	$36,750.50
U. S. C. - Beaufort	7	$26,438.00	5	$18,000.00	5	$27,000.00	8	$31,500.00	7	$29,250.00
U. S. C. - Upstate	40	$158,625.00	36	$129,595.00	40	$140,067.00	39	$161,961.00	42	$158,064.00
Winthrop University	24	$104,625.00	15	$58,593.75	13	$45,000.00	8	$24,750.00	7	$31,500.00
Comprehensive Teaching Inst. Total	**233**	**$950,063.00**	**209**	**$813,313.75**	**214**	**$781,890.50**	**203**	**$720,230.50**	**248**	**$958,952.00**
Two Year Reg. Campuses of USC										
U. S. C. - Lancaster	1	$4,500.00	3	$10,125.00	2	$4,500.00	3	$7,875.00	5	$20,250.00
U. S. C. - Salkehatchie	2	$9,788.00	2	$10,462.00	1	$1,690.00	2	$6,187.50	1	$1,687.50
U. S. C. - Sumter	1	$2,250.00	1	$4,500.00	4	$21,375.00	6	$33,750.00	3	$11,250.00
U. S. C. - Union	2	$5,062.00	3	$8,437.00	3	$7,312.50	1	$3,938.00	3	$7,095.50
Two-Year Reg. Campuses of USC Total	**6**	**$21,600.00**	**9**	**$33,524.00**	**10**	**$34,877.50**	**12**	**$51,750.50**	**12**	**$40,283.00**
Technical Colleges										
Aiken Technical College	8	$28,688.00	2	$1,124.00	0	$0.00	5	$19,125.00	4	$8,438.00
Central Carolina Technical College	14	$41,062.50	9	$19,687.50	20	$73,687.50	12	$25,500.00	11	$37,687.50
Denmark Technical College	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Florence-Darlington Technical College	12	$38,250.00	8	$23,793.50	9	$21,206.50	8	$18,562.50	4	$15,468.50
Greenville Technical College	42	$149,062.50	22	$66,375.00	25	$86,625.00	19	$57,937.50	25	$70,875.00
Horry-Georgetown Technical College	21	$65,253.00	10	$28,689.00	25	$82,692.00	20	$59,629.00	18	$56,814.00
Midlands Technical College	73	$220,161.75	63	$194,739.00	61	$167,898.50	40	$152,710.00	43	$159,177.00
Northeastern Technical College	4	$10,125.00	0	$0.00	1	$2,813.00	1	$3,938.00	0	$0.00
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College	4	$11,251.00	2	$5,063.00	3	$8,438.00	4	$7,877.00	2	$3,938.00
Piedmont Technical College	13	$48,377.00	17	$46,128.00	9	$24,189.00	4	$11,813.00	6	$18,002.00
Spartanburg Community College	14	$54,000.00	15	$45,750.00	8	$23,062.50	8	$32,625.00	11	$44,437.50
Technical College of The Lowcountry	3	$5,063.00	4	$6,188.00	5	$13,502.00	2	$5,064.00	2	$6,188.00
Tri-County Technical College	13	$47,250.00	11	$25,312.50	14	$50,625.00	10	$31,500.00	9	$29,250.00
Trident Technical College	26	$65,816.00	24	$71,067.00	19	$52,318.00	18	$48,942.00	15	$51,191.00
Williamsburg Technical College	3	$10,125.00	1	$4,500.00	0	$0.00	1	$4,500.00	0	$0.00
York Technical College	13	$41,064.00	21	$66,375.50	15	$45,063.50	14	$38,252.00	10	$28,688.00
Technical Colleges Total	**263**	**$835,548.75**	**209**	**$604,792.00**	**214**	**$652,120.50**	**166**	**$517,975.00**	**160**	**$530,154.50**
Independent Senior Inst.										
Allen University	2	$6,188.00	4	$11,248.00	7	$24,750.00	5	$20,814.00	1	$4,500.00
Anderson University	1	$4,500.00	1	$2,250.00	2	$11,250.00	5	$23,624.00	8	$34,312.50
Benedict College	3	$18,000.00	8	$31,500.00	0	$0.00	7	$29,250.00	8	$31,500.00
Bob Jones University	1	$2,250.00	2	$9,000.00	2	$9,000.00	2	$4,500.00	4	$15,750.00
Charleston Southern University	5	$16,313.00	5	$25,313.00	4	$16,312.50	2	$7,875.00	6	$34,875.00
Claflin University	14	$46,125.00	15	$67,500.00	15	$63,000.00	15	$60,750.00	10	$38,250.00
Coker University	3	$11,250.00	4	$7,312.50	2	$6,750.00	5	$20,250.00	3	$9,000.00
Columbia College	3	$15,750.00	6	$26,995.50	2	$6,188.00	0	$0.00	2	$2,460.00
Columbia International University	2	$9,000.00	1	$1,688.00	2	$3,938.00	1	$4,500.00	1	$4,500.00
Converse University	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	1	$4,500.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Erskine College	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Limestone University	65	$190,122.00	54	$148,308.00	53	$163,129.00	58	$172,690.00	46	$98,816.00
Morris College	3	$18,000.00	3	$11,250.00	1	$4,500.00	5	$18,001.00	2	$6,750.00
Newberry College	2	$4,875.00	2	$11,250.00	3	$15,750.00	1	$2,250.00	0	$0.00
North Greenville University	6	$22,500.00	5	$15,750.00	5	$20,250.00	3	$13,500.00	6	$25,875.00
Presbyterian College	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
South University	5	$18,750.00	7	$16,125.00	3	$7,875.00	3	$7,875.00	3	$4,875.00
Southern Wesleyan University	2	$8,438.00	4	$12,375.00	3	$9,000.00	3	$10,125.00	3	$8,438.00
Voorhees University	4	$15,750.00	1	$2,250.00	1	$4,500.00	3	$11,250.00	3	$9,000.00

Wofford College	1	$2,250.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Independent Senior Inst. Total	**122**	**$410,061.00**	**122**	**$400,115.00**	**106**	**$370,692.50**	**118**	**$407,254.00**	**106**	**$328,901.50**
Independent Two-Year Inst.										
Spartanburg Methodist College	1	$2,250.00	4	$13,500.00	3	$11,250.00	1	$4,500.00	2	$9,000.00
Independent Two-Year Inst. Total	**1**	**$2,250.00**	**4**	**$13,500.00**	**3**	**$11,250.00**	**1**	**$4,500.00**	**2**	**$9,000.00**
Grand Total	**722**	**$2,606,522.75**	**648**	**$2,239,697.75**	**629**	**$2,181,870.00**	**582**	**$2,073,803.75**	**652**	**$2,363,228.50**

***Academic year includes Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer**

***Data are reported to the CHE Office of Information Technology and Data Analysis on an annual cycle and provided based on availability. Institutional reporters have one calendar year (12 months) from the initial reporting deadline to make changes or revisions. Data received during this period is considered provisional.*

****Headcounts are unduplicated at the institutional level; students who transferred during the year may be counted twice in totals.*

South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program
Academic Year *2021-2022 to 2025-2026
**Unduplicated headcounts as of 9/18/2026

Institutional Sector	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025		2025-2026	
	Headcount	Amount	Headcount	Amount	Headcount	Amount	Headcount	Amount	Headcount	Amount
Research Institutions										
Clemson University	52	$224,437.50	64	$304,750.50	59	$275,003.00	60	$271,564.00	49	$202,000.00
U. S. C. - Columbia	134	$559,272.50	155	$737,218.00	147	$653,125.00	175	$807,625.00	205	$1,396,376.00
Medical University of South Carolina	1	$9,000.00	1	$2,750.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	1	$4,000.00
Research Institutions Total	**187**	**$792,710.00**	**220**	**$1,044,718.50**	**206**	**$928,128.00**	**235**	**$1,079,189.00**	**255**	**$1,602,376.00**
Comprehensive Teaching Inst.										
The Citadel	99	$422,579.00	115	$583,688.00	91	$406,314.00	68	$330,083.00	117	$843,568.00
Coastal Carolina University	37	$160,737.00	55	$238,560.50	51	$241,312.50	65	$282,562.50	81	$574,875.00
College of Charleston	16	$59,063.00	13	$65,312.00	15	$67,375.00	26	$110,000.00	23	$174,329.00
Francis Marion University	13	$55,107.00	17	$78,375.00	11	$43,687.50	16	$68,062.50	25	$160,750.00
Lander University	35	$138,375.00	34	$151,937.50	38	$172,312.50	38	$173,187.50	49	$354,779.00
South Carolina State University	18	$74,250.00	23	$106,047.38	18	$88,000.00	26	$126,437.50	35	$221,500.00
U. S. C. - Aiken	18	$76,121.00	22	$98,314.00	32	$132,346.00	40	$184,937.50	49	$321,672.00
U. S. C. - Beaufort	6	$20,812.00	5	$19,813.00	6	$29,610.00	8	$33,689.00	12	$70,132.00
U. S. C. - Upstate	39	$142,634.00	55	$221,724.00	64	$284,580.00	66	$281,064.00	87	$590,329.00
Winthrop University	11	$42,750.00	20	$84,740.00	15	$73,126.00	18	$81,813.00	20	$141,000.00
Comprehensive Teaching Inst. Total	**292**	**$1,192,428.00**	**359**	**$1,648,511.38**	**341**	**$1,538,663.50**	**371**	**$1,671,836.50**	**498**	**$3,452,934.00**
Two Year Reg. Campuses of USC										
U. S. C. - Lancaster	7	$25,875.00	8	$39,187.50	5	$22,000.00	5	$17,875.00	8	$45,000.00
U. S. C. - Salkehatchie	1	$3,375.00	1	$2,062.50	0	$0.00	1	$2,750.00	2	$13,947.00
U. S. C. - Sumter	3	$10,125.00	5	$36,437.50	5	$22,000.00	5	$32,312.50	8	$54,000.00
U. S. C. - Union	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	1	$8,000.00
Two-Year Reg. Campuses of USC Total	**11**	**$39,375.00**	**14**	**$77,687.50**	**10**	**$44,000.00**	**11**	**$52,937.50**	**19**	**$120,947.00**
Technical Colleges										
Aiken Technical College	4	$15,187.50	7	$28,875.50	4	$15,001.00	4	$8,938.00	3	$15,000.00
Central Carolina Technical College	10	$26,437.50	11	$34,374.50	7	$26,125.00	16	$55,062.50	12	$46,000.00
Denmark Technical College	0	$0.00	1	$2,750.00	0	$0.00	3	$9,625.00	0	$0.00
Florence-Darlington Technical College	8	$23,625.00	6	$17,876.00	6	$26,814.00	8	$26,814.00	17	$73,000.00
Greenville Technical College	21	$68,203.50	36	$118,250.00	28	$107,140.50	43	$180,812.50	47	$268,758.50
Horry-Georgetown Technical College	18	$59,065.00	22	$96,253.00	22	$91,443.00	27	$114,989.00	30	$171,561.00
Midlands Technical College	39	$164,804.00	69	$276,812.50	73	$293,240.31	73	$297,687.50	94	$504,858.00
Northeastern Technical College	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	4	$13,063.00	1	$2,750.00	2	$6,500.00
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College	3	$7,312.50	4	$11,687.50	4	$11,688.00	4	$15,297.50	4	$21,000.00
Piedmont Technical College	5	$11,251.00	6	$24,750.00	10	$40,562.50	8	$27,156.00	10	$58,000.00
Spartanburg Community College	9	$30,375.00	11	$40,562.50	19	$72,187.50	13	$52,937.50	16	$98,000.00
Technical College of The Lowcountry	1	$2,250.00	4	$17,188.00	5	$15,813.00	3	$7,563.00	6	$24,000.00
Tri-County Technical College	10	$31,810.00	15	$52,301.12	19	$73,562.50	13	$41,937.50	17	$108,000.00
Trident Technical College	17	$52,177.00	16	$74,769.00	15	$67,380.00	30	$92,069.00	34	$177,734.00
Williamsburg Technical College	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	2	$8,250.00	0	$0.00	1	$4,000.00
York Technical College	11	$36,000.00	7	$28,876.00	5	$16,500.00	10	$35,063.00	8	$39,000.00
Technical Colleges Total	**156**	**$528,498.00**	**215**	**$825,325.62**	**223**	**$878,770.31**	**256**	**$968,702.00**	**301**	**$1,615,411.50**
Independent Senior Inst.										
Allen University	3	$11,250.00	2	$5,500.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Anderson University	5	$16,688.00	7	$32,313.00	6	$30,250.00	6	$33,000.00	6	$40,000.00
Benedict College	7	$24,750.00	2	$8,250.00	3	$10,313.00	5	$16,500.00	6	$25,000.00
Bob Jones University	3	$18,000.00	4	$13,750.00	1	$3,437.50	1	$5,500.00	3	$12,000.00
Charleston Southern University	9	$45,000.00	9	$38,500.00	7	$25,313.00	17	$69,437.00	14	$76,000.00
Claflin University	9	$43,875.00	0	$0.00	7	$26,750.00	7	$26,125.00	10	$40,000.00
Coker University	1	$2,250.00	0	$0.00	2	$5,500.00	2	$11,000.00	7	$38,000.00
Columbia College	0	$0.00	3	$10,312.00	7	$30,126.00	3	$8,250.00	0	$0.00
Columbia International University	1	$4,500.00	1	$5,500.00	1	$2,750.00	2	$11,000.00	0	$0.00
Converse University	0	$0.00	2	$8,250.00	1	$4,125.00	1	$2,750.00	0	$0.00
Erskine College	0	$0.00	1	$2,750.00	1	$2,750.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Limestone University	49	$142,619.00	59	$200,962.00	84	$320,337.00	69	$223,789.00	0	$0.00
Morris College	1	$4,500.00	1	$2,750.00	2	$4,125.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Newberry College	3	$13,500.00	4	$16,500.00	2	$8,250.00	4	$11,000.00	13	$97,000.00
North Greenville University	4	$20,250.00	3	$13,750.00	4	$16,500.00	3	$7,500.00	2	$16,000.00
Presbyterian College	1	$2,250.00	3	$11,000.00	8	$37,507.00	7	$25,875.00	9	$59,000.00
South University	5	$18,375.00	7	$19,251.25	7	$23,830.00	4	$16,708.00	4	$28,040.00
Southern Wesleyan University	1	$4,500.00	2	$11,000.00	1	$1,375.00	2	$5,500.00	2	$12,000.00
Voorhees University	0	$0.00	3	$13,750.00	1	$5,500.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00

Wofford College	1	$2,250.00	1	$5,500.00	1	$5,500.00	0	$0.00	0	$0.00
Independent Senior Inst. Total	**103**	**$374,557.00**	**114**	**$419,588.25**	**146**	**$564,238.50**	**133**	**$473,934.00**	**76**	**$443,040.00**
Independent Two-Year Inst.										
Spartanburg Methodist College	2	$9,000.00	3	$8,250.00	2	$8,250.00	2	$8,250.00	10	$65,796.00
Independent Two-Year Inst. Total	**2**	**$9,000.00**	**3**	**$8,250.00**	**2**	**$8,250.00**	**2**	**$8,250.00**	**10**	**$65,796.00**
Grand Total	**751**	**$2,936,568.00**	**925**	**$4,024,081.25**	**928**	**$3,962,050.31**	**1,008**	**$4,254,849.00**	**1,159**	**$7,300,504.50**

***Academic year includes Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer**

***Data are reported to the CHE Office of Information Technology and Data Analysis on an annual cycle and provided based on availability. Institutional reporters have one calendar year (12 months) from the initial reporting deadline to make changes or revisions. Data received during this period is considered provisional.*

****Headcounts are unduplicated at the institutional level; students who transferred during the year may be counted twice in totals.*

R. Wes Hayes, Jr.
Chairman

L. Jeffrey Perez, Ph.D.
President and Executive Director

South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Access | Affordability | Excellence

November 5, 2026

Memorandum

TO: Ms. Jenni Bryson, Chair, and Members, Student Services Committee
FROM: Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director, Office of Student Affairs

Tucker Hipps Transparency Act 265 of 2016

Background

The Tucker Hipps Transparency Act in Act 265 of 2016 requires S.C. four-year public institutions, with exception to the Medical University of SC (MUSC) and The Citadel, to maintain reports of actual findings of certain misconduct by fraternity and sorority organizations. The sunset provision of Act 265 of 2016 resulted in the expiration of the Act on June 29, 2019, unless the provisions of the Act were extended or reenacted by the General Assembly **(Attachment I)**. The General Assembly approved the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act under permanent continuation and thereby repealed the sunset provision on April 26, 2019. Act 265 of 2016 permanently authorized the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act **(Attachment II)**.

