South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Scholarships and Grants Workshop 2015

Agenda

- Student Grant Programs Information

- Scholarship Programs Information

- Year-Round Scholarships

- SAT Redesign

- Legislative Updates

Student Grant Programs

Funding

- ## SC Need-based Grant:
  - Level funding for the Need-based program to total: **$27,600,001**

- ## Lottery Tuition Assistance:
  - Funding increased for 2015-16 from $49.1 million to **$51.1 million**
  - Once the student grant amounts have been established for 2015-16 this information will be shared and updated on CHE's website

- ## The Merit Scholarships (SC HOPE, LIFE, and Palmetto Fellows)
  - Fully funded for anticipated growth. (Total lottery and general funds at $264 million)

- ## SC National Guard College Assistance Program (CAP)
  - Level Funding at $4.6 million

Need-based Grants:
Foster Youth

- Proviso 11.9 (CHE: Need-based grants for Foster Youth continues without change

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

SC Need-based Grant:
Foster Care Youth (FCY)

Need-based Grant for students in Foster care:

Must complete the FAFSA

Must submit verification *(letter from DSS, court order)*

Must mail waiver and verification to CHE

Institution with eligible FCY must:

Submit invoice to "Student Financial Support"

{Please Include Student Name on Invoice}

FCY Waiver:
http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/studentservices/needbased/FCY_Published.pdf

Need-based Grants: College Transition

- Budget Proviso introduced FY14 and continues in FY16 without change (Proviso 11.15 CHE: College Transition Need-based Grants)

- Proviso dedicates $179,178 in funds for Need-based Grants for students in transition programs

- CHE adopted program guidelines in April 2015

SC Need-based Grant: College Transition Program (CTP)

- Need-based Grant for students with intellectual disabilities
- 5 Eligible programs in SC:
  - *Clemson, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, USC, Winthrop*
  - http://welcometocollegelife.com/
- Eligibility Requirements:
  - Enrolled in an eligible program
  - Demonstrate "need" (completed and submitted FAFSA must be on file)
  - Be in good standing

- Participating institutions award

College Transition Program

For 2014-15 there were **18 eligible students for fall 2014 and 24 eligible students for spring 2015** that were awarded across five CTP programs. *Anticipated participation for 2015-16: 43 eligible students*

4 Institutions participated fall 2014: *Clemson, Coastal Carolina, College of Charleston, USC.* Winthrop became the 5th participating institution beginning spring 2015.

$178,179 was awarded for 2014-15 using **ALL** allocated funds

Scholarship Programs Information

Scholarship Appeals

- The 2015-16 Appeals Cycle for the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and SC HOPE scholarship opened May 5, 2015. All appeals materials must be in receipt of the CHE by the deadline close of **5:00 pm on September 25, 2015.**

- Students are encouraged to review the Guidelines for Appeal on the CHE website to determine if their circumstance truly meets the definition of an extraordinary circumstance or a traumatic event.

- Students should be advised that their appeal is not guaranteed to be granted, nor is it a guarantee that a decision will be rendered prior to the due date of their college bill. Students should make arrangements with the institution for payment.

- The link to the appeals information and application is:

http://www.che.sc.gov/Students,FamiliesMilitary/Appeals.aspx

Initial Eligibility Requirements For The State Scholarship Programs

- In compliance with the established laws/regulations in place for the HOPE, LIFE, and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship programs, a student must meet the initial eligibility requirements in order be a recipient of scholarship funds:

  - A student must be a US citizen/legal permanent resident*
  - A student must be a South Carolina resident*
  - No felony convictions
  - No second or subsequent alcohol/drug misdemeanors
  - Not in default of any state or federal loans
  - Enroll in a degree-seeking program at an eligible SC institution

*This must be determined at the time of high school graduation

Residency as it Pertains to State Scholarships

To be eligible for any State scholarships, students must:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident that meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under State Residency Statutes whose lawful presence has been verified at the time of enrollment at the institution; and

2. Be a South Carolina resident* for in-state purposes at the time of high school graduation and at the time of enrollment at the institution

*(As set forth by Section §59-112-10 – 140 and related R. 62.600-612)

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS)

- Late Award
  - Application period closed June 15th
  - Currently processing 633 applications
  - Notifications will begin August 2015

- Early Award
  - Awarded 2,202 Palmetto Fellows Scholarships
    - Increase of **181** awardees from the 2014 Early Award
  - Designation Forms: 1,324
  - Still Need: **878!!**

