

South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Access | Affordability | Excellence

HOPE & LIFE

New Financial Aid Counselor Workshop

Regulations



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education

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Scholarship Regulations

- [Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [LIFE Scholarship Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [SC HOPE Scholarship Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [SC Need-based Grant Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
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Related Trainings



Sections that pertain to *ALL*
State Scholarship and Grant
Programs

General Definitions

Lottery Tuition Assistance	• 62-900.160. (A) Program Definitions.
Need-based Grants	• 62-460. (A) Program Definitions for Administering South Carolina Need-based Grants at Public Institutions
SC HOPE Scholarship	• 62-900.90. (A) Program Definitions
LIFE Scholarship	• 62-1200.5. (A) Program Definition
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	• 62-310. (A) Definitions

“Academic year” is defined as the twelve-month period of time during which a full-time student is expected to earn thirty credit hours. The period of time used to measure the academic year consists of the fall, spring and immediately succeeding summer terms.

General Definitions

SC HOPE Scholarship	• 62-900.90. (K) Program Definitions
LIFE Scholarship	• 62-1200.5. (X) Program Definition
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	• 62-310. (Y) Definitions

“Home institution” is defined as the independent or public institution where the student is currently enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student and may be eligible for financial aid at the same institution.

General Definitions

LIFE
Scholarship

- 62-1200.5 (UU) Program Definitions

Palmetto
Fellows
Scholarship

- 62-310. (G) Definitions

“Continuously enrolled” is defined as enrollment without an interruption that would require the student to pursue a formal process of readmission to that institution. Formal petitions or applications for change of degree level shall be considered readmissions. Students who attend summer terms or are selected for military mobilization are considered continuously enrolled. Students who are enrolled in internships, cooperative work programs, travel study programs, or National or International Exchange Programs that are approved by the home institution are considered continuously enrolled.

General Definitions

SC HOPE
Scholarship

• 62-900.90. (M) Program Definitions

LIFE
Scholarship

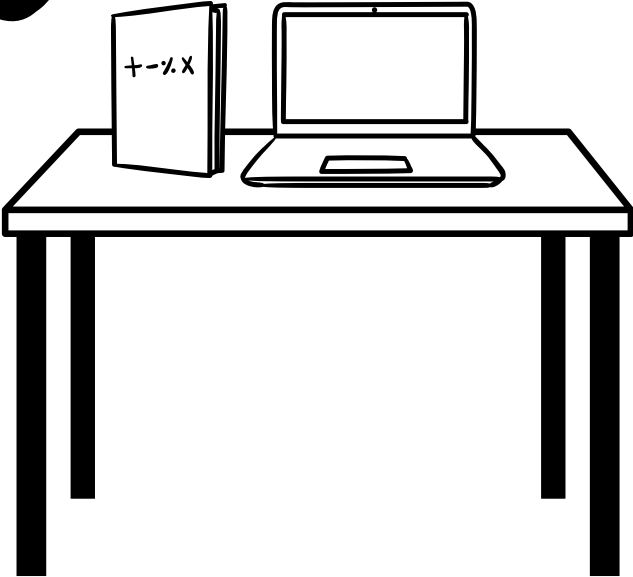
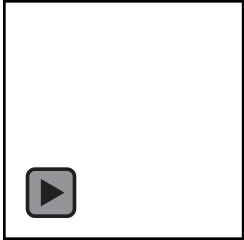
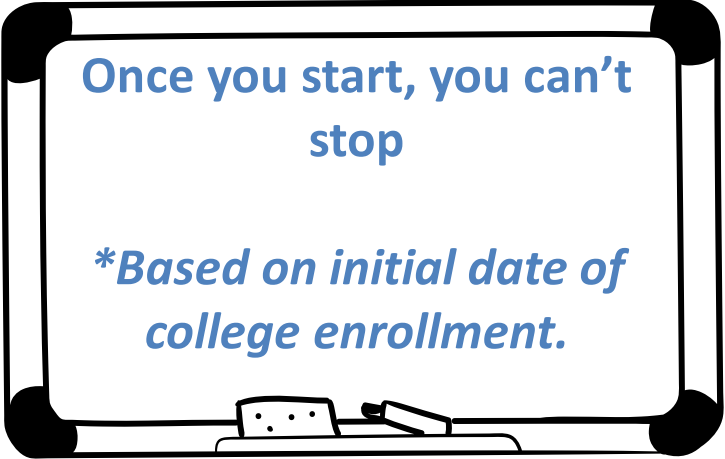
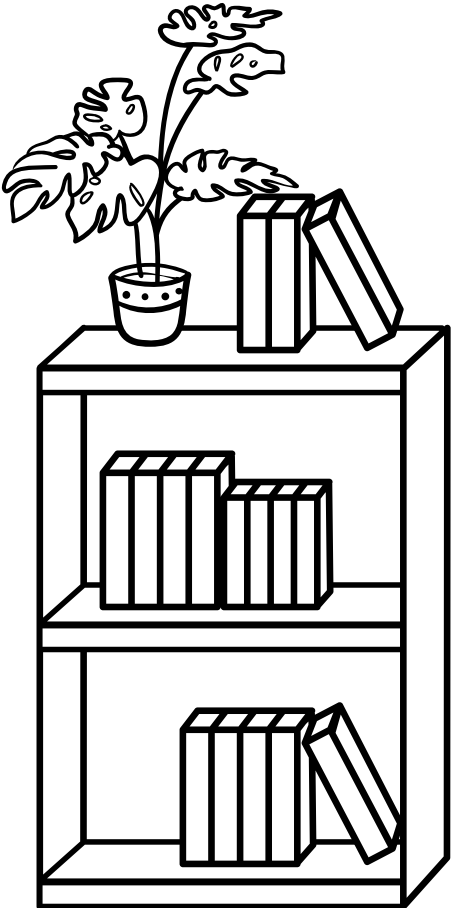
• 62-1200.5. (AA) Program Definition