Overview

According to the Act, a public higher education institution, excluding technical colleges, MUSC and The Citadel, must maintain a report of actual findings of violations of the institution's Conduct of Student Organizations by fraternity and sorority organizations affiliated with the institution. A report of actual findings of violations of the Conduct of Student Organizations is required for offenses involving alcohol, drugs, sexual assaults, physical assaults, and hazing. The name of the organization, and when the organization was charged with the misconduct, must be provided as well as the dates on which the citation was issued regarding the event and the initiation date of the investigation. The institution must provide a general description of the incident, the charges, findings, and sanctions placed on the organization, and the date the matter was resolved.

The report must not include personal identifiable information of individual students. The institution, according to the Act, must update this report at least forty-five calendar days before the start of the fall and spring academic semesters and provide reports on its internet website in a prominent location.

The Tucker Hipps Transparency Act requires the institution to furnish a printed notice of the nature and availability of the report and the website address where it can be accessed for student and parent orientation purposes. The institution must maintain updated reports over a four-year period on their websites. Each public institution, with the exception of MUSC and The Citadel, must submit to the Commission on Higher Education a statement within fourteen calendar days of posting the updated report.

2025-2026 Academic Year Review

During the 2025–26 academic year, South Carolina higher education institutions reported 34 confirmed violations involving 19 fraternities, sororities, and student organizations across 22 incidents. While student organizations are not specifically required to be included under Act 265 reporting requirements, incidents involving these organizations are included in this report when reported by institutions. This granular count reflects individual violations, even when multiple violations arose from the same incident or organization.

Additionally, during the 2025-26 academic year, South Carolina State University reported three charges involving Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., that remain under investigation, with sanctions pending and no resolution date reported as of October 2026. Because the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act requires the reporting of actual findings, these pending charges are not included in the confirmed violation totals.

Key 2025-26 Statistics:

Policy / Compliance Violations: 10 violations — the most frequently reported category. These primarily involved failure to comply with university directives, violations of organizational conduct requirements, failure to follow established procedures, and noncompliance with previously imposed sanctions.

Other Violations: 9 violations — encompassing fraudulent behavior, misuse of university resources or identification, property damage, disruptive conduct, and other violations of institutional policies.

Hazing: 9 violations — involving inappropriate new member education practices, including personal servitude, degrading activities, and other behaviors inconsistent with institutional hazing policies.

Alcohol-Related Violations: 6 violations — including alcohol-related misconduct at organizational events, improper distribution or possession of alcohol, and alcohol consumption involving underage members.

Several organizations faced disciplinary sanctions, including probation, restrictions on organizational activities, and additional institutional oversight. These actions reflect institutional efforts to address misconduct, reinforce organizational accountability, and promote student safety.

Chart 1. Violations by Type (2025-2026)

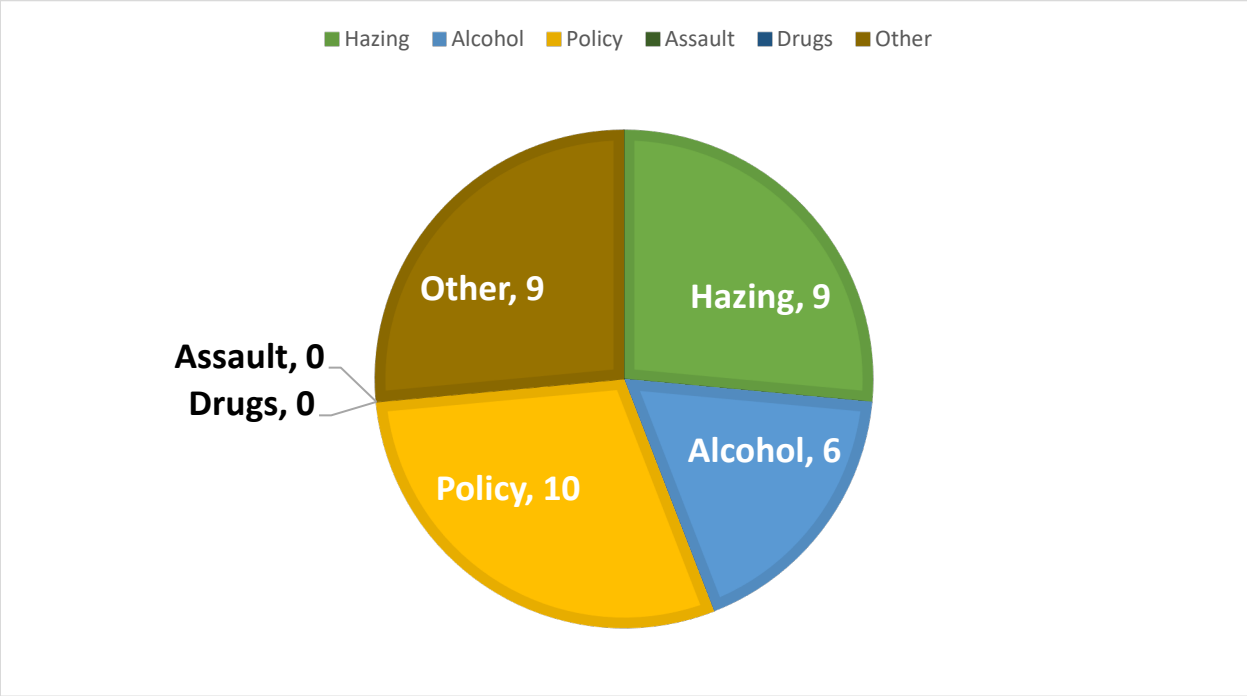


Chart 1 illustrates the distribution of the 34 reported violations during the 2025–26 reporting year. Policy and compliance violations represented the largest category (10), followed by other institutional policy violations (9) and hazing violations (9). Alcohol-related violations accounted for the remaining 6 violations. These findings highlight ongoing concerns related to organizational accountability, compliance with institutional policies, hazing prevention, and alcohol-related misconduct.

While student organizations are not specifically required to be included under the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act (Act 265) reporting requirements, incidents involving these organizations are included in this report when reported by institutions.

Tucker Hipps Five-Year Analysis

During the five-year reporting period spanning Fall 2021 through Spring 2026, South Carolina institutions of higher learning reported a total of **169 violations** involving fraternities, sororities, and other student organizations.

Annual violations fluctuated throughout the reporting period, ranging from a low of 27 in 2022–23 to a high of 40 in 2024–25. Following a decline in 2022–23, reported violations increased over the next two academic years, reaching their highest level in 2024–25.

The 2025–26 academic year recorded 34 confirmed violations involving 19 distinct institution–organization combinations. This represents a 15% decrease in total violations compared to the previous academic year, which recorded 40 violations involving 29 organizations.

The types of violations reported also varied throughout the five-year period. Hazing remained a significant concern, reaching a high of 16 violations in 2024–25 before declining to nine in 2025–26, representing a 43.8% reduction. During the most recent academic year, policy violations were the most frequently reported category (10), followed by other violations (9), hazing (9), and alcohol-related violations (6).

Table 1. Total Violations by Academic Year

Academic Year	Total Violations	Number of Organizations
2021-22	30	19
2022-23	27	19
2023-24	38	24
2024-25	40	29
2025-26	34	19
Total	**169**	

Table 1 presents the total number of reported violations over the five-year reporting period, which fluctuated from a low of 27 in 2022–23 to a high of 40 in 2024–25. The 2024–25 academic year also recorded the greatest number of organizations involved (29). In 2025–26, reported violations decreased to 34, representing a 15.0% reduction from the previous year. The number of organizations involved also declined from 29 to 19, representing a 34.5% decrease.

While student organizations are not specifically required to be included under the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act (Act 265) reporting requirements, incidents involving these organizations are included in this report when reported by institutions.

Table 2. Violations by Type (5-Year Summary)

Violation Type	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	Total	% of Total
Alcohol	11	4	11	10	6	42	**24.9%**
Policy	10	7	5	9	10	41	**24.3%**
Hazing	4	12	12	16	9	53	**31.4%**
Other	4	2	9	5	9	29	**17.2%**
Assault	1	2	0	0	0	3	**1.8%**
Drugs	0	0	1	0	0	1	**0.6%**
Total	**30**	**27**	**38**	**40**	**34**	**169**	**100%**

Table 2 provides a breakdown of violations by category over the five-year reporting period from 2021–22 through 2025–26. Hazing accounted for the largest proportion of reported violations (53, 31.4%), followed by Alcohol-related violations (42, 24.9%), Policy violations (41, 24.3%), and Other violations (29, 17.2%). Assault and Drug-related violations represented a relatively small percentage of the overall total.

An examination of year-over-year data reveals notable shifts in the types of violations reported. Hazing violations increased from four in 2021–22 to a peak of 16 in 2024–25 before declining to nine in 2025–26, representing a 43.8% decrease from the previous year. Alcohol-related violations also declined in 2025–26, decreasing from 10 to six, while Policy violations increased slightly from nine to 10. Other violations, which include property damage, noise complaints, and miscellaneous infractions, increased from five in 2024–25 to nine in 2025–26.

While student organizations are not specifically required to be included under the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act (Act 265) reporting requirements, incidents involving these organizations are included in this report when reported by institutions.

Chart 2. Violations by Type (5-Year Total)

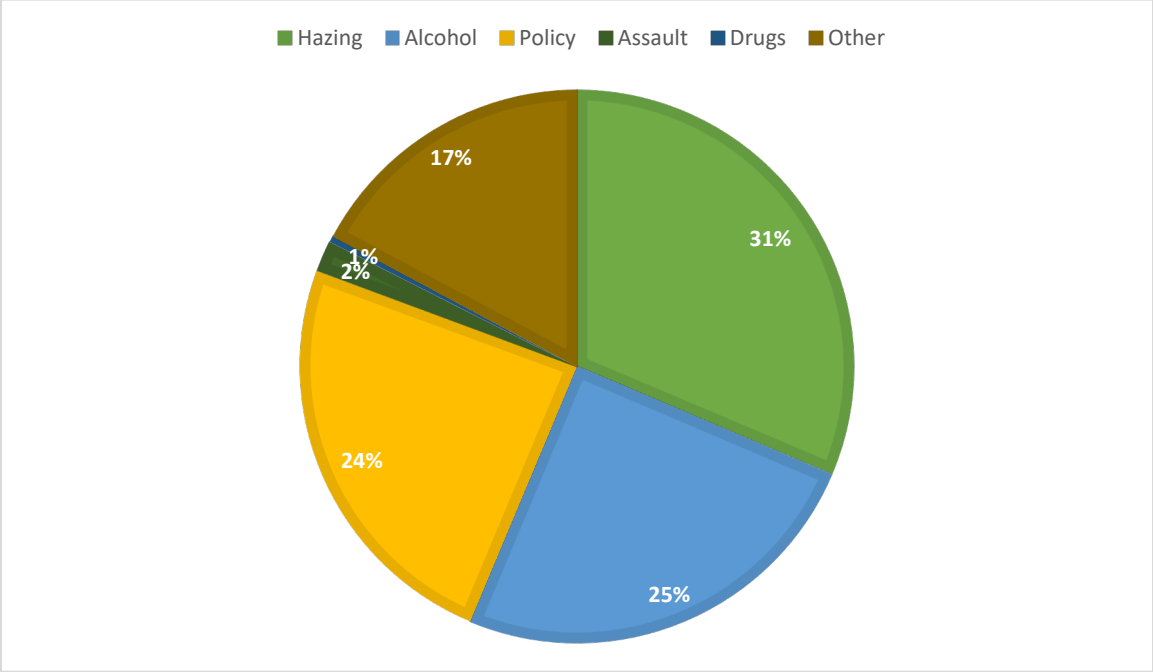
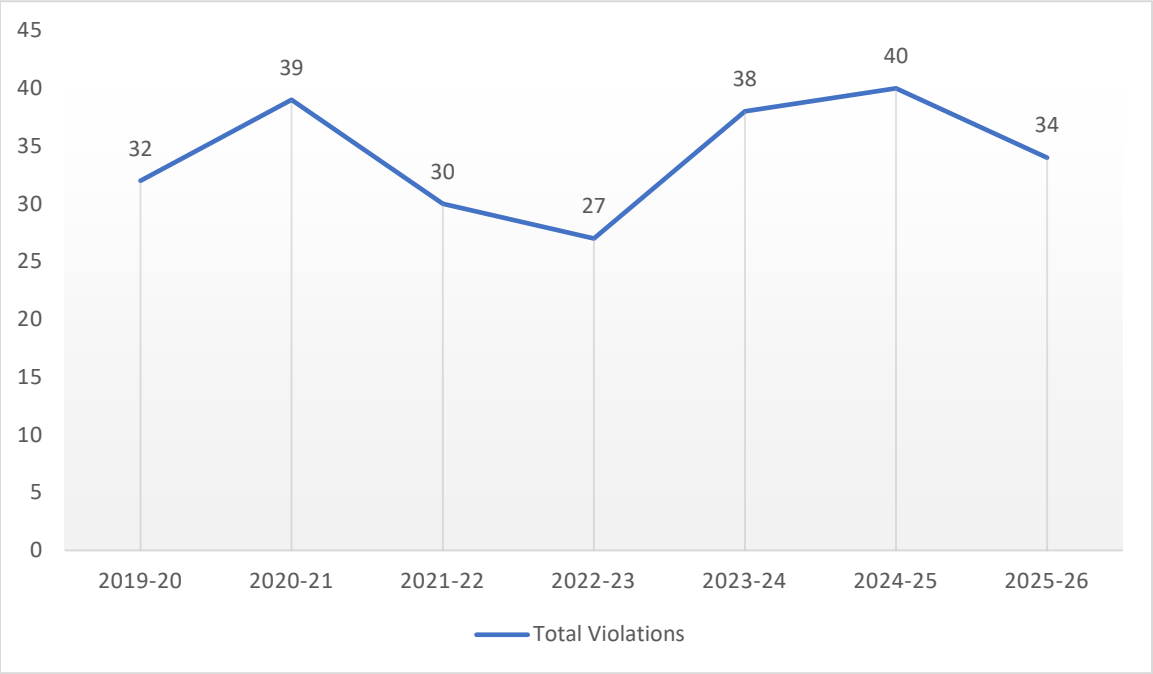


Chart 2 illustrates that Hazing, Alcohol, and Policy violations collectively account for approximately 80.5% of all reported infractions over the five-year period (2021–22 through 2025–26). Hazing represents the largest category at 31.4%, followed by Alcohol (24.9%) and Policy violations (24.3%). This concentration highlights the primary areas of concern and underscores the importance of continued prevention, education, and institutional oversight.