- Transfers
  - Total Requests Completed to Date: 45
  - Pending: 9 *(institutions have been contacted regarding eligibility)*

Out-of-State High Schools & Scholarship Eligibility

- Out-of-state schools must comply with SCUGP GPA reporting and ranking.
  - For those schools that have a grading scale that substantially deviates from the SC UGP:
    - If the institution determines that a state-approved standardized grading scale substantially deviates from the SC UGP, the grading scale must be submitted to CHE for further review
    - If CHE confirms the grade scale deviation, a transcript conversion to the SC UGP must be completed
    - If the institution is not converting the grades, the out-of-state high school must submit converted transcript in addition to the official out-of-state high school transcript
      - No handwritten or strikethrough edits can be demonstrated on the submitted transcript for scholarship eligibility determination

SSN:
DOB: ▓▓▓▓▓▓
Year Entered: ▓▓▓▓▓▓
Graduated:

Third Form (9th Grade) 2010-2011	Final Grade	Credit	SCUGP Numerical Average	SCUGP Quality Points
Honors English 300	A-	1	96	4.875
Spanish 2	A	1	96	4.375
Ancient & Medieval History	A	1	96	4.375
Honors Geometry	A-	1	96	4.875
Honors Physics - 3rd Form	A	1	96	4.875
Music - Beginning Bagpipes	A	1	96	4.375

Fourth Form (10th Grade) 2011-2012	Final Grade	Credit	SCUGP Numerical Average	SCUGP Quality Points
Honors English 400	B+	1	88	3.875
Honors Spanish 3	A	1	96	4.875
Honors Modern European History	B+	1	88	3.875
Honors Algebra 2	A	1	96	4.875
AP Chemistry	B+	1	88	4.375
Bible - Introduction	P			

Fifth Form (11th Grade) 2012-2013	Final Grade	Credit	SCUGP Numerical Avgerage	SCUGP Quality Points
Honors English 500	A-	1	96	4.875
Spanish 4	A	1	96	4.375
Honors US History	A-	1	96	4.875
Honors Intro to Calculus	A-	1	96	4.875
AP Biology	B+	1	88	4.375
SAT Prep	A	0.33	96	4.375

Cumulative ▓▓▓▓▓▓ GPA   4.1
SCUGP Cumulative GPA   4.559

GRADE	COURSE NAME	CP	HONORS	AP	1st sem	2nd sem	SEMESTER 1 QUALITY POINTS	SEM 1 UNITS	SEMESTER 2 QUALITY POINTS	SEM 2 UNITS	QP x UNITS SEM 1	QP x UNITS SEM 2		Updated 11/11/2013
9	Algebra I *		x		97	98	5.000	0.50	5.125	0.50	2.500	2.562		
9	Art I	x			97	93	4.500	0.50	4.000	0.50	2.250	2.000		
9	English IX*		x		96	96	4.875	0.50	4.875	0.50	2.437	2.437		
9	French I	x			98	97	4.625	0.50	4.500	0.50	2.312	2.250		
9	Freshman Honors Science *	x	x		95	95	4.750	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.375	2.375		
9	Health/Wellness				99		4.750	0.50			2.375			
9	Int Phys Ed/Wellness	x				96			4.375	0.25		1.093		
9	World Studies	x			100	99	4.875	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.437	2.375		
10	AP US History			x	96	97	5.375	0.50	5.500	0.50	2.687	2.750		
10	Biology Honors*		x		92	95	4.375	0.75	4.750	0.75	3.281	3.562		
10	English X *		x		98	95	5.125	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.562	2.375		
10	French II	x			92	92	3.875	0.50	3.875	0.50	1.937	1.937		
10	French III *		x		95	95	4.750	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.375	2.375		
10	Geometry *		x		93	92	4.500	0.50	4.375	0.50	2.250	2.187		
10	PE Waiver X-country													
10	PE Waiver Track													
10	Web Tools	x			96	99	4.375	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.187	2.375		
11	Algebra II *		x		93	97	4.500	0.50	5.000	0.50	2.250	2.500		
11	AP English Language			x	93	94	5.000	0.50	5.125	0.50	2.500	2.562		
11	AP Government			x	93	97	5.000	0.50	5.500	0.50	2.500	2.750		
11	Chemistry Honors *		x		96	99	4.875	0.75	5.250	0.75	3.656	3.937		
11	French IV *		x		94	96	4.625	0.50	4.875	0.50	2.312	2.437		
11	Journalism I	x			100	99	4.875	0.50	4.750	0.50	2.437	2.375		
11	PE Waiver Cross Country													
								10.50		10.25	49.620	49.214		

TOTAL UNITS	20.75
TOTAL QP x UNITS	98.834
GPA	4.763

Out-of-State High Schools & Scholarship Eligibility

- If a student is attempting to use rank as an eligibility criterion from an out-of-state high school:
  - The high school or home school association must have a policy on rank which has been reviewed to verify compliance with the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy and established statutes and regulations for the State scholarship programs.