Palmetto
Fellows
Scholarship

• 62-310. (J) Definitions

“Date of initial college enrollment” is defined as the first time a student matriculates into a postsecondary degree-granting institution after high school graduation or completion of an approved home school program, excluding the summer term immediately prior to the student’s enrollment in the first regular academic year. Students must remain continuously enrolled as any break in enrollment (excluding summer) will count toward the student’s terms of eligibility.

Scholarship Clock



General Eligibility Requirements

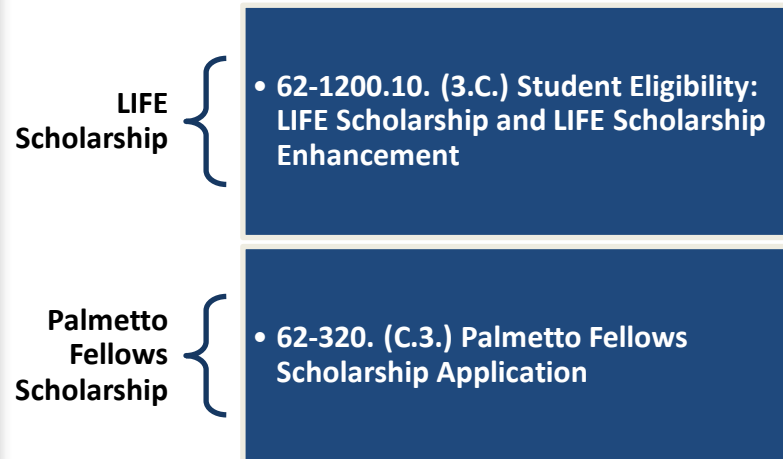
- Must be a South Carolina resident;
- Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident;
- Must be enrolled as degree-seeking student at an eligible South Carolina public or independent institution;
- Must not owe refund or repayment on any State or Federal financial aid and not be in default on a Federal student loan; and
- Never been convicted of any felonies and have not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol/drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year (excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance).