While student organizations are not specifically required to be included under the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act (Act 265) reporting requirements, incidents involving these organizations are included in this report when reported by institutions.

Chart 3. Total Violations Over Time



As shown in Chart 3, total reported violations fluctuated between the 2019–20 and 2025–26 academic years. Following 39 reported violations in 2020–21, violations declined during the 2021–22 and 2022–23 academic years before increasing again in 2023–24 and 2024–25. The 2024–25 academic year recorded the highest number of violations during the seven-year reporting period (40). However, this upward trend reversed in 2025–26, with reported violations declining to 34, representing a 15.0% decrease from the previous year. Despite this reduction, the number of reported violations remained above the levels recorded in 2021–22 and 2022–23.

While student organizations are not specifically required to be included under the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act (Act 265) reporting requirements, incidents involving these organizations are included in this report when reported by institutions.

Chart 4: Violations by Type Over Time

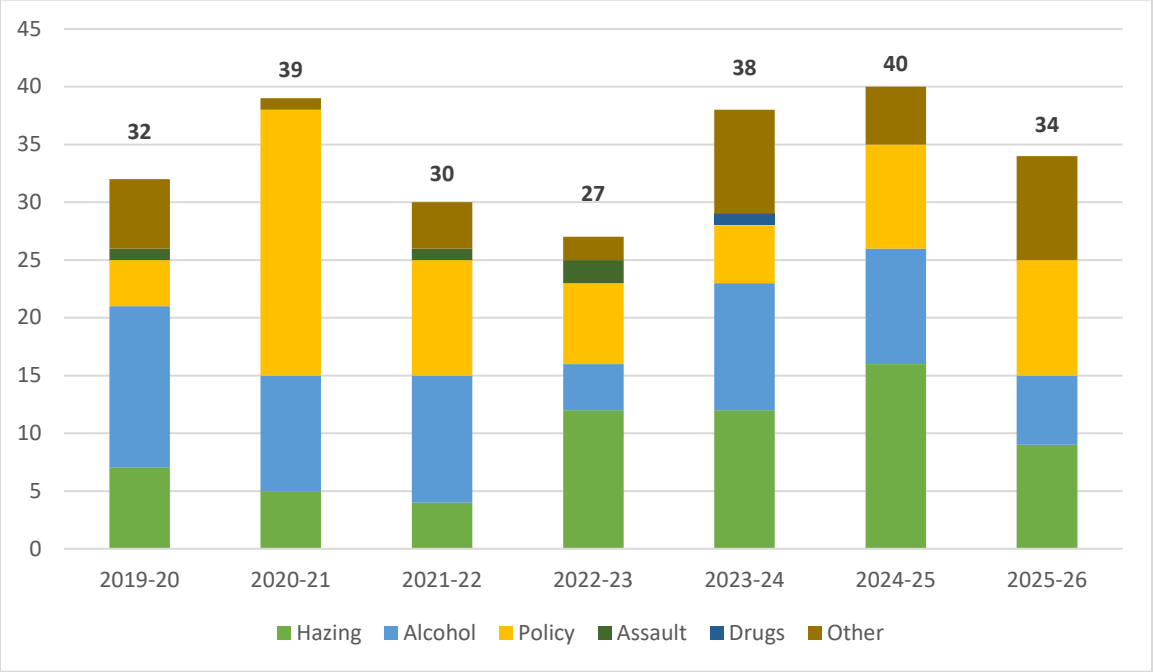


Chart 4 illustrates the changing trends in violation types from the 2019–20 through 2025–26 academic years. Policy violations peaked in 2020–21, largely reflecting pandemic-related compliance issues, while Hazing violations generally increased in subsequent years, reaching a high of 16 in 2024–25. However, the 2025–26 academic year reflected a shift, with Hazing violations declining to nine, representing a 43.8% decrease from the previous year. Policy violations emerged as the most frequently reported category (10), followed by Hazing and Other violations (9 each). Alcohol-related violations also decreased from 10 in 2024–25 to six in 2025–26. These trends demonstrate the evolving nature of reported misconduct and highlight the continued importance of institutional oversight and prevention efforts.

While student organizations are not specifically required to be included under the Tucker Hipps Transparency Act (Act 265) reporting requirements, incidents involving these organizations are included in this report when reported by institutions.

2025-2026 Detailed Violations by Institution

Clemson University

Delta Chi

- **Incident Date:** September 28, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** November 07, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Hazing
- **Description:** It was reported that Delta Chi incorporated hazing practices into their new member process which included designated driving, personal servitude, and line-ups that included mild calisthenics. In addition, a script was made for all members of the organization to follow that had the potential to disrupt the OCES investigation processes. OCES conducted an investigation into an alleged violation of the university hazing policy and found substantiative evidence to support the finding that Delta Chi was in violation of the university hazing policy.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Disciplinary Probation through January 2028 and Social Probation through Fall 2026, prohibiting alcohol-related and registered social events. Required completion of Delta Chi Headquarters' Level 3 Corrective Action plan, with university monitoring.

Pershing Rifles Fraternity

- **Incident Date:** October 15, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** December 05, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Hazing
- **Description:** It was reported that Pershing Rifles new members experienced hazing and harassment from leaders and/or other members within the organization. OCES conducted an investigation into an alleged violation of the university hazing policy and found substantiative evidence to support the finding that Pershing Rifles was in violation of the university hazing policy.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Disciplinary Probation through January 1, 2028; prohibited from recruiting new members in Spring 2026. Required university approval of revised bylaws and a new recruitment plan before Fall 2026 recruitment.

Beta Theta Pi

- **Incident Date:** October 23, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** December 05, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Hazing
- **Description:** It was reported the members of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity engaged in some activities that are concerning to the University. Beta Theta Pi indicated that a violation of the hazing policy did take place as indicated by the following actions: designated driving, personal servitude, being required to wear Halloween costumes for the purpose of humiliation or embarrassment, and line-ups that included calisthenics and being sprayed and/or required to eat food or condiments. OCES conducted an investigation into an alleged violation of the university hazing policy and found substantiative evidence to support the finding that Beta Theta Pi Fraternity was in violation of the university hazing policy.

- **Citation/Sanctions:** Disciplinary Probation through January 1, 2028 and Social Probation through Fall 2026, restricting alcohol-related and registered social events. Philanthropy events require university approval. Required completion of national headquarters sanctions, with university monitoring.

Phi Kappa Tau

- **Incident Date:** January 31, 2026
- **Resolved Date:** March 06, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Hazing; Alcohol
- **Description:** It was reported that Phi Kappa Tau incorporated hazing practices into their new member process to include personal servitude, and lineups that included calisthenics or other belittling or degrading behavior. Additionally, alcohol was provided to new members under the age of twenty-one (21) new members experienced hazing and harassment from leaders and/or other members within the organization. OCES conducted an investigation into an alleged violation of the university hazing policy and found substantiative evidence to support the finding that Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity was in violation of the university hazing policy.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Disciplinary Probation through January 1, 2028 and Social Probation through Spring 2026, restricting alcohol-related and registered social events. Executive board required to complete risk management and anti-hazing training and obtain approval of a revised new member education plan before Fall 2026 recruitment.

Coastal Carolina University

Pi Kappa Phi (First incident)

- **Incident Date:** October 10, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** February 17, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Policy (2 findings)
- **Description:** Hazing of new members at various on and off campus locations.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Disciplinary Probation through December 15, 2026. Required development of a two-year chapter strategic plan by April 25, 2026.

Pi Kappa Phi (Second incident)

- **Incident Date:** May 03, 2026
- **Resolved Date:** August 17, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Alcohol; Policy
- **Description:** Hosting an unapproved chapter meeting with alcohol present in an on-campus location.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Extended Disciplinary Probation through December 17, 2027; prohibited from social events and alcohol-related activities through December 18, 2026. Required Highwire training, chapter-led educational programming, membership reaffirmation, and advisor-supervised, on-campus recruitment under specified conditions.

College of Charleston

Alpha Tau Omega

- **Incident Date:** September 30, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** November 21, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Hazing
- **Description:** Hazing; preparation of a milk-based mixture for forced consumption
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Conduct Probation for three semesters and required educational programming on hazing, including the risks of forced consumption.

Pi Kappa Phi

- **Incident Date:** October 15, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** November 05, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Hazing
- **Description:** Isolated incident involving select members at an off-campus housing
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Membership review and chapter remedial plan imposed by national headquarters; individual conduct proceedings for involved members through national headquarters and the College.

Outdoors Club

- **Incident Date:** October 30, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** January 20, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Alcohol
- **Description:** Alcohol possession and use on college sponsored trips
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Suspension of club activities for Spring 2026; election of new leadership and alcohol and other drug prevention workshops.

University of South Carolina Columbia

Phi Kappa Sigma

- **Incident Date:** August 18, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** September 12, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Alcohol
- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging alcohol was present at an off-campus event without proper risk management procedures.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Conduct Probation until September 12, 2026; required educational outcomes.

Tau Kappa Epsilon

- **Incident Date:** September 01, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** September 30, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Alcohol
- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging alcohol was present and distributed at a off-campus event without proper risk management procedures.

- **Citation/Sanctions:** Conduct Probation until March 22, 2026; required educational outcomes.

Pi Kappa Phi (First incident)

- **Incident Date:** September 23, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** October 24, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Policy; Other (Abuse of Process - Undue Influence)
- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging failure to follow directives related to an investigation.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Conduct Probation until December 31, 2025; required educational outcomes.

Sigma Chi

- **Incident Date:** October 03, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** November 18, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Hazing
- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging hazing concerns. An investigation conducted by the university determined concerns related to inappropriate activities in the new member process.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Conduct Probation until May 11, 2026.; required educational outcomes.

SC Mock Trial

- **Incident Date:** November 15, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** December 08, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Policy
- **Description:** Information was provided by University staff alleging failure of chapter members to follow directives when hosting an on-campus event.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Written warning and required educational outcomes.

Delta Kappa Epsilon (First incident)

- **Incident Date:** November 19, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** February 04, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Hazing; Policy; Other (2-findings - Abuse of Process - Misrepresenting the Truth; Abuse of Process - Undue Influence)
- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging hazing of new members and failure to follow directives related to an investigation.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Conduct Probation until February 4, 2027; required educational outcomes.

Club Baseball

- **Incident Date:** February 06, 2026
- **Resolved Date:** March 24, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Other (2 findings - Misuse of Identification or University Resources- Unauthorized Presence; Fraudulent Behavior- Misrepresenting the Truth)

- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging members violated University policies at off-campus location.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Conduct Probation until September 24, 2026; required educational outcomes.

Delta Kappa Epsilon (Second incident)

- **Incident Date:** February 10, 2026
- **Resolved Date:** February 27, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Policy
- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging hazing concerns related to the new member education process.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Required educational outcomes

Chi Psi

- **Incident Date:** February 20, 2026
- **Resolved Date:** March 04, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Policy; Other (Disruptive Activity)
- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging members violated University policies at off-campus location.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Conduct Probation until September 4, 2026; required educational outcomes.

Pi Kappa Phi (Second incident)

- **Incident Date:** March 01, 2026
- **Resolved Date:** March 06, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Alcohol
- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging members violated University policies related to alcohol and activities in Greek Village.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Written Warning.

Beta Theta Pi

- **Incident Date:** April 27, 2026
- **Resolved Date:** June 04, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Other (Damage/Destruction of Property)
- **Description:** Information was provided to University staff alleging members caused damage to property within Greek Village.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Required educational outcomes and restitution for damages.

Winthrop University

Alpha Kappa Alpha

- **Incident Date:** November 18, 2025
- **Resolved Date:** December 16, 2025
- **Violation Type:** Hazing
- **Description:** In an incident report dated November 18, 2025 it is alleged that members of the Mu Xi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. engaged in unauthorized extra practices involving sleep deprivation, physical exertion, intimidation, verbal harassment, and mandatory tracking, which constitute potential violations of hazing and the membership intake plan.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Suspension of membership intake and social activities for Spring and Fall 2026. Required semesterly risk management training, a mental health workshop, three Dean of Students check-ins, and restorative mediation.

Kappa Alpha Psi

- **Incident Date:** March 28, 2026
- **Resolved Date:** August 03, 2026
- **Violation Type:** Policy (2 findings); Other (2 findings – Abuse of Trust and Collusion)
- **Description:** In an incident report dated March 28th, 2026 it is alleged that members of the Lambda Gamma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. failed to comply with its sanctions of social probation from Spring 2025 by violating university policy in organizing a social reveal for the new members of the organization.
- **Citation/Sanctions:** Organizational Suspension from May 4, 2026, through August 1, 2029, with loss of all student organization privileges. Current executive members prohibited from holding chapter office again; reinstatement subject to university conditions.

Analysis

The analysis of violations reported from the 2021–22 through 2025–26 academic years reveals several important trends related to student organization conduct and compliance. Over the five-year reporting period, South Carolina institutions of higher learning reported a total of 169 violations. While annual totals fluctuated, the 2024–25 academic year recorded the highest number of violations (40) and the greatest number of organizations involved (29). In 2025–26, reported violations declined to 34, involving 19 organizations, representing decreases of 15.0% and 34.5%, respectively.

Hazing, alcohol-related, and policy violations continued to account for the majority of reported infractions, collectively representing 80.5% of all violations during the five-year period. Hazing was the most frequently reported category overall, accounting for 53 violations (31.4%). Although hazing violations increased in previous years, reaching a peak of 16 in 2024–25, they declined to nine in 2025–26, representing a 43.8% decrease. Alcohol-related violations also declined during the most recent academic year, while policy and other violations increased slightly.

The reduction in both total violations and the number of organizations involved in 2025–26 represents a notable change from the upward trend observed during the preceding two academic years. However, the continued occurrence of hazing, alcohol-related misconduct, policy violations, and other organizational infractions demonstrates that student organization conduct remains an important area of institutional concern. While the decrease in reported violations is encouraging, the data alone does not establish whether the decline reflects changes in student behavior, institutional prevention efforts, or reporting practices.

Overall, the five-year analysis reinforces the importance of continued education, prevention initiatives, organizational accountability, and institutional oversight. Ongoing monitoring of student organization conduct and reported violations will help institutions identify emerging trends, evaluate prevention strategies, and strengthen policies and educational efforts aimed at promoting student safety and responsible organizational practices.