  - If the high school or home school association <u>does not rank </u>as a policy, or the student does not meet the rank eligibility requirement once a conversion of the grades to meet the SC UGP GPA and rank requirement then student must use the Alternate Criteria for eligibility (SC UGP GPA and SAT/ACT score).

- If using rank, the entire academic class must be converted to the SCUGP and a <u>ranking report that reflects all students in that academic class, the out-of-state GPA, the SC UGP GPA, and the rank based on the SC UGP GPA must be included in order to determine eligibility and award a State scholarship.</u>

Transcript Requirements: Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

ALL transcripts must identify SC UGP GPA

- All state scholarships and grants are based on the SC UGP, therefore **all transcripts must specifically state "SC UGP."**
  - Any transcript that states, "Weighted and Unweighted GPA" OR "Total GPA" will not be accepted for the purposes of awarding state scholarships as it must comply with the **SC UGP**.

All final official transcripts must be date calculated between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and

no later than June 15th

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

Transcripts Requirements for Eligibility for the State Scholarship Programs

In order to determine eligibility for the State scholarship programs, the financial aid office/institution and/or CHE for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship must have an official transcript on file (<u>electronic or otherwise</u>) that demonstrates the following items:

- **<u>A valid signature</u>** (electronic or otherwise) from the Principal.***** In the event that the Principal is not available, the Superintendent signature is acceptable.
- **<u>SC UGP GPA</u>** must be demonstrated and rank (if applicable)
- The **date calculated date** to be date calculated no later than June 15th (regardless of academic year)
  - For the LIFE Scholarship and the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Late Award the transcript MUST demonstrate that it is the **<u>final</u>** official transcript, as well as reflect a **graduation date**

*For SC Public high schools: Any questions regarding the setting up of transcripts fields, they need to contact their high school Powerschool coordinator and/or district Powerschool coordinator.
**For Independent/Private and home school students: The administrator, registrar, or an official from the home school/accountability group

- If a student is using rank as an eligibility criteria, the high school/home school association **<u>must</u>** have a policy on rank, and rank **<u>must</u>** be demonstrated on the official transcript (*this also applies to rank reports when required*)

SC Public High School Transcripts

SC Public High Schools - PowerSchool

- For technical issues regarding submitting and/or printing electronic or paper transcripts should first be referred back to the high school or School District IT Department. Each high school and district has an identified contact that should work together first.

- If the issues cannot be resolved at that level, the school/district office can then contact the SC Department of Education PowerSchool Administrator.

Year-Round Scholarships

Palmetto and LIFE Scholarships

- Authorization for Palmetto Fellows/LIFE Scholarship awards to be awarded in summer terms continues.

- The provision initially included in FY14 was moved from the Lottery Section of the Part 1B provisos to CHE's section.

- The text of the proviso (#11.19, see next slide) is the same as last year with a minor change in keeping with guidelines adopted by CHE in April 2015.

- Year-Round Scholarship Guidelines can be accessed here: http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/studentservices/Year-RoundPolicyGuideline_Website.pdf

FY16 Appropriations Act (Budget) Part 1B Proviso

11.19. (CHE: Scholarship Awards) A student may receive a Palmetto Fellows or LIFE scholarship award during the summer, in addition to fall and spring semesters of an academic year, provided continued eligibility requirements are met as of the end of the spring semester. Students must enroll full-time, which for purposes of the summer award will require enrollment in at least twelve hours over the course of the summer. The summer is defined as the period between the end of the spring term and prior to the opening of the fall term. The total summer award per student may not exceed half of the allowable academic year award up to the cost of attendance and must be reimbursed if less than twelve hours for academic credit are not ~~completed~~ _attempted_ by the student during summer sessions. If awarded in the summer, a student's total award during his or her enrollment may not exceed the amount that would otherwise be provided under current semester limits applied for the scholarship awards. The Commission on Higher Education may provide additional guidelines necessary to ensure uniform implementation.