Financial Aid Awarding Language

Lottery Tuition Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-900.150. Purpose of the Lottery Tuition Assistance Program
Need-based Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-455.(B) Allocation of Need-based Grant Funds to Public and Independent Institutions.
SC HOPE Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-900.85. Purpose of the SC HOPE Scholarship Program
LIFE Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-1200.1.Purpose of the LIFE Scholarship Program.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-300. (C) Purpose of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and Scholarship Enhancement.

Independent and public institutions of higher learning in this, or any other state in the U.S., are prohibited from using State Scholarship and Grants in programs that promote financial aid incentives or packages. Any mention of State Scholarships and Grants in these financial aid packages must indicate the scholarships and grants to be separate from the University that is offering the financial aid package, and reference the State Scholarship and Grant as a separate financial aid award, provided to the student by the State of South Carolina.

Ranking Option for Out-of-State



High schools or home school associations that do not rank as a policy; or high schools whose grading policy deviates from the current SC Uniform Grading Policy and do not convert the graduating class to the current SC UGP to determine class rank, **must use the SC UGP GPA and SAT or ACT criteria** when attempting to meet the academic requirements for the LIFE Scholarship (for Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, students must use the alternate criteria). High schools or home school associations shall not use ranking for the sole purpose of obtaining eligibility for the state scholarships.



Act 280 - SC Illegal Immigration Reform Act language

All eligible independent and public institutions that participate in the program must verify the lawful presence of any student who receives a State Scholarship or Grant prior to awarding to the student. The trustees of the public and independent institutions in this State shall develop and institute a process by which a State Scholarship or Grant recipient's lawful presence of in the United States is verified with the federal government pursuant to 8 USC Section 1373(c).



Act 280 - SC Illegal Immigration Reform Act language

“Lawful Presence” is defined as individuals who are in the United States legally and documented. Only those students whose lawful presence has been verified with the federal government prior to college enrollment will be considered to receive any State Scholarship or Grant.

Accountability language for SC Residency and Scholarships

Need-based Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-500. (F) Program Administration and Audits.
SC HOPE Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-900.135. (D) Program Administration and Audits
LIFE Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-1200.70. (D) Program Administration and Audits: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-370. (E) Program Administration and Audits.

The participating institution shall identify to the Commission on Higher Education an institutional representative who will be responsible for determining residency classification for the purposes of awarding the State Scholarships and Grants.

Program Administration and Audits

Lottery Tuition Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-900.195. (C) Program Administration and Audits.
Need-based Grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-500. (D) Program Administration and Audits
SC HOPE Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-900.135. (C) Program Administration and Audits
LIFE Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-1200.70. (C) Program Administration and Audits: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 62-370. (C) Program Administration and Audits

The Chief Executive Officer at each eligible independent and public institution shall identify to the Commission on Higher Education an institutional representative who is responsible for the operation of the Program on the campus and will serve as the contact person for the Program. The institutional representative will act as the student's fiscal agent to receive and deliver funds for use under the Program.

Program Administration

The institution is responsible for determining SC residency and lawful presence of all State Scholarship and Grant recipients. **If it is determined that the institution has failed to verify the lawful presence and SC residency of all State Scholarship and Grant recipient, the institution shall immediately reimburse the funds disbursed in error.**

Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTAP)

62-900.190. (A) Refunds and Repayments.

Need-Based Grants

62-495. (D) Refunds and Repayments.

SC HOPE Scholarship

62-900.140. (D) Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation

LIFE Scholarship

62-1200.75. (D) Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

62-365. (C) Refunds and Repayments.



Scholarship Appeals

Appeals Cycle each year (*May – February*)

If a student experiences an extenuating circumstance:

- Serious Health Condition of the student
- Death or serious health condition of an immediate family member;
- Traumatic/extraordinary event

Scholarship Appeals

Students who have never been awarded or received the LIFE, SC SC HOPE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarships are not eligible to file an appeal.

A student cannot appeal the loss of scholarship due to an institution's lack of or failure to provide adequate accommodations (i.e.: note taker, extended test taking time, attendance flexibility).