South Carolina General Assembly
121st Session, 2015-2016

A265, R304, H4521

STATUS INFORMATION

General Bill
Sponsors: Reps. Putnam, Burns, Loftis, Felder, Taylor, Whipper and R.L. Brown
Document Path: l:\council\bills\ms\7176ab16.docx

Introduced in the House on January 12, 2016
Introduced in the Senate on March 17, 2016
Last Amended on June 2, 2016
Passed by the General Assembly on June 2, 2016
Governor's Action: June 9, 2016, Signed

Summary: Tucker Hipps Transparency Act

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
12/3/2015	House	Prefiled
12/3/2015	House	Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works**
1/12/2016	House	Introduced and read first time (House Journal-page 92)
1/12/2016	House	Referred to Committee on **Education and Public Works** (House Journal-page 92)
1/19/2016	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Loftis
2/25/2016	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Felder, Taylor
3/10/2016	House	Committee report: Favorable with amendment **Education and Public Works** (House Journal-page 3)
3/15/2016	House	Member(s) request name added as sponsor: Whipper, R.L.Brown
3/16/2016	House	Amended (House Journal-page 11)
3/16/2016	House	Read second time (House Journal-page 11)
3/16/2016	House	Roll call Yeas-84 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 14)
3/17/2016	House	Read third time and sent to Senate (House Journal-page 7)
3/17/2016	Senate	Introduced and read first time (Senate Journal-page 4)
3/17/2016	Senate	Referred to Committee on **Education** (Senate Journal-page 4)
3/17/2016		Scrivener's error corrected
5/25/2016	Senate	Committee report: Favorable **Education** (Senate Journal-page 6)
5/31/2016	Senate	Read second time (Senate Journal-page 60)
6/1/2016	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 57)
6/2/2016	Senate	Amended (Senate Journal-page 62)
6/2/2016	Senate	Read third time and returned to House with amendments (Senate Journal-page 62)
6/2/2016		Scrivener's error corrected
6/2/2016	House	Concurred in Senate amendment and enrolled (House Journal-page 84)
6/2/2016	House	Roll call Yeas-99 Nays-0 (House Journal-page 84)
6/6/2016		Ratified R 304
6/9/2016		Signed By Governor
6/15/2016		Effective date 06/29/16
6/16/2016		Act No. 265

View the latest legislative information at the website

VERSIONS OF THIS BILL

12/3/2015
3/10/2016
3/16/2016
3/17/2016
5/25/2016
6/1/2016
6/2/2016
6/2/2016-A
6/2/2016-B

(A265, R304, H4521)

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, TO ENACT THE "TUCKER HIPPS TRANSPARENCY ACT" BY ADDING SECTION 59-101-210 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT BEGINNING WITH THE 2016-2017 ACADEMIC YEAR, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, EXCLUDING TECHNICAL COLLEGES, SHALL MAINTAIN REPORTS OF ACTUAL FINDINGS OF CERTAIN MISCONDUCT BY MEMBERS OF FRATERNITIES AND SORORITIES FORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTITUTION, TO SPECIFY INFORMATION THAT MUST BE INCLUDED AND MUST BE EXCLUDED, TO PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS FOR UPDATING AND PRESERVING REPORTS, TO PROVIDE INSTITUTIONS SHALL MAKE THE REPORTS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC AND ONLINE, TO PROVIDE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY SEEK REDRESS FOR SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT; AND TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE INITIAL REPORTS EACH INSTITUTION SHALL COMPILE AND MAKE AVAILABLE; AND TO PROVIDE THE ACT EXPIRES THREE YEARS AFTER ITS EFFECTIVE DATE ABSENT FURTHER ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

Citation

SECTION 1. This act must be known and may be cited as the "Tucker Hipps Transparency Act".

Institutional reports of certain violations, contents, availability, redress for violations

SECTION 2. Article 1, Chapter 101, Title 59 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

"Section 59-101-210. (A)(1) Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, a public institution of higher learning, excluding technical colleges, shall maintain a report of actual findings of violations of the institution's Conduct of Student Organizations by fraternity and sorority organizations formally affiliated with the institution.

(2) The report of actual findings of violations of the Conduct of Student Organizations is required for offenses involving:

(a) alcohol;

(b) drugs;

(c) sexual assault;

(d) physical assault; and

(e) hazing.

(3) The report of actual findings of violations must contain:

(a) the name of the organization;

(b) when the organization was charged with misconduct;

(c) the dates on which the citation was issued or the event occurred;

(d) the date the investigation was initiated;

(e) a general description of the incident, the charges, findings, and sanctions placed on the organization; and

(f) the date on which the matter was resolved.

(4) The report must include no personal identifying information of the individual members and shall be subject to the requirements of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g.

(5) The institution shall update this report at least forty-five calendar days before the start of the fall and spring academic semesters.

(6) The institution shall provide reports required under this section on its Internet website in a prominent location. The webpage that contains this report must include a statement notifying the public:

(a) of the availability of additional information related to findings, sanctions, and organizational sanction completion;

(b) where a member of the public may obtain the additional information that is not protected under the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. 1232g; and

(c) that the institution is required to provide this additional information pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

(7) The institution shall furnish a printed notice of the nature and availability of this report and the website address where it can be found to attendees at student orientation.

(8) The institution shall maintain reports as they are updated for four years. Information that is four years old may be removed from the record by the institution as it updates its records.

(B) A public institution of higher learning shall submit to the Commission on Higher Education a statement within fourteen calendar days that the reports have been updated as required in subsection (A)(4). The commission shall publish on their webpage a link to the institution's updated reports.

(C) A member of the public who believes that an institution is not complying with the information disclosure required under this section may seek relief as provided for under the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act."

Initial reports

SECTION 3. Each public institution of higher learning shall compile an initial report and make it available to the public and online before the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year. This initial report must include the information outlined in Section 59-101-210 beginning with data after December 31, 2012. If a university cannot comply with this requirement by the 2016-2017 academic year, they may apply for a one-year waiver but all public institutions must be compliant by the 2017-2018 academic year.

Time effective

SECTION 4. This act expires three years after its effective date, unless extended or reenacted by the General Assembly by law.

Ratified the 6th day of June, 2016.

Approved the 9th day of June, 2016.

COMMITTEE REPORT
April 10, 2019

H. 3398

Introduced by Reps. Clary, Norrell, Loftis, Hill, Felder, W. Cox and Elliott

S. Printed 4/10/19--S.
Read the first time February 13, 2019.

THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3398) to amend Act 265 of 2016, relating to the establishment of the "Tucker Hipps Transparency Act", so as to permanently authorize the act and to repeal the three-year, etc., respectfully

REPORT:

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass:

GREG HEMBREE for Committee.

A BILL

TO AMEND ACT 265 OF 2016, RELATING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE "TUCKER HIPPS TRANSPARENCY ACT", SO AS TO PERMANENTLY AUTHORIZE THE ACT AND TO REPEAL THE THREE-YEAR SUNSET PROVISION.

Whereas, in 2016, the General Assembly enacted the "Tucker Hipps Transparency Act" in Act 265 of 2016, requiring public institutions of higher learning in this State to maintain reports of actual findings of certain misconduct by fraternity and sorority organizations, among other things; and

Whereas, the sunset provision of Act 265 of 2016 will result in the expiration of the act on June 29, 2019, unless the provisions of the act are extended or reenacted by the General Assembly; and

Whereas, the General Assembly finds that the success of the "Tucker Hipps Transparency Act" merits its permanent continuation, making it necessary to eliminate this sunset provision. Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. The "Tucker Hipps Transparency Act", as established by Act 265 of 2016 and contained in Section 59-101-210, is permanently enacted by the provisions of this act.

SECTION 2. SECTION 4 of Act 265 of 2016 is repealed.

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

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Office of the President

SC State
UNIVERSITY

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November 2, 2026

Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez
South Carolina Commission on Higher Education
1122 Lady St. Suite 400
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

RE: South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT)

Dear Dr. Perez and Members of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education:

On behalf of South Carolina State University (SC State), thank you for your continued support of the South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT). The program remains vital to addressing the teacher shortage in South Carolina, particularly in our rural communities.

Considering recent reports submitted on behalf of SC State, this letter confirms my prior verbal commitment to conduct an internal financial and programmatic review of the funds awarded to SC State to implement SC-PRRMT. The review will include:

(1) a historical reconciliation and accounting of all funds awarded from 2019 to the present;

(2) a comprehensive list of scholarship recipients and the amount awarded to each student by year;

(3) a reconciliation of all students who should be in loan repayment status, with confirmation of each student's status;

(4) confirmation of all current program sites, the students enrolled at each site, and the instructional delivery mode at each site; and

(5) a reconciliation and accounting of the current carry-forward balance.

I will provide a written status update on the review by close of business on or before December 18, 2026. I anticipate submitting the completed review report by close of business on or before February 26, 2027.

I am committed to delivering a comprehensive review that includes recommended corrective actions wherever the findings warrant them. In addition, SC State will appoint a new program director to succeed the previous director, who's passing earlier this year was sudden and unexpected.

Thank you again for your guidance, patience, and continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Alex Conyers

COL (Ret.) Alexander Conyers
President

South Carolina State University

South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers

Five-Year Comprehensive Program Review

Fiscal Years 2021-22 through 2025-26

Prepared for the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

October 15, 2026

Prepared by South Carolina State University

Alexander Conyers, President

Overview

The South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT) serves an important role in supporting the recruitment, preparation, and retention of prospective educators in South Carolina. Through financial assistance and educational support, the program contributes to efforts to strengthen the state's teacher workforce and expand opportunities for individuals pursuing careers in education.

In support of continued program improvement and accountability, this comprehensive review responds to the Commission on Higher Education's August 2026 recommendation for a five-year examination of the South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT). It organizes the information presently available from the July 27 Quarter III report and the Commission's August 6 meeting materials and request.

The review encompasses fiscal years 2021–22 through 2025–26 and examines program enrollment, recruitment, retention, graduation, financial assistance, and other relevant programmatic and fiscal information. Additionally, it is important to note that the SC-PRRMT program director passed away following a terminal illness in July 2026. Consequently, the program is currently undergoing a period of transition, and additional historical records and supporting documentation are being identified as the review process continues.

Annual Program Enrollment and Reporting Methodology

The SC-PRRMT previously reported annual participant totals ranging from 67 to 78 for FY2021–22 through FY2025–26. A review suggests that these totals may have included students who remained on the program roster but were not enrolled in every semester. South Carolina State University (hereafter, the University) is continuing to verify how each total was calculated.

Additionally, it appears that some students were enrolled for one semester, did not participate during the following semester, and subsequently resumed participation in a later semester; although they may have remained affiliated with SC-PRRMT. Other students may have been enrolled and participating in the program without receiving a forgivable loan that semester because their financial need did not warrant an award. Receipt of funding, therefore, cannot be used by itself to determine whether a student was active.

Table 1

Annual Program Enrollment and Financial Assistance Participation

Fiscal year	Previously reported total	Active
2021–22	67	44
2022–23	70	37
2023–24	78	32
2024–25	78	28
2025–26	18	18
Unduplicated Students Identified Across Five Fiscal Years:		72

Five-Year Financial Assistance Participation

During FY2021–22 through FY2025–26, the University's financial records identified 72 students across the five-year reporting period. Financial assistance varied across reporting periods, with some students receiving assistance during one and/or multiple semesters.

Recruitment, Retention, Graduation, and Praxis Pass Rates

The University reviewed available program reports and student-level records to examine recruitment, retention, and graduation outcomes during FY2021–22 through FY2025–26. Previously reported graduation figures were compared with available student records, while student continuity was examined using unique university identification numbers.

Table 2

Five-Year Recruitment, Retention, and Graduation Outcomes

Fiscal year	Applicants / eligible applicants reported	Active Students	Continuing Students	Graduates reported	Graduated
2021–22	------	44	—	7	5
2022–23	------	37	29	8	5
2023–24	------	32	22	7	3
2024–25	------	28	19	8	7
2025–26	------	18	18	6	3

Praxis Core Pass Rates

An analysis of available Praxis Core examination records was conducted using data obtained from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to assess documented examination outcomes among program participants. Examination records were cross-referenced with annual student award rosters to identify participants with documented passing scores.

Table 3

Documented Praxis Core Performance

Award Year	Students Listed	Documented Praxis Core Pass ≥1	Percentage
2021–2022	44	6	13.6%
2022–2023	37	6	16.2%
2023–2024	32	6	18.8%
2024–2025	28	5	17.9%
2025–2026	18	3	16.7%

Note. Documented Praxis Core passage reflects students who passed one or more (≥1) sections of the Praxis Core examination (Reading, Writing, or Mathematics). Praxis Core requirements apply to undergraduate teacher education candidates; students enrolled in qualifying master's-level teacher preparation programs are exempt from this requirement.

Definitions and Methodologies

To ensure consistency and accuracy in reporting, South Carolina State University has established the following definitions and calculation methodologies for evaluating SC-PRRMT recruitment, retention, graduation, and Praxis examination outcomes. These measures provide a beginning framework for reviewing available historical records, reconciling previously reported information, and assessing program outcomes across the five-year reporting period.

Table 4

Definitions and Calculation Methodologies for Program Performance Measures

Measure	Calculation Methodology
Recruitment rate	The number of eligible applicants who enrolled and began participating in SC-PRRMT during the defined intake period.
Retention rate	The number of participants in a defined entering cohort who remained enrolled, active, and/or funded.

Graduation rate	The number of participants who graduated from the SC-PRRMT.
Praxis pass rate	The number of participants with documented passing scores on at least one section of the Praxis Core examination (Reading, Writing, or Mathematics).

Participant Financial Assistance and Loan Status

The University reviewed participant-level financial assistance records to identify awards provided to SC-PRRMT participants by semester and to reconcile the financial status of each participant.

Table 5
Participant-Level Financial Assistance, FY2021–22

Participant	Fall 2021	Spring 2022	Summer 2022	Total Disbursed
M.A.	$4,246	$4,149	—	$8,395
C.B.	$6,188	$898	$1,533	$8,619
D.B.	$3,900	—	—	$3,900
V.B.	—	$1,683	—	$1,683
B.B.	$4,280	—	—	$4,280
T.B.	$2,133	—	—	$2,133
J.B.	$4,296	$4,149	—	$8,445
J.C.	$4,246	$1,383	—	$5,629
J.C.	$2,705	—	—	$2,705
A.C.	$4,868	$4,149	$2,816	$11,833
A.F.	$1,833	$2,766	—	$4,599
T.F.	$5,629	$4,610	—	$10,239
E.G.	$6,138	$2,766	—	$8,904
J.G.	$3,941	$970	—	$4,911
M.G.	$1,741	$1,383	—	$3,124
P.I.	$2,713	—	—	$2,713
C.J.	$2,500	—	—	$2,500
K.J.	$2,764	$2,766	—	$5,530
A.J.	$5,218	$1,844	$2,826	$7,062
W.K.	$6,188	$2,806	—	$8,994
S.L.	$6,188	$4,610	$2,826	$13,624
S.L.	$2,750	$3,146	—	$5,896
A.L.	$5,015	—	—	$5,015
D.M.	$3,224	$1,383	—	$4,607
L.M.	$3,274	$2,766	—	$6,040
C.M.	—	$5,532	—	$5,532
J.M.-B.	$3,224	$3,286	—	$6,510
A.M.	$1,742	—	—	$1,742
A.O.-S.	$4,296	$1,383	—	$5,679
A.P.	—	$6,540	—	$6,540
C.P.	$3,274	—	—	$3,274

P.R.	$4,246	$1,383	—	$5,629
A.R.	$3,274	—	—	$3,274
P.S.	$4,296	$2,766	—	$7,062
N.S.	$1,741	$1,844	—	$3,585
E.S.	$3,274	$1,883	—	$5,157
R.S.	$2,538	$2,766	—	$5,304
K.S.	$5,268	$461	$2,826	$8,555
A.T.	$3,274	$1,383	—	$4,657
K.W.	$3,100	—	—	$3,100
A.W.	$4,280	—	—	$4,280
R.W.	$2,763	$2,766	—	$5,529
M.W.	—	—	—	$0
A.Y.	$2,763	$3,180	—	$5,943
Total				$242,732

Table 6
Participant-Level Financial Assistance, FY2022–23

Participant	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Summer 2023	Total Disbursed
M.A.	$1,783	—	—	$1,783
C.B.	$1,783	$6,400	—	$8,183
V.B.	$2,244	$1,383	—	$3,627
A.C.	$500	—	—	$500
J.C.	$1,382	$4,149	—	$5,531
J.C.	$2,244	$4,149	—	$6,393
A.C.	$2,244	$2,766	—	$5,010
V.D.	$6,618	$6,618	—	$13,236
Z.F.	—	—	$4,122	$4,122
A.F.	$3,166	$1,383	—	$4,549
T.F.	$2,244	$4,149	—	$6,393
E.G.	$1,783	—	—	$1,783
J.G.	$1,027	$4,610	$4,224	$9,861
M.G.	$1,783	$1,844	—	$3,627
J.H.	—	$5,730	—	$5,730
A.J.	$5,502	$5,158	—	$10,660
A.J.	—	$4,149	$2,842	$6,991
S.L.	$6,274	—	—	$6,274
D.M.-C.	$1,976	$1,409	—	$3,385
D.M.	$2,244	$1,383	—	$3,627
L.M.	$3,166	$1,397	—	$4,563
C.M.	$2,244	$2,766	—	$5,010
J.M.-B.	$2,244	$2,766	—	$5,010
S.M.	$4,459	—	—	$4,459

A.O.-S.	$1,783	$1,383	—	$3,166
P.R.	$3,166	$2,766	—	$5,932
A.R.	$1,783	—	—	$1,783
P.S.	$3,166	$1,858	—	$5,024
N.S.	$1,783	$0	—	$1,783
E.S.	$3,627	$2,766	—	$6,393
R.S.	$4,549	$2,766	—	$7,315
K.S.	$6,274	—	—	$6,274
A.T.	$3,627	—	—	$3,627
T.W.	$3,085	—	—	$3,085
A.W.	$2,865	—	—	$2,865
R.W.	$3,637	$2,766	$4,224	$10,627
A.Y.	$4,459	$1,844	—	$6,303
Total				$194,484

Table 7
Participant-Level Financial Assistance, FY 2023-2024

Participant	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Total Disbursed
V.B.	$2,766	$2,886	—	$5,652
J.C.	—	—	$4,072	$4,072
C.C.	$1,383	—	—	$1,383
J.C.	$2,766	—	—	$2,766
A.C.	$0	—	$4,449	$4,449
V.D.	$5,530	$2,886	—	$8,416
D.E.	$1,844	$6,416	—	$8,260
A.F.	—	$3,935	—	$3,935
A.F.	$6,980	—	—	$6,980
T.F.	—	$3,141	—	$3,141
J.G.	$461	$2,886	—	$3,347
S.H.	$2,766	$2,886	—	$5,652
A.J.	$2,766	$4,329	$4,960	$12,055
D.M.-C.	$5,436	$4,329	$4,072	$13,837
L.M.	$2,766	$6,735	—	$9,501
A.M.	$2,766	—	—	$2,766
C.M.	$1,383	$2,886	—	$4,269
N.M.	$8,849	$500	—	$9,349
L.M.	$1,383	$1,443	—	$2,826
A.O.-S.	$4,100	—	—	$4,100
M.P.	—	$2,886	—	$2,886
P.R.	$2,766	$1,443	—	$4,209
N.S.	$4,750	$500	—	$5,250
E.S.	$2,766	$2,886	—	$5,652
R.S.	$1,583	$1,443	$6,482	$9,508

K.S.	$5,071	$4,329	—	$9,400
A.T.	$3,227	$2,886	—	$6,113
J.W.	$10,515	$4,258	—	$14,773
R.W.	$1,383	—	$2,977	$4,360
A.Y.	$4,145	$2,386	$3,016	$9,547
V.B.	$2,766	$4,329	$2,044	$9,139
J.C.	$3,227	$4,329	—	$7,556
Total				$205,149

Table 8
Participant-Level Financial Assistance, FY 2024-2025

Participant	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Total Disbursed
C.B.	$4,172	$6,469	—	$10,641
A.B.	$2,714	$6,536	—	$9,250
J.C.	$7,512	—	—	$7,512
V.D.	$4,172	$4,541	—	$8,713
A.F.	$5,329	—	—	$5,329
T.F.	$2,966	—	—	$2,966
J.G.	$6,249	—	—	$6,249
S.H.	$10,361	—	—	$10,361
J.M.	—	—	—	$0
L.M.	$2,044	—	—	$2,044
A.M.	$11,239	—	—	$11,239
L.M.	$3,822	$3,822	—	$7,644
C.M.	$1,533	—	—	$1,533
S.M.	$7,400	—	—	$7,400
A.O.	—	—	—	$0
P.R.	$5,929	—	—	$5,929
N.S.	$7,400	—	—	$7,400
E.S.	$3,166	—	—	$3,166
R.S.	$1,533	—	—	$1,533
K.S.	$4,172	—	$3,150	$7,322
T.T.	$793	—	—	$793
A.T.	$2,966	—	—	$2,966
D.W.	$1,500	—	—	$1,500
C.W.	$11,596	$6,346	—	$17,942
A.W.	—	$4,541	$3,150	$7,691
J.W.	$6,541	$6,820	—	$13,361
R.W.	$3,166	$2,305	—	$5,471
V.D.	$1,533	—	—	$1,533
Total				$167,488

Table 9
Participant-Level Financial Assistance, FY 2025-2026

Participant	Fall 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Total Disbursed
C.B.	—	$9,160	—	$9,160
V.D.	—	$3,822	—	$3,822
A.F.	—	$8,726	—	$0
T.F.	—	$2,383	—	$0
J.G.	—	$4,299	—	$4,299
S.H.	—	$1,125	—	$0
J.J.	—	$7,624	$2,766	$10,390
S.K.	—	—	$5,733	$5,733
A.M.	—	$4,698	—	$0
L.M.	—	$5,644	—	$5,644
C.M.	—	$3,221	—	$0
S.M.	—	$5,141	—	$0
K.S.	—	$4,529	—	$4,529
A.T.	—	$3,960	—	$3,960
C.W.	—	$15,035	—	$15,035
A.W.	—	$4,891	$5,733	$10,624
J.W.	$5,849	—	—	$5,849
A.Y.	—	$2,383	—	$0
Total				$79,045

Note. Participant identifiers are anonymized using initials. A dash (—) indicates that no financial assistance amount was reported in the available records, while $0.00 indicates a recorded disbursement amount of zero. Neither designation independently establishes a student's enrollment or participation status.

Sites and Delivery Model

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020–2021, the SC-PRRMT transitioned from its previous delivery model to an online format to maintain program operations and support participating students. Following this transition, it appears that the program continued utilizing online and hybrid delivery methods to accommodate participants and provide flexibility in accessing program services. The use of online and hybrid formats may allow the program to maintain a more flexible approach to course and degree attainment.

Table 10
SC-PRRMT Five-Year Financial Summary

Financial Category	FY 2021–22	FY 2022–23	FY 2023–24	FY 2024–25	FY 2025–26
Appropriations Requested	$339,482.00	$339,482.00	$339,482.00	$339,482.00	$339,482.00
Appropriations Received	$339,482.00	$0.00	$678,964.00	$0.00	$339,482.00
ACH Collections	$19,772.20	$54,752.23	$21,623.92	$12,757.27	$22,217.57
SCDOR Collections	$41,379.67	$39,669.12	$7,689.22	$42,690.44	$32,245.60
Carried Forward	$1,039,730.36	$1,174,998.47	$1,066,318.75	$1,530,796.38	$1,378,789.53
Total Expenditures	$265,365.76	$203,101.07	$243,799.51	$207,454.56	$139,412.84
Balance	$1,174,998.47	$1,066,318.75	$1,530,796.38	$1,378,789.53	$1,633,321.86

Note. Appropriations were not received in every fiscal year. During FY 2023–24, the University received appropriations corresponding to both FY 2022–23 and FY 2023–24. A portion of the FY 2024–25 appropriation was received during FY 2025–26. During FY 2024–25 and FY 2025–26, the former director became terminally ill. Additionally, a review of previously submitted financial reports suggests that Automated Clearing House (ACH) collections may not have been consistently included in reported collection totals. Carried-forward balances reflect funds remaining from prior fiscal years, including funds associated with ACH and SCDOE revenue collection activities.

Teacher Certification and Employment Placement

From 2021 through 2026, South Carolina State University's SC-PRRMT program graduated 23 students across multiple teacher preparation and education-related degree areas, including Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, English Education, Physical Education, Special Education, General Science Education, and Family and Consumer Sciences.

22 of the 23 graduates are certified, representing a reported certification rate of 95.65%. This information was confirmed through the South Carolina Department of Education.

Table 11

Teacher certification and employment placement by graduate

Year	Student Initials	Major / Certification Area	Certification*	Employment Placement
FY 2021–22	D.B.	English Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public Charter
	C.J.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	K.W.	Elementary Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	Z.F.	Physical Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	A.P.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
FY 2022–23	S.L.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Continuing Education
	K.S.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	D.E.	Elementary Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	C.B.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	J.H.	MAT Elementary Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
FY 2023–24	N.M.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	A.C.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School

	A.J.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
FY 2024–25	S.H.	MAT Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	A.M.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	S.M.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	N.S.	Special Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	A.B.	Early Childhood Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	S.L.	Family and Consumer Sciences / CD	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	T.T.	English Education	Yes	Employed in MD Public School
FY 2025–26	V.D.	MAT General Science Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	K.S.	M.Ed. English Education	Yes	Employed in SC Public School
	D.W.	Family and Consumer Sciences / Business	No	Employment Outside Education

Table 12

Teacher Certification and Employment Placement Outcomes (2021–2026)

Outcome Category	Number of Graduates	Percentage
Certified and Employed in SC Public Schools	19	82.6%
Certified and Employed in SC Public Charter Schools	1	4.3%
Certified and Employed in Out-of-State Public Schools	1	4.3%
Certified and Continuing Education	1	4.3%

Not Certified and Employed Outside Education	1	4.3%
Total	23	100%

Table 13

Teacher Certification Outcomes by Graduation Year

Graduation Year	Graduates	Reported Certified	Certification Rate
FY 2021–22	3	3	100%
FY 2022–23	4	4	100%
FY 2023–24	4	4	100%
FY 2024–25	6	6	100%
FY 2025-26	3	2	66%
Total	23	22	95.65%

Table 14

Graduates by Major or Degree Area

Major / Degree Area	Graduates
Early Childhood Education (including MAT)	12
Elementary Education (including MAT)	3
English Education	2
Physical Education	1
Special Education	1
General Science Education (MAT)	1
Family and Consumer Sciences / CD	1
Family and Consumer Sciences / Business	1
English Education (M.Ed.)	1
Total	23

Strategic Priorities and Continuous Improvement

South Carolina State University remains committed to strengthening the administration, accountability, and overall effectiveness of the South Carolina Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers (SC-PRRMT). Continued state funding for SC-PRRMT at South Carolina State University is an investment in South Carolina's schools, communities, and future workforce. The SC-PRRMT strengthens this mission by helping prospective teachers overcome financial barriers, complete their preparation, and enter the teaching profession.

With a longstanding tradition of nationally accredited teacher preparation, the University has prepared generations of educators who serve school districts throughout the state. Graduate employment and retention data underscore this contribution by documenting the number of SC State graduates who enter teaching positions and remain in South Carolina's school districts. Sustained funding supports this educator pipeline and helps ensure that schools have the qualified teachers' students need to succeed.

Through this five-year comprehensive review, the University has undertaken a detailed examination of historical financial records, student participation, retention trends, graduation outcomes, Praxis examination results, and teacher certification and employment information. These efforts and preliminary findings have provided a more comprehensive understanding of program operations, identified areas requiring additional verification and reconciliation, and established a foundation for continued program improvement.

The Commission on Higher Education's request for a comprehensive review of the past five fiscal years provides an opportunity to strengthen the program's accountability and more effectively document its contributions. The University recognizes the importance of providing accurate enrollment figures, clearly defined outcome measures, verified participant financial records, and documented certification and employment results. Completing this work is essential to demonstrate responsible stewardship of public funds.

Accountability and continued investment must advance together to ensure the program's long-term sustainability and effectiveness. Sustained state support will continue to help preserve access for aspiring educators, support students already progressing toward certification, and strengthen the supply of qualified teachers for South Carolina's districts.

We appreciate the Commission and the General Assembly for sustaining the funding for SC-PRRMT while requiring timely completion of the comprehensive review and measurable improvements in reporting and program administration. Through transparent oversight and continued support, South Carolina can protect an important teacher preparation pathway and advance its commitment to a qualified, diverse, and effective teaching workforce.

Tuition, Fees, and State Merit-based Scholarships

Current Scholarship Award Amounts

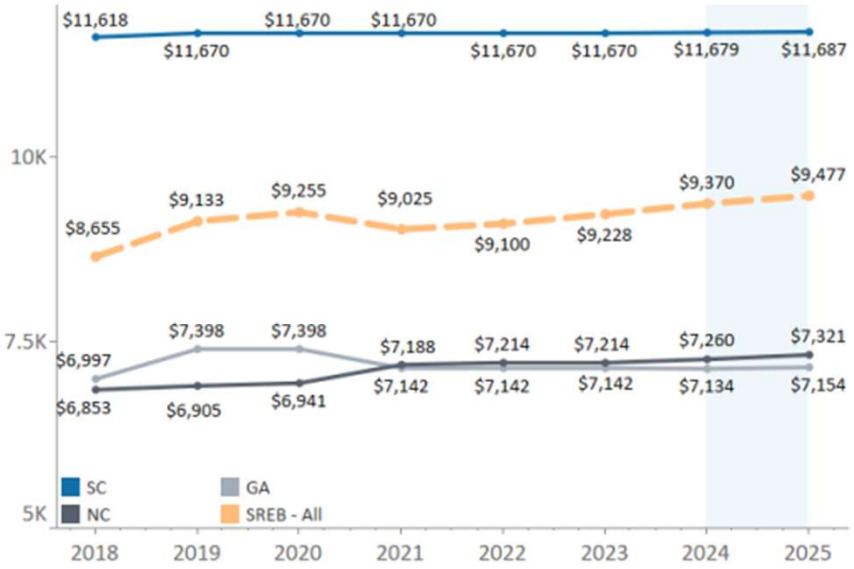
Scholarship	Award Amount		With Enhancement
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	Up to $6,700 for 1st year students	Up to $7,500 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th* year students	Up to $10,000
LIFE Scholarship	Up to $5,000	N/A	Up to $7,500
SC HOPE Scholarship	Up to $2,800	N/A	N/A
* If in a CHE approved 5-year program			

Median Tuition Compared to SREB States

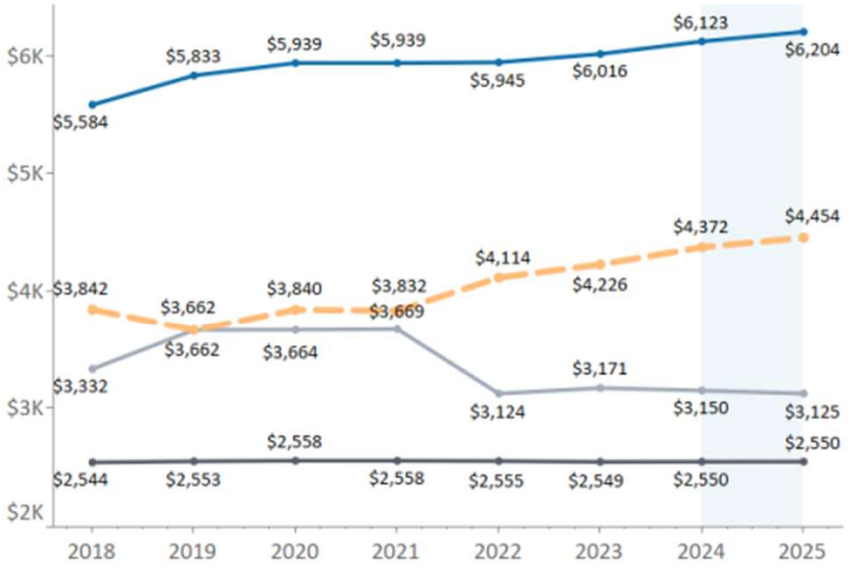
2018-19 to 2025-26, In-State, Undergraduate

The chart below shows the comparison of the median tuition distribution of the neighboring state (GA and NC) to SC and the SREB group. Since the actual values are not published for 2022 and 2023 academic years, we used the compound annual growth rate calculation to project the values. The blue shadowed region in the chart show these projections.

