



June 1, 2023

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

From: Chair Hugh Mobley and Members, Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services  
Office of Student Affairs

## **Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program 2021-2022 Summary**

### **Palmetto Fellows History**

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

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

### **2021-22 Palmetto Fellows Report**

In 2021-22, the Palmetto Fellows Program was appropriated \$83,173,280 (\$71,173,280 Lottery Funding, \$12,000,000 General Funds/Children's Endowment). The annual data and invoices for the FY2022-23 academic year will not be final until end of the 2023 summer term.

### **Initial Eligibility Requirements**

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

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

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



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## 2021-2022 High School Student Profile (Fall 2022 College Cohort)

- 3,244 students met the academic eligibility to be a Palmetto Fellow
  - 1,389 used the Alternative Criteria to qualify (*About 43%*)
- Average SC UGP GPA: 4.94
- Average SAT: 1308
- Average ACT: 30

### Demographic Breakdown

- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0%
- Asian or Pacific Islander: 6%
- Black/African American: 3.7%
- Hispanic: 4.8%
- White/Non-Hispanic: 80%
- Two or More Races: 3%
- Unknown: 2.5%
- Gender
  - Male: 43.3%
  - Female: 56.7%

### Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements

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

#### To be eligible for the Scholarship Enhancement a student must:

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

Table 1.

## Fall Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements

	Palmetto Fellows Total Scholarship Recipients	Palmetto Fellows Receiving Enhanced Awards Recipients
<b>Fall 2007</b>	5,148	1,480
<b>Fall 2008</b>	5,516	1,837
<b>Fall 2009</b>	5,894	1,979
<b>Fall 2010</b>	6,125	2,151
<b>Fall 2011</b>	6,415	2,355
<b>Fall 2012</b>	6,672	2,509
<b>Fall 2013</b>	6,823	2,680
<b>Fall 2014</b>	6,993	2,849
<b>Fall 2015</b>	7,192	2,992
<b>Fall 2016</b>	7,507	3,164
<b>Fall 2017</b>	8,165	3,316
<b>Fall 2018</b>	8,741	3,646
<b>Fall 2019</b>	9,177	3,894
<b>Fall 2020</b>	9,352	4,099
<b>Fall 2021</b>	9,114	4,024
<b>Fall 2022</b>	8,736	3,831

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

*\*As of 3/1/2023, Fall 2022 data may be incomplete and will not be finalized until Fall 2023.*

**Continued Eligibility**

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

Table 2.

**Retention Rate from Year 1 to Year 2**

Fall 2005	89.0%
Fall 2006	88.5%
Fall 2007	89.7%
Fall 2008	90.7%
Fall 2009	88.5%
Fall 2010	90.2%
Fall 2011	91.3%
Fall 2012	91.1%
Fall 2013	91.8%
Fall 2014	89.4%
Fall 2015	90.7%
Fall 2016	90.6%
Fall 2017	90.5%
Fall 2018	89.1%
Fall 2019	89.4%
Fall 2020	89.8%
Fall 2021	88.6%
Fall 2022	89.4%
Average Retention from Year 1 to Year 2	89.9%

**2021-22 High School Cohort Attendance at in-state and out-of-state institutions**

In 2021-22, during the open award periods, high school counselors from public, independent, charter virtual, and home school associations submitted a total of 3,472 Palmetto Fellow applications. Of the 3,472 applicants, 3,244 students met the academic criteria to be considered a Palmetto Fellow.

When students are determined to be eligible for Palmetto Fellows, they receive an e-mail with a link to the Designation Form. Eligible students are responsible for submitting the Designation Form to notify CHE where they will be attending during the Fall term. As of April 1, 2023:

- o 2,866 students have completed the Designation Form
  - 2,659 have selected in-state colleges and universities\*
  - 178 have elected to attend an out-of-state institution
  - 29 students took a GAP year
- o 378 students did not complete the Designation form

*\*On May 6, 2021, H. 3017 was signed into law (Act #36). This allowed students to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship at two-year institutions or technical colleges, beginning with the graduating Class of 2021, effective for the Fall 2021 term. 34 students designated a two-year institution for Fall 2021 and 63 students designated a two-year institution for Fall 2022.*

As seen in Table 3, Clemson University has the highest number of new Palmetto Fellows with USC in second place. Almost every institution in South Carolina received at least one Palmetto Fellow except for Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin College, Morris College, and Voorhees College. We also had Palmetto Fellows designated for thirteen different two-year or technical college institutions.