Eligible Students: Full-Time Enrollment Summer

Eligible for Fall Award If:	Eligible for Spring Award If:	Eligible For Summer Award If (PFS):	Summer Award Disbursed If:	Eligible for Fall Award If:
Enrolled in 12+ credit hours (or equivalent to full-time status)	Enrolled in 12+ credit hours (or equivalent to full-time status)	Earned 30 credit hours or the equivalent (earned 30 for the hours fall and spring term only) and earned a cumulative LIFE (institutional) 3.0 GPA at the end of Spring	Enrolled in at least 12 credit hours over the course of the summer term	Earned 30 credit hours or the equivalent (earned 30 credit hours fall and spring term only) and earned a cumulative LIFE (institutional) 3.0 GPA at the end of Spring

Institutions would review for eligibility for summer and/or fall at this point.

This is consistent with existing end of spring term eligibility review practices.

Enrollment verification would occur at an established date as determined by the regulations for eligibility to receive scholarship funds only. Eligibility review would not be required.

Any credit hours/grades earned over summer would be used towards continued scholarship eligibility determination at the end of the next spring semester

What Does This Mean?

- Students who are eligible at the end of the spring term are eligible for a summer scholarship award/term of eligibility

- Students can still attend summer school and NOT use a summer scholarship award/term of eligibility
  - The student would be responsible for covering any tuition, fees, and costs
  - Any grades/credit hours earned over a summer semester will be used to determine continued eligibility

- A student who was determined to meet continued eligibility at the end of the spring term is eligible for a fall award REGARDLESS of academic performance during the summer
  - This is true for those students who use an award or do not use an award

Ineligible Students

Eligible for Fall Award If:	Eligible for Spring Award If:	Not Eligible for Summer/Fall Award If (PFS):	Remediation Period	Eligible for Fall Award If:
12+ Credit hours	12+ Credit hours	Student earned less than 30 credit hours or its equivalent (earned less than 30 credit hours in the fall and spring terms) and/or less than a 3.0 cumulative LIFE (institutional) GPA at the end of Spring	Student has maymester and/or summer to earn requisite credit hours/GPA. This would be an out-of-pocket expense incurred by the student.	Earned at least 30 credit hours (or its equivalent) and earned at least a 3.0 cumulative LIFE (institutional) GPA at the end of maymester and/or summer

If the student is _not_ eligible at the end of summer, the next review of eligibility for scholarship funds will occur at the end of the following Spring semester. The student is still using terms of eligibility.

SAT Redesign

- Students will sit for the re-designed SAT beginning March 2016

- The College Board will provide guidance regarding the new scoring and/or language that will be provided to all institutions and shared nationally regarding the following:
  - Redesigned test information
  - Super scoring

- This should be available by August 2015

- CHE is monitoring and will provide additional details relating to South Carolina scholarships.

Legislative Updates

- A **2015 Session Legislative Wrap-Up for higher education** with summary information on the FY16 budget and legislation passed during the 2015 Legislative will be available shortly.
  - This annual CHE staff summary will be available on CHE's website and distributed for information.
- A few notes of interest relating Student Financial Aid/Tuition:
  - **Act 50 of 2015 (S. 261)**- Amends SC Code Section 59-111-320 relating to Free Tuition for Those 60 years old and older to enable participants to include those who are receiving compensation as full-time employees
  - **Act 11 of 2015 (S.291)** – Amends SC Code Section 59-112-50 to add Section C which enables SC compliance with federal law that certain out-of-state veterans receiving GI Bill benefits to pay in-state tuition and fees.
    - Provisos 11.42 (CHE: College and University Out-of-State Veteran Tuition) and 3.8 (LEA: Transfer for Veteran Differential Reimbursement Fund) enable some relief for institutions relative to the fiscal impact of implementation
  - **Proviso 11.41 (CHE: Technical College Study)** – Requires CHE to examine the viability of a program allowing "free-tuition" for SC high school graduates at the state's technical colleges and report by January 31, 2016.
  - **Proviso 3.1 (LEA: Audit)** – Amended proviso relating to the audit of the use of lottery funds. Includes a provision directing CHE to provide a report by January 15, 2016 on the estimated cost to establish a scholarship and grant tracking system.

Questions

CHE Contact Information

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