Four-Year Institution



Two-Year Institution



Source: SREB: Southern Regional Education Board (www.sreb.org/general-information/median-annual-tuition-and-fees). CHE 100 Report.

Merit-based Scholarships in SREB States

State	Scholarship	Award Amount
Arkansas	Academic Challenge Scholarship	Up to $5,000
	Governor's Distinguished Scholarship	Up to $10,000
Delaware	INSPIRE Scholarship	Up to $3,000
Florida	Bright Futures	Up to 100% of tuition and required fees
Georgia	HOPE Scholarship	Up to $10,512 per year
	Zell Miller Scholarship	Up to 100% of tuition
Kentucky	KEE Scholarships	Up to $2,500 per year
Louisiana	TOPS	Up to $12,000 per year
Mississippi	Eminent Scholars Grant	Up to $2,500 per year
Oklahoma	Rising Scholars Award	Up to $5,673 plus a cash stipend
Tennessee	Tennessee HOPE Scholarship	Up to 2,850 per semester
	Ned McWherter Scholars Program	$6,000 per year
Virginia	Virginia Tuition Assistance Grant	Up to $5,250 per year
West Virginia	PROMISE Scholarship	Up to $5,500 per year
	West Virginia STEM Scholarship	Up to $3,000 per year

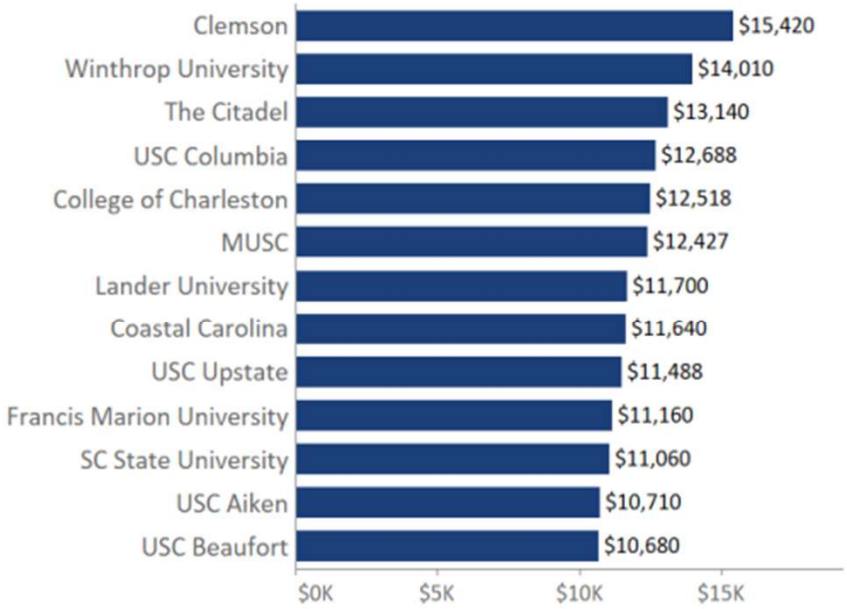
Tuition and Required Fees

2025-26, In-State, Undergraduate

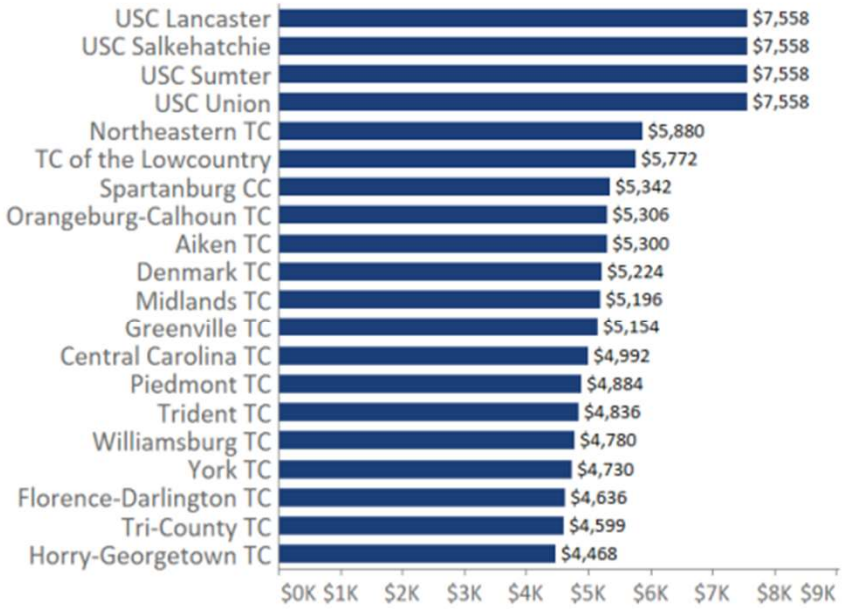
These values represent what a typical South Carolina resident student is charged and may not be the same for all students at an institution. If tuition is charged on a per-credit-hour basis, the average full-time credit hour load for an entire academic year is used to estimate average tuition. Required fees include all fixed sum charges that are required of such a large proportion of all students that the student who does NOT pay the charges is an exception.

The tuition and required fees does not include fees charged by certain majors (business, engineering, science, etc.) or course specific fees. Typical categories of required tuition and fees include education and general tuition, student activity fees, registration fees, debt service fees, medical fees, intercollegiate athletic fees, student activities fees, instructional technology fees, plant improvement fees, and maintenance fees.

Four-Year Institution



Two-Year Institution

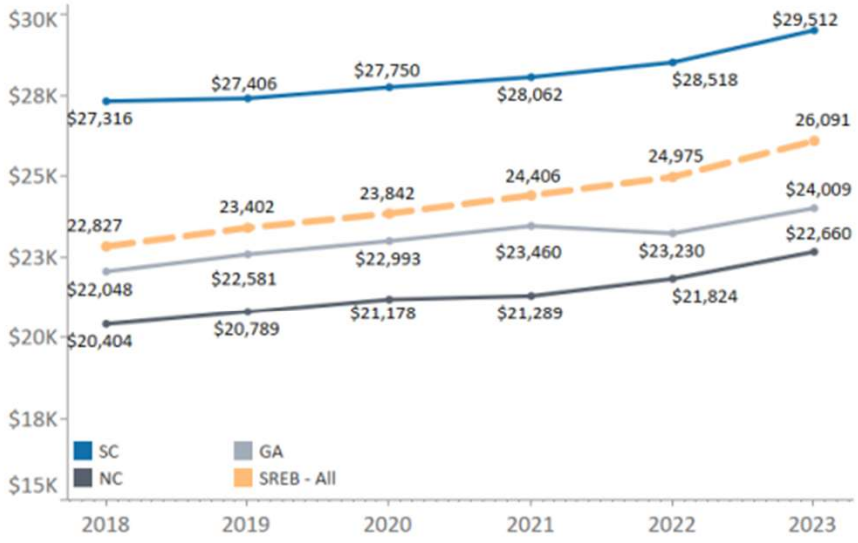


Average COA Compared to SREB States

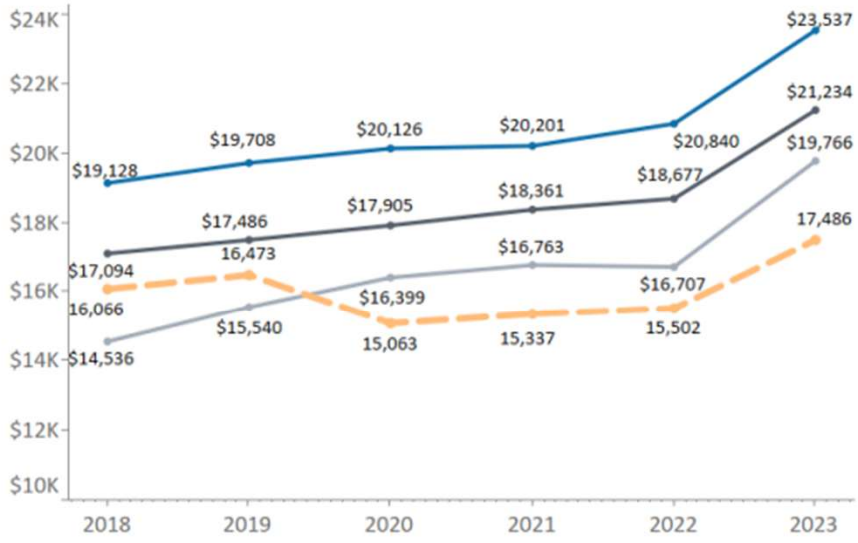
2018-19 to 2023-24, In-State, Undergrad, On-Campus

The chart below shows the comparison of the average cost of attendence (COA) distribution of the neighboring state (GA and NC) and the SREB group.

Four-Year Institution



Two-Year Institution



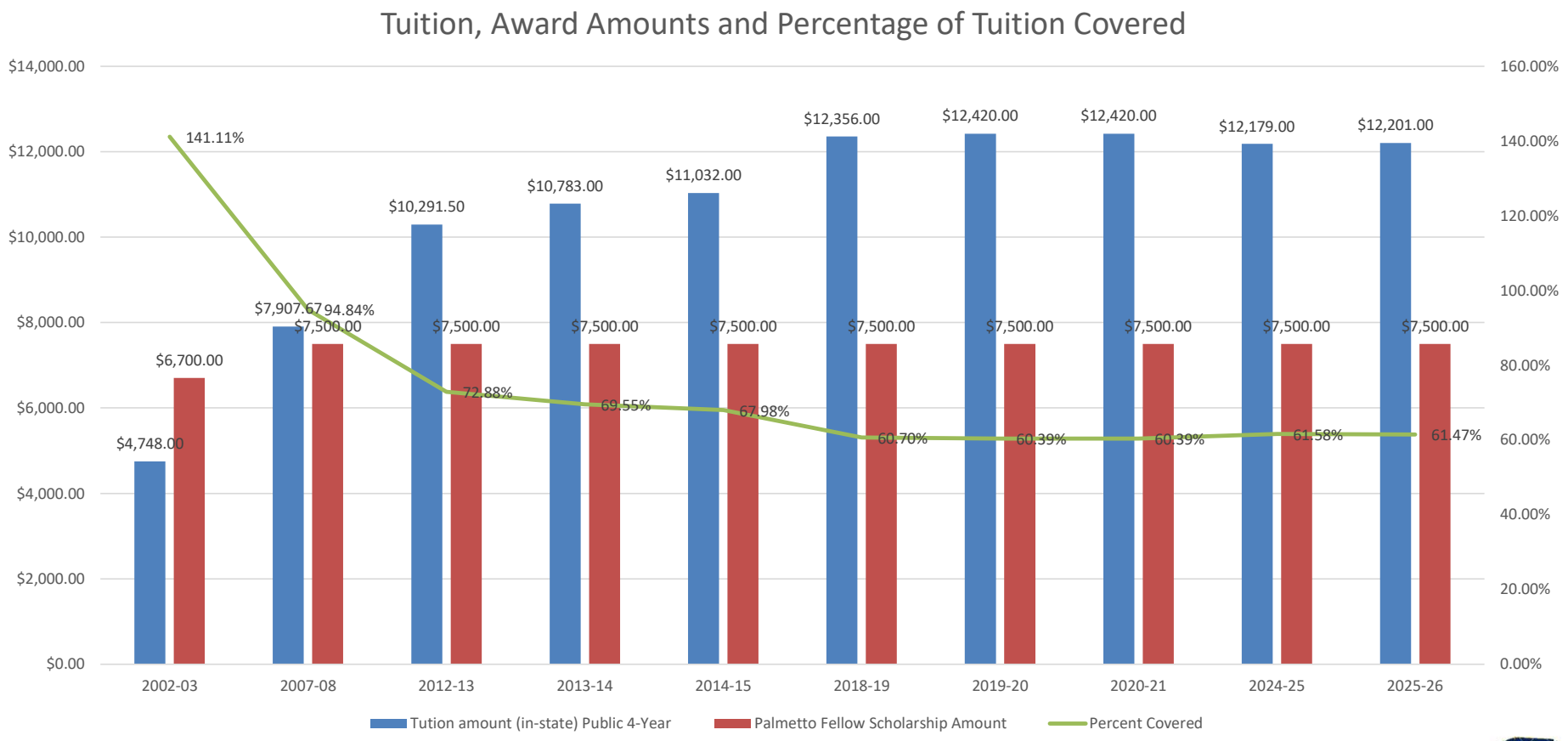
Source: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System Database (IPEDS). FY 2021-22 is provisional data and subject to change.

STATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AMOUNTS

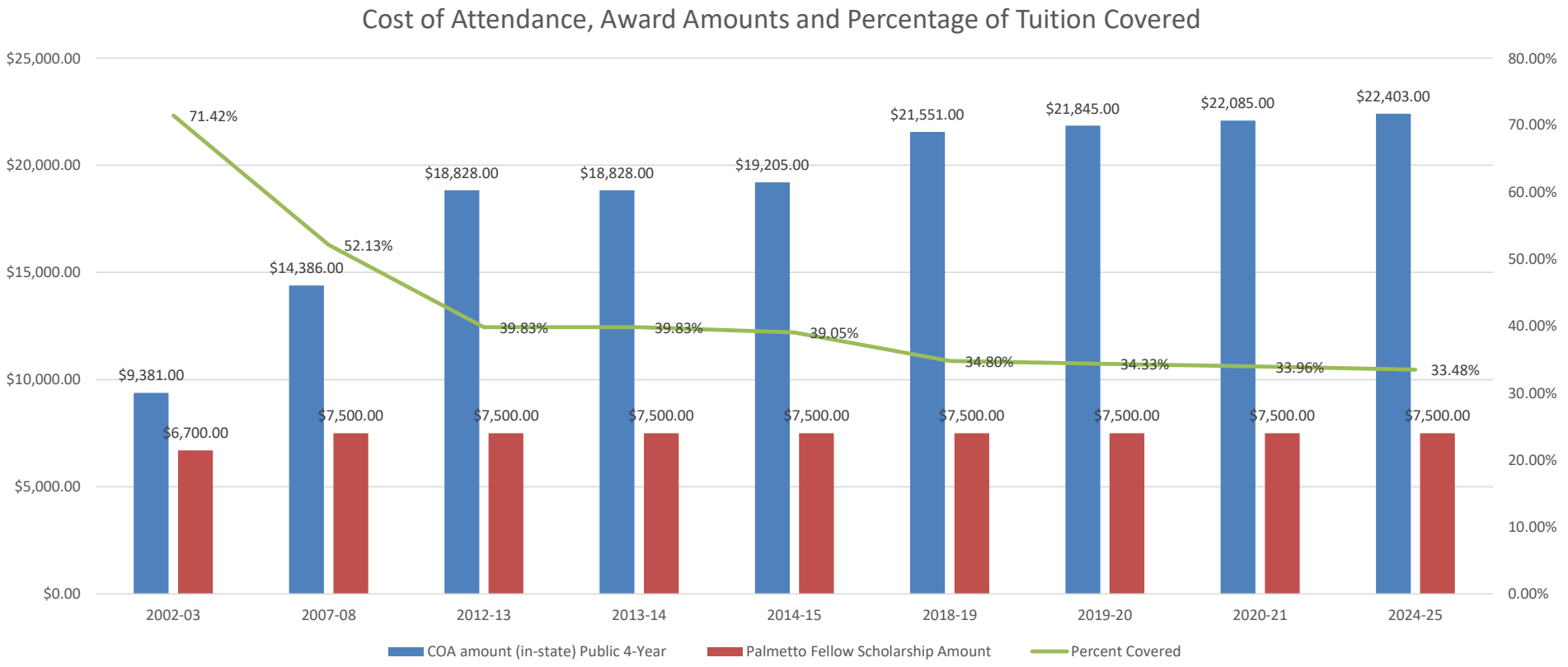
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

	Palmetto Fellows Scholarship & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement				
Academic Year	Award Amount	Average Tuition	Percent of Tuition Covered	Average COA	Percent of COA Covered
2002-03	$6,700	$4,748	141%	$9,381	71.4%
2007-08	$6,700/$7,500	$7,907	84.7%/94.8%	$14,386	46.5% /52.1%
2012-13	$6,700/$7,500	$10,291	65.1%/72.8%	$18,828	37% / 39.8%
2024-25	$6,700/$7,500	$12,179	54.6%/61.5%	$22,403	29.9% /33.5%
2025-26	$6,700/$7,500	$12,201	54.9%/61.5%	Data Not Available	Data Not Available

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship



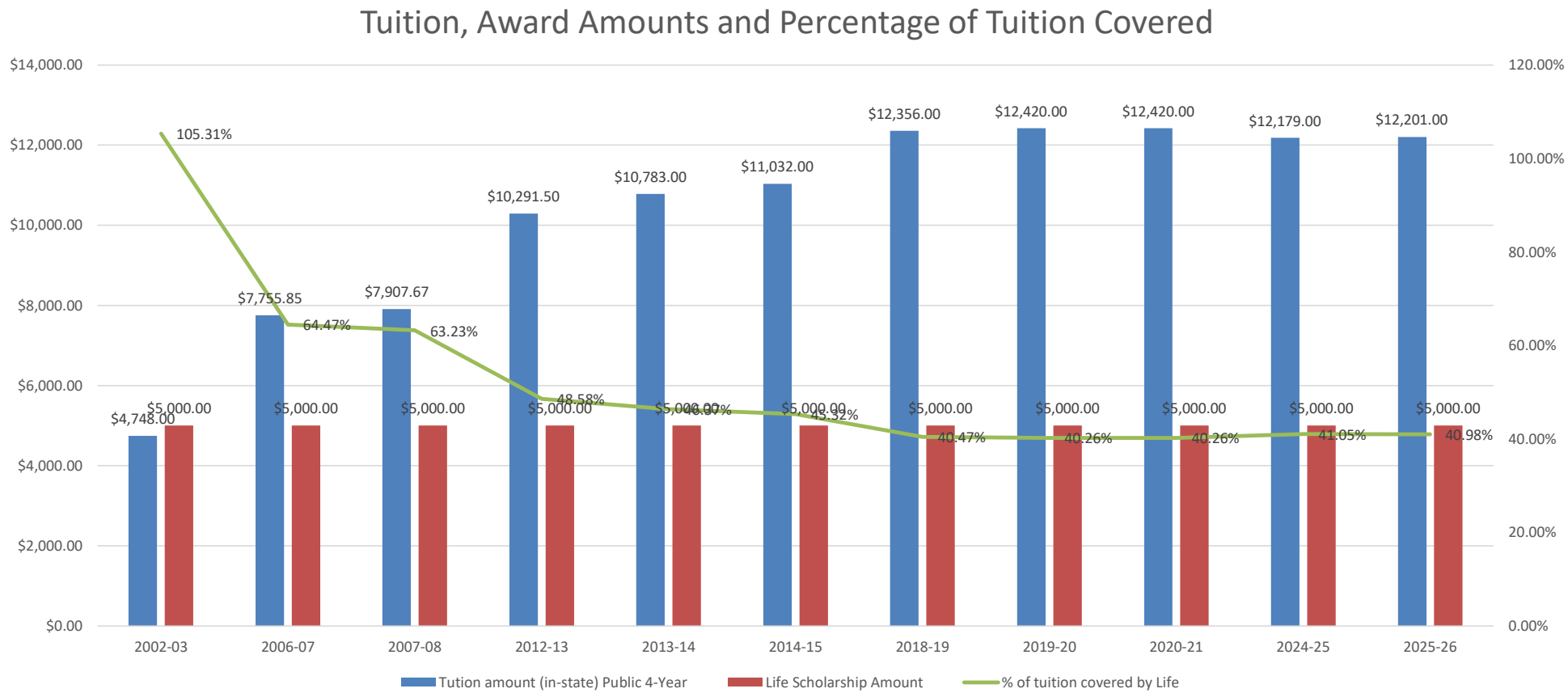
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship



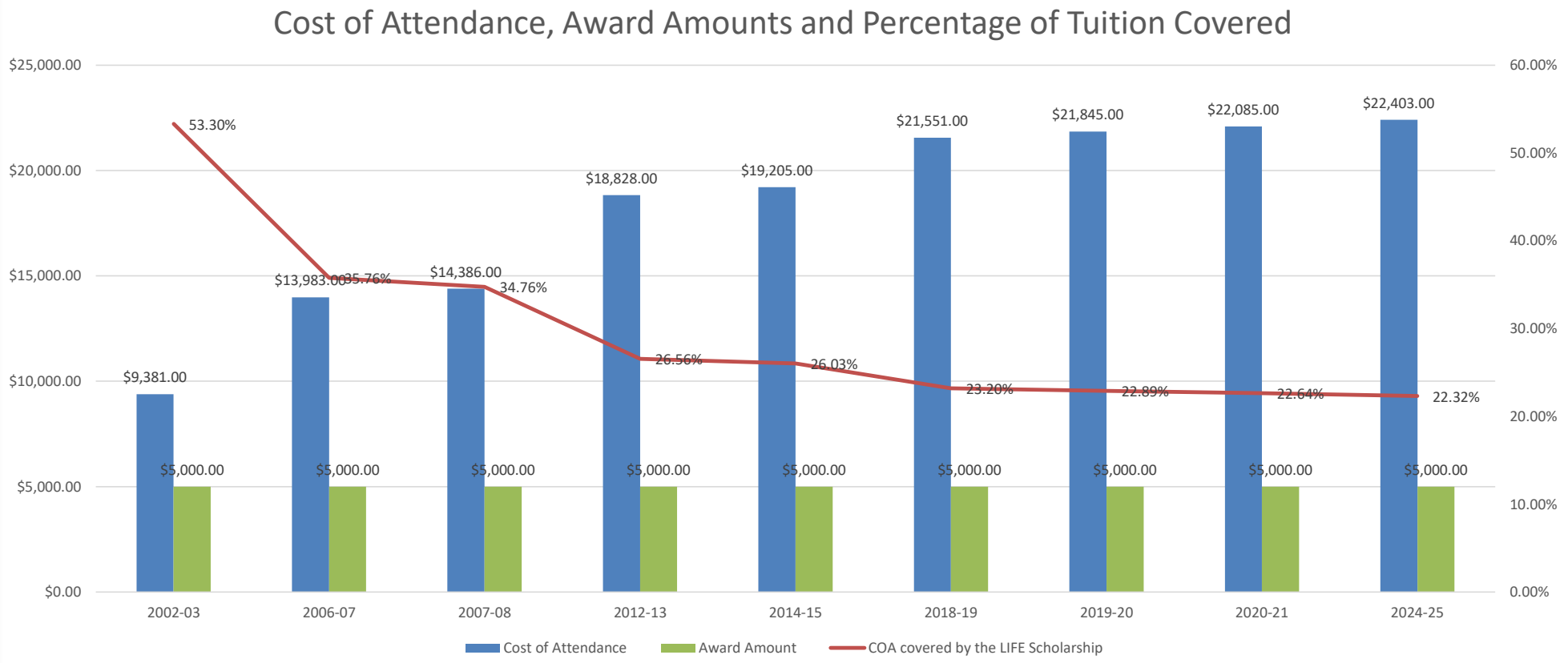
LIFE Scholarship

	LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement				
Academic Year	Award Amount	Average Tuition	Percent of Tuition Covered	Average COA	Percent of COA Covered
2002-03	$5,000	$4,748	105%	$9,381	53%
2012-13	$5,000	$10,291	48.6%	$18,828	27.7%
2024-25	$5,000	$12,179	40.7%	$22,403	22.3%
2025-26	$5,000	$12,201	40.9%	Data Not Available	Data Not Available

LIFE Scholarship



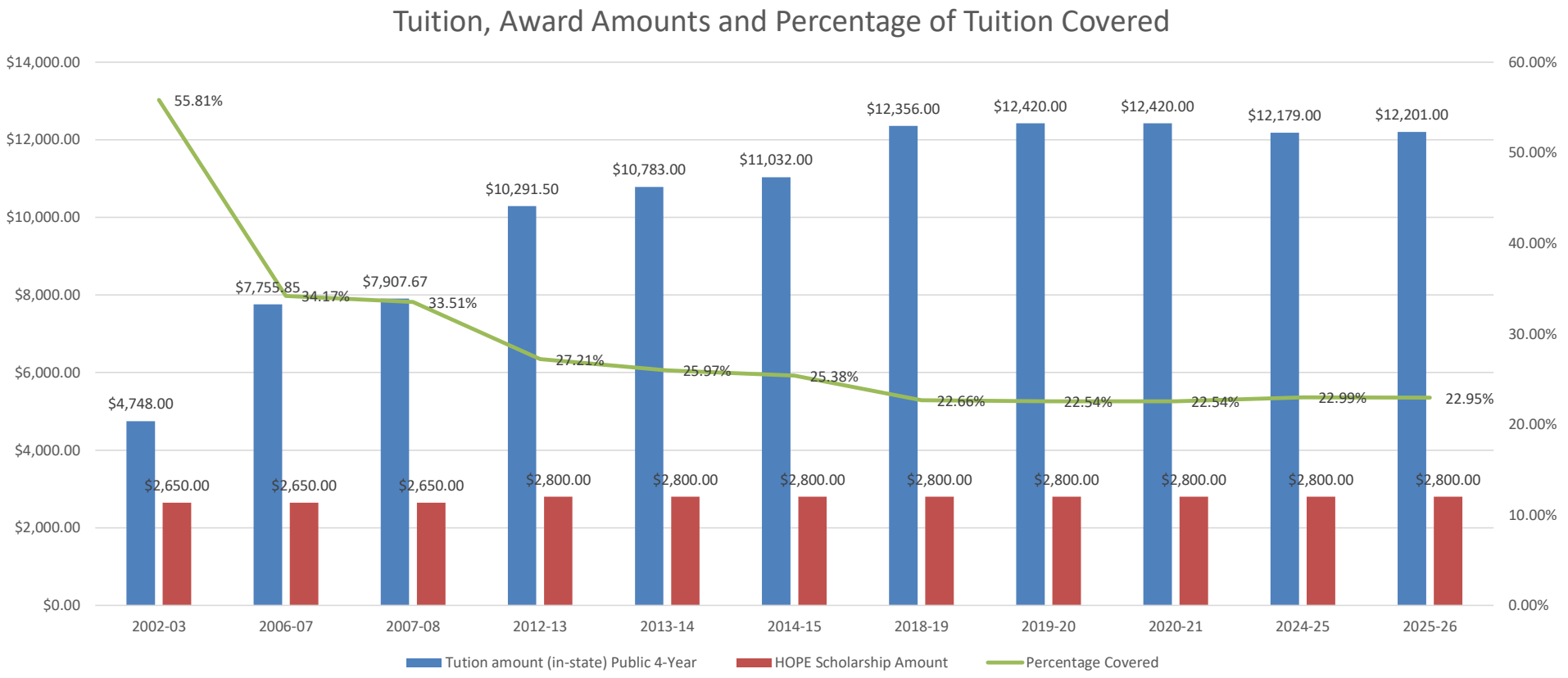
LIFE Scholarship



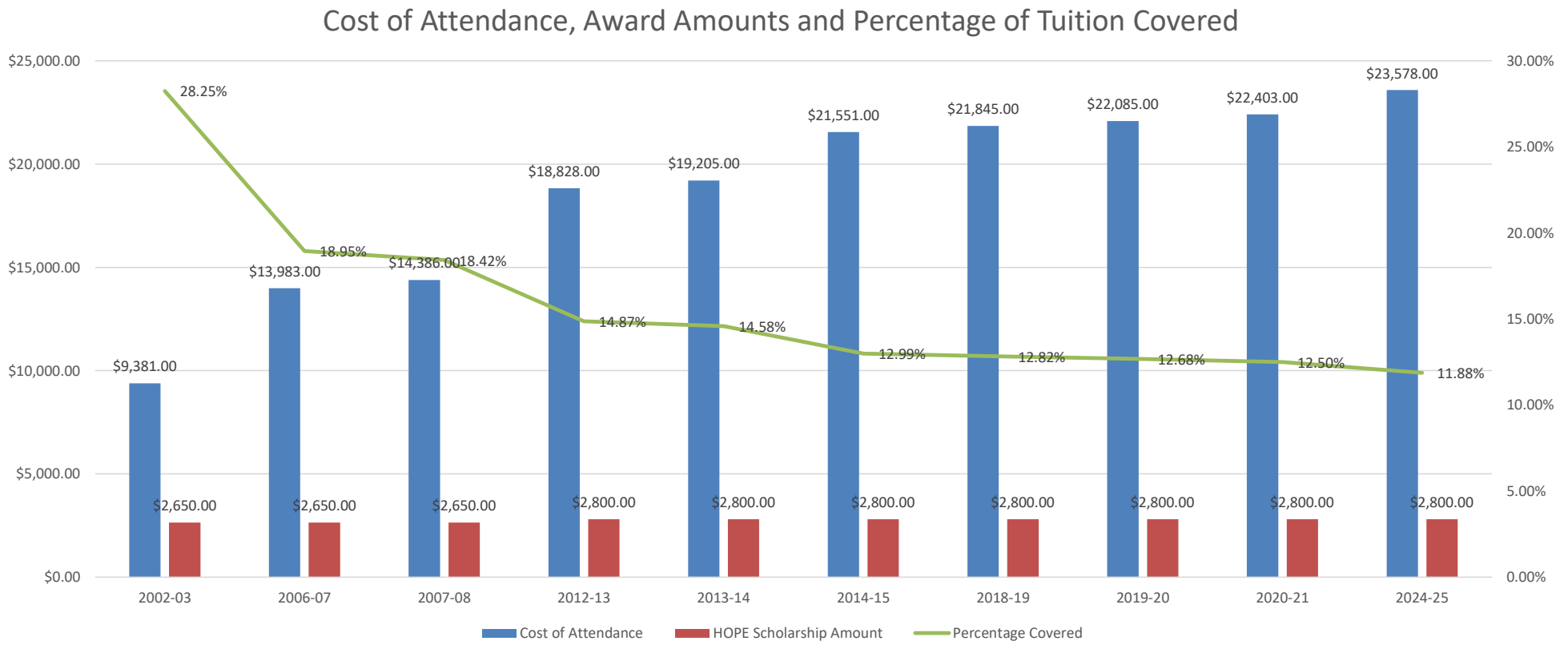
SC HOPE Scholarship

	SC HOPE Scholarship				
Academic Year	Award Amount	Average Tuition	Percent of Tuition Covered	Average COA	Percent of COA Covered
2002-03	$2,650	$4,748	55.8%	$9,381	28.2%
2007-08	$2,800	$7,907	33.5%	$14,386	18.4%
2012-13	$2,800	$10,291	27.2%	$18,828	14.8%
2024-25	$2,800	$12,179	22.8%	$22,403	11.8%
2025-26	$2,800	$12,201	22.9%	Data Not Available	Data Not Available