Table 4 illustrates the out-of-state college or university selection for the 178 students who have elected not to attend a South Carolina institution. The top ten colleges and universities included: Georgia Institute of Technology (10 students), Duke University (9 students), Vanderbilt University (8 students), Auburn University (6 students), Princeton University (5 students), University of Georgia (5 students), Belmont University (3 students), Brigham Young University (3 students), Northwestern University (3 students), and Purdue University (3 students).

In 2022-23, the Palmetto Fellows Program was appropriated \$84,139,864 (\$72,139,864 Lottery Funds, \$12,000,000 General Funds/Children’s Endowment). The annual data and invoices for the FY2022-23 academic year will not be final until the end of 2023 summer term.

Table 3.

**Students Electing to Attend In-State Colleges & Universities**

*\*Student reported on Designation Form*

Anderson University	101
Bob Jones University	31
Charleston Southern University	48
Clemson University	1,166
Coastal Carolina University	44
Coker College	3
College of Charleston	148
Columbia College	1
Columbia International University	8
Converse College	14
Erskine College	8
Francis Marion University	17
Furman University	75
Lander University	43
Limestone University	2
Newberry College	4
North Greenville University	23
Presbyterian College	18
South Carolina State University	3
Southern Wesleyan University	8
The Citadel	20
USC – Aiken	34
USC – Beaufort	9
USC – Columbia	636
USC – Upstate	28
Winthrop University	39
Wofford College	65
Florence-Darlington Technical College	4
Greenville Technical College	9
Horry-Georgetown Technical College	4

Midlands Technical College	11
Piedmont Technical College	2
Spartanburg Community College	5
Technical College of the Lowcountry	1
Tri-County Technical College	4
Trident Technical College	9
USC – Lancaster	7
USC - Sumter	2
USC – Union	1
York Technical College	4
<b>Total Palmetto Fellows Recipients attending in-state</b>	<b>2,659</b>

Table 4.

**2022-23 Eligible Palmetto Fellow Recipients Electing to Attend Out-of-State Colleges & Universities**

*\*Student reported on Designation Form*

Georgia Institute of Technology	10	Harvard University	2
Duke University	9	Loyola University of Chicago	2
Vanderbilt University	8	New York University	2
Auburn University	6	Northeastern University	2
Princeton University	5	Pennsylvania State University	2
University of Georgia	5	University of Alabama	2
Belmont University	3	University of Colorado Boulder	2
Brigham Young University	3	University of Florida	2
Northwestern University	3	University of Miami	2
Purdue University	3	University of Michigan	2
The Ohio State University	3	University of North Carolina Wilmington	2
Savannah College of Art & Design	3	Undecided	2
University of Notre Dame	3	Utah State University	2
University of Tennessee Knoxville	3	Western Carolina University	2
Wake Forest University	3	Wingate University	2
Washington University of St. Louis	3	Yale University	2
Centre College	2	Air Force Academy	1
Cornell University	2	American University	1
Davidson College	2	Baylor University	1
Elon University	2	Bowdoin College	1
Emory University	2	California Institute of Technology	1

Campbell University	1	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	1
Dartmouth College	1	Rice University	1
Earlham College	1	Seton Hall University	1
Elizabeth City State University	1	Sewanee: The University of The South	1
Emerson College	1	Sanford University	1
Florida State University	1	Temple University	1
Franciscan University	1	The Ailey School/Fordham University	1
Freed-Hardeman University	1	The College of William & Mary	1
George Mason University	1	The University of Chicago	1
Georgetown University	1	The University of Southern Mississippi	1
Grand Canyon University	1	Toccoa Falls College	1
Hillsdale College	1	United States Naval Academy	1
Indiana Wesleyan University	1	University of Alabama - Huntsville	1
Jacksonville University	1	University of British Columbia	1
Johns Hopkins University	1	University of California Berkeley	1
Kennesaw State University	1	University of California Los Angeles	1
LaGrange College	1	University of Central Florida	1
Lee University	1	University of Kentucky	1
Liberty University	1	University of Pennsylvania	1
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1	University of Richmond	1
Michigan State University	1	University of Rochester	1
Lee University	1	University of Tampa	1
Lipscomb University	1	University of Texas	1
Loyola University - Chicago	1	University of Utah	1
Methodist University	1	University of Virginia	1
Michigan State University	1	University of Wisconsin	1
Milligan University	1	Virginia Commonwealth University	1
Missouri University of Science & Technology	1	Virginia Wesleyan University	1
North Carolina A&T State University	1	Wellesley College	1
North Carolina State University	1	West Virginia University	1
Norwich University	1	<b>Total Palmetto Fellows Recipients</b>	<b>178</b>
Oberlin College	1	<b>attending out-of-state</b>	
Oklahoma State University	1		