







# DEFINITIONS

Award Letter	An offer from a college or career school that states the type and amount of financial aid the school is willing to provide if you accept admission and register to take classes at that school.
Bachelor's Degree	An undergraduate academic degree awarded for a course of study that generally lasts four years. Colleges or universities generally award bachelor's degrees.
Dependent Student	A student who does not meet any of the criteria for an independent student. An independent student is one of the following: at least 24 years old, married, a graduate or professional student, a veteran, a member of the armed forces, an orphan, a ward of the court, someone with legal dependents other than a spouse, an emancipated minor or someone who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	This is the number that's used to determine your eligibility for federal student financial aid. This number results from the financial information you provide in your FAFSA, the application for federal student aid. Your EFC is reported to you on your Student Aid Report (SAR).
FAFSA	Free Application for Federal Student Aid
Federal Student Loan	A loan funded by the federal government to help pay for your education. A federal student loan is borrowed money you must repay with interest.
Financial Aid Office	The office at a college or career school that is responsible for preparing and communicating information on financial aid. This office helps students apply for and receive student loans, grants, scholarships and other types of financial aid.
Grant	Financial aid, often based on financial need, that does not need to be repaid (unless, for example, you withdraw from school and owe a refund).
Merit-based	Based on a student's skill or ability. Example: A merit-based scholarship might be awarded based on a student's high grades.
Need-based	Based on a student's financial need. Example: A need-based grant might be awarded based on a student's low income.
Scholarship	Money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid.
Student Aid Report (SAR)	A summary of the information you submitted on your FAFSA. You receive this report (often called the SAR) via e-mail a few days after your FAFSA has been processed or by mail within 7-10 days if you did not provide an e-mail address. If there are no corrections or additional information you must provide, the SAR will contain your EFC, which is the number that's used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid.

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/glossary>

## Is the FAFSA really free?

Yes. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is just that — FREE.

## What should I do if I don't have the information that I need when I start to apply?

You can begin your FAFSA application without completing it in the same session. Simply save it and log in again at a later time to complete and submit.

## If something in the income section doesn't apply to me, should I just leave it blank?

Don't leave anything blank in the income section. If it doesn't apply, select '0'. Blank answers will only delay the processing of your application.

## Who does "you" and "your" refer to?

These words always mean the student (you).

## Do I really need my parents' signatures?

Make sure all parties included in the FAFSA sign it. An unsigned FAFSA will not be processed.

## What is the process for getting a FSA ID?

Visit [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) and select the "FSA ID" tab at the top of the page to create your ID. Once you have received your ID, do not share it with anyone. It will be connected to your personal information, so treat it as you would your social security number.

## Do parents need FSA IDs?

Yes, a dependent student will need to have one of his or her legal parents sign the student's FAFSA, so the parent needs an FSA ID as well. It's important to understand that the student and the parent may not share an FSA ID: Your FSA ID is your signature, so it has to be unique to you.

## How much financial aid am I eligible to receive?

The financial aid office at your college will determine how much financial aid you are eligible to receive. Your eligibility for most federal student aid depends on a variety of factors, including your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), your year in college, your enrollment status, and the cost of attendance at the college you will be attending.

For more information, contact the financial aid office at your college or see *Funding Your Education: The Guide to Federal Student Aid* at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/resources>.

## Where do I mail my tax forms?

Your tax forms should only be used as a reference for completing the FAFSA. DO NOT mail tax forms or worksheets to Federal Student Aid.

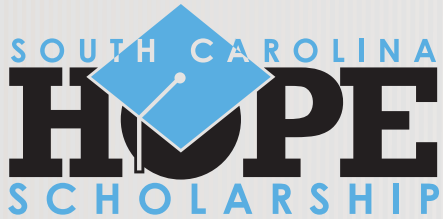
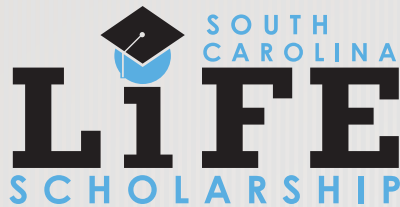
## What is the Selective Service ?

The Selective Service System preserves America's ability to provide manpower in an emergency to the U.S. Armed Forces. If you are a male and are between the ages of 18-26, the FAFSA application offers you an opportunity to register.

## South Carolina State Scholarships

### LIFE SCHOLARSHIP

The Legislative Incentive for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship program administered by the financial aid office at each eligible public and independent college and university in South Carolina. The LIFE Scholarship is up to \$5,000 and is applied directly toward the cost of attendance. LIFE Scholarship recipients may receive scholarship funding towards a degree-seeking program at an eligible South Carolina two-year or four-year institution.



### SC HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

The SC HOPE Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship

established under the SC Education Lottery Act, created for freshman students attending an eligible South Carolina four-year institution who do not qualify for the LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarships. It is applied directly toward the cost of attendance. The SC HOPE Scholarship is awarded during the freshman year of attendance only.

### PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is a merit-based program administered by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. It is applied directly toward the cost of attendance. Palmetto Fellow Scholarship recipients may receive scholarship funding for a maximum of eight consecutive terms of full-time study toward their first approved four-year bachelor's degree or ten terms of full-time study towards their first five-year bachelor's degree at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina. Palmetto Fellows may receive up to \$6,700 toward the cost of attendance their freshman year and up to \$7,500 each subsequent academic year.



## Need-Based Grants and Tuition Assistance

### LOTTERY TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LTAP)

The Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP) provides resources, to the extent that funds are available, to students who wish to attend eligible two-year public or independent colleges in South Carolina.

#### Annual Award Amounts

- The annual award amount for the LTAP changes based on the number of eligible recipients and available funding.
- Students that are eligible will receive exact award amounts from their school.

#### Eligibility

- Students may not be a recipient of the SC HOPE, LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarships
- Students must be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours per term
- Students must not owe a refund or repayment on a state grant, Pell Grant, or a Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant and can not be in default on a loan under the Federal Perkins Loan or Federal Stafford Loan program

### SOUTH CAROLINA NEED BASED GRANT

The South Carolina Need Based Grant provides additional financial assistance to South Carolina's neediest students.

#### Annual Award Amounts

- A student may receive up to \$2,500 annually if enrolled full-time and up to \$1,250 annually if enrolled part-time. The college at which the student is enrolled determines the exact amount.

#### Eligibility

- Students must be enrolled in an eligible public 2 or 4-year institution and demonstrate additional financial need based on completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

### SOUTH CAROLINA TUITION GRANTS PROGRAM

The SC Tuition Grants Program is administered by the SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission through an annual appropriation by the State General Assembly. The program's purpose is to provide need-based grant assistance to eligible South Carolina undergraduate students attending, on a full time basis, eligible independent non-profit in-state colleges.

For more information on state scholarships and grants, please visit the SC Commission on Higher Education's website:

[www.che.sc.gov/sccango](http://www.che.sc.gov/sccango)

*Scholarship and grant information provided is current as of Spring 2016. Please visit [www.sccango.org](http://www.sccango.org) for any updated information.*



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