SC HOPE Scholarship

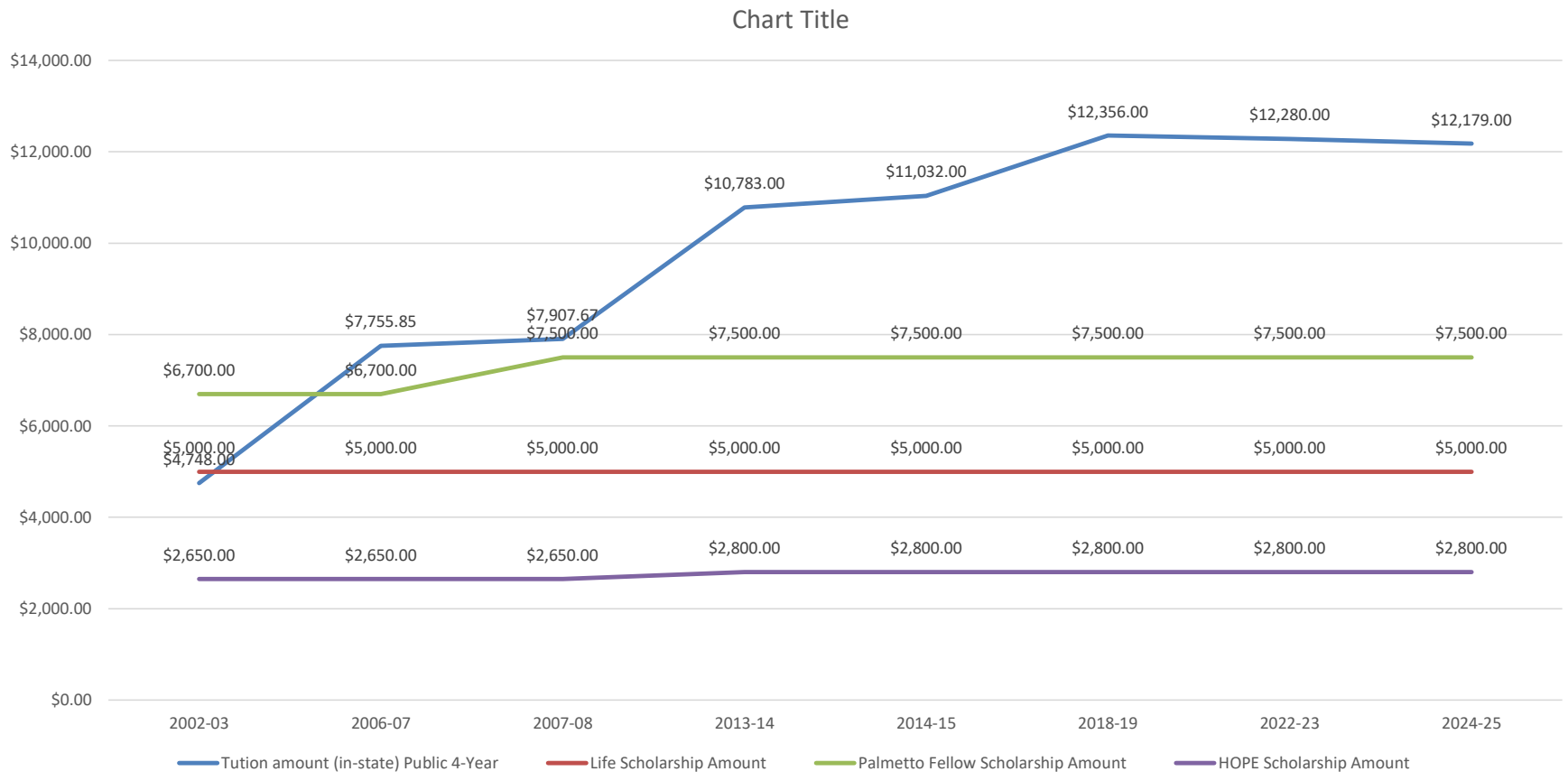


SC HOPE Scholarship



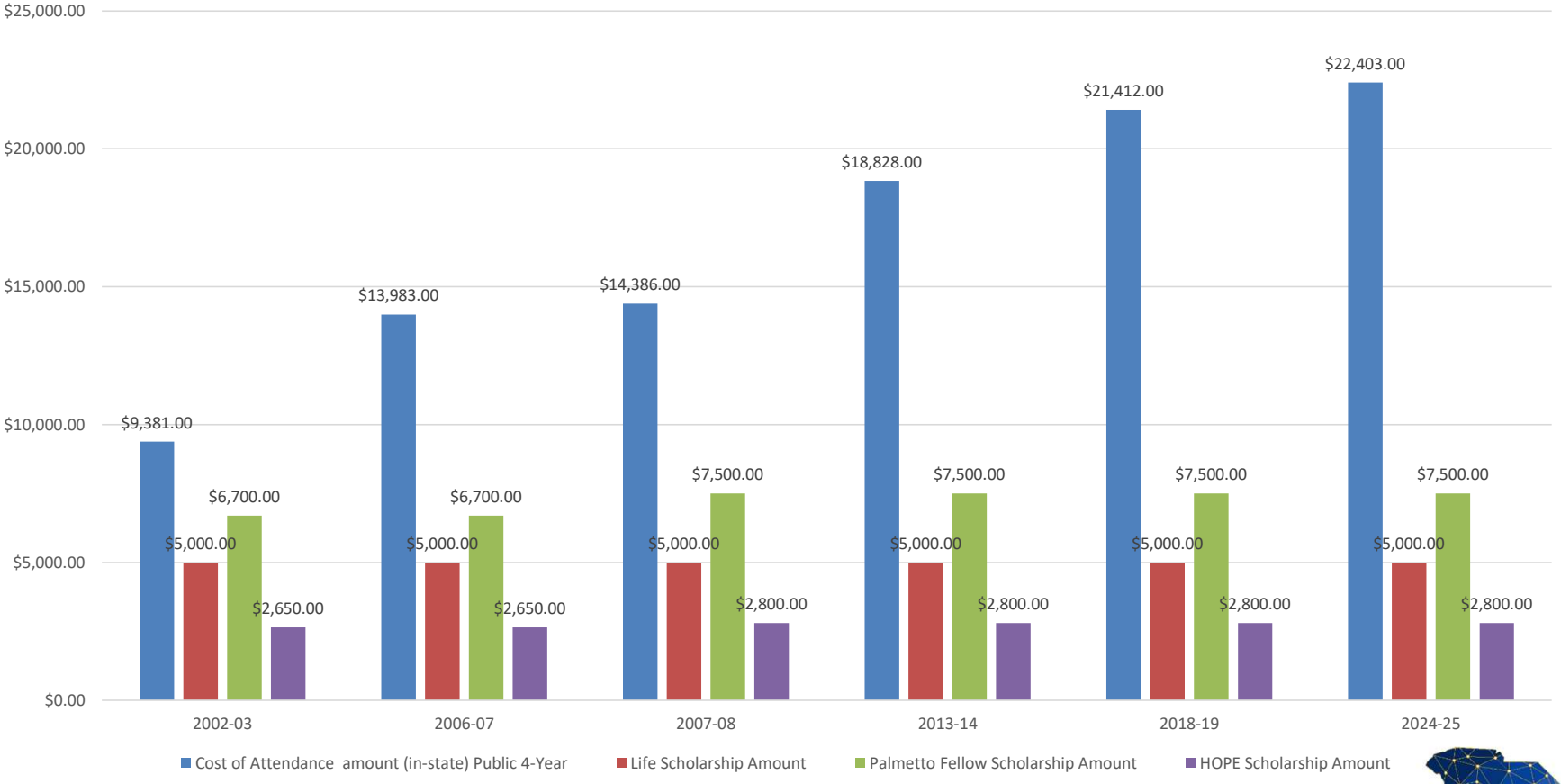
State Scholarships and Costs

Merit Scholarships vs. Public 4-Year Tuition Since Lottery



Source: CHE Statistical Abstracts 2002-2025

Merit Scholarships vs. Public 4-Year Cost of Attendance Since the Lottery



Source: CHE Statistical Abstracts 2002-2025

"What if Scenarios"

- The scenarios were created with a goal of increasing amounts to meet a Cost of Attendance or Cost of Tuition level for each scholarship.
- The scenarios do not account for further increases in tuition, fees or other elements of Cost of Attendance.
- The scenarios are awarding students the full award amount for each scholarship – It is important to note that not all students will receive the maximum amount.
- For Palmetto Fellows and LIFE Scholarships, the scenarios are impacting the base award amount. This does not include a discussion of what the new enhancement amounts would be if the base award was increased.
- These scenarios should not be considered official projections or fiscal impacts at this point.

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Palmetto Fellows Scholarship – a "What if" Scenario

Palmetto Fellows Current and Increase Amounts and Covered Amounts of Tuition and 4- Year Public Cost of Attendance (COA)							
			Current Award Amount	Increase from $7,500 to	Difference	Increase from $7,500 to	Difference
Award Amounts			$6,700/$7,500	$10,000	$2,500	$12,000	$4,500
Average Tuition/ Coverage	4-Year Public	$12,179	61%	81.4%		97.7%	
	2-Year Public	$5,387	139%	185.6%		222.7%	
Average COA/ Coverage	4-Year Public	$22,403	33.5%	44.6%		53.6%	
	Number of 2024-25 recipients: 9,025 (5,406 2nd year and up)		$64,792,300	$78,307,300	$13,515,000	$89,119,300	$24,327,000

LIFE Scholarship – a "What if" Scenario

LIFE Current and Increase Amounts and Covered Amounts of Tuition and 4-Year Public Cost of Attendance (COA)							
			Current Award Amount	Increase to	Difference	Increase to	Difference
Award Amounts			$5,000	$7,500	$2,500	$10,000	$5,000
Average Tuition/ Coverage	4-Year Public	$12,179	40.7%	61%		81.4%	
	2-Year Public	$5,506	90.8%	136.21%		181.6%	
Average COA/ Coverage	4-Year Public	$22,403	22.3%	33.5%		44.6%	
	Number of 2024-25 recipients: 43,049		$217,187,681	$322,867,500	$105,679,819	$430,490,000	$213,302,319

SC HOPE Scholarship – a "What if" Scenario

SC HOPE Current and Increase Amounts and Covered Amounts of Tuition and 4-Year Public Cost of Attendance (COA)							
			Current Award Amount	Increase to	Difference	Increase to	Difference
Award Amounts			$2,800	$5,000.00		$7,000	
Average Tuition/ Coverage	4-Year Public	$12,179	22.80%	41%		57%	
Average COA/Coverage	4-Year Public	$22,403	12.5%	22.3%		31.2%	
	Number of 2024-25 recipients: 4,841		$12,226,867	$24,205,000	11,978,133	$33,887,000	21,660,133

R. Wes Hayes, Jr.
Chairman

L. Jeffrey Perez, Ph.D.
President & Executive Director

South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Accessibility | Excellence | Accountability

Committee on Student Services Charter

Part I

Authority

As granted by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education ("Commission"), pursuant to South Carolina Code ("Code") Section 59-103-25 and in compliance with the Commission's Bylaws (SC CHE Bylaws, Rules & Procedures, Section III.2.).

The Committee may elect to revise this charter. However, any revisions to the final charter approved by the Committee and the Commission must adhere to the Commission's Bylaws.

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee on Student Services is to review, revise and approve policies and procedures for the administration of state scholarships, grants and programs assigned to the Office of Student Affairs and address statewide issues related to accessibility, affordability, and awareness of postsecondary education on behalf of SC students, service members, and families in compliance with Code Section 59-103-15(b), and attached Code of laws and regulations (Part II).

Responsibilities

A. Review in advance and approve recommendations for submission to the Commission, relating to promulgation of regulations, proposed revisions to regulation, and operations that govern the state's scholarships and grants to include Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship, SC Need-based Grant Programs (including College Transition Need-based Grant Program), Lottery Tuition Assistance, SC National Guard College Assistance Program, and residency for the determination for tuition and fees.

B. Review in advance and approve proposed administrative budgets for the SC Program for the Recruitment and Retention of Minority Teachers. Comply with relevant South Carolina codes, regulations, statutes, and provisos, which are placed under Part II of this Charter.

C. Monitor, review and approve reports, updates and activities that address accessibility, affordability, and awareness of postsecondary education, on behalf of SC students, families, service members, teacher preparation educators, school counselors, and districts, to include financial aid awareness and FAFSA completion, educator preparation, postsecondary education preparedness, college assistance for guard members, military credit mobility, college application assistance, and other programs/activities that support and promote access to postsecondary education.

D. Review in advance and approve proposed revisions to policies and procedures for state scholarship appeals in compliance with state statutes and regulations.

E. Review in advance and approve proposed revisions to residency regulations for determination of tuition and fees.

F. Review, research, provide reports, and approve any other matter as assigned or under the purview of the Committee on Student Services.

Membership

The Committee on Student Services is defined as a standing committee per the Commission's Bylaws and made up of Commission members as appointed by the Chair of the Commission and Executive Committee. Members may be reappointed by the Chair of the Commission. The Chair of the Commission shall initially appoint the chair of this committee and thereafter, the Committee on Student Services will elect its own Committee Chair and Vice-Chair (SC CHE Bylaws, Rules & Procedures, Section III.2.).

Members of the Committee on Student Services (2026-2027)

Ms. Jenni Bryson, Chair

Mr. Paul Batson, Vice Chair

Ms. Amy Bigham

Mr. Daniel Dukes

Dr. Gene Fant

Mr. Charles Schulze

Meetings

The Committee on Student Services will meet at an appointed time, date, and place, prior to each regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission, as recommended by Commission staff and approved by the Committee. The Chair of the Committee has discretionary authority to call a committee meeting. All meetings will be publicly announced and held in compliance with Code Section 30-4-10 - Freedom of Information Act.

Minutes

Minutes should include major topics of discussion, decisions, and action items and submitted for approval by the Committee at the next scheduled Committee on Student Services meeting. The announcement of committee meetings, minutes, and agenda will be publicly distributed through the Commission's website.

Charter Approval, Review, and Evaluation

The charter of the Committee on Student Services will be reviewed and updated on an annual basis upon the election or reelection of the Chair of the Committee.

The charter shall be approved by a full committee vote during a convened meeting and posted on the Commission on Higher Education's website.

The charter was approved by the Committee on Student Services on November 5, 2026, and adopted by the full Commission on December 3, 2026.

Adoption:

_____	_____
Name	Name
Chair, SC Commission on Higher Education	Chair, Committee on Student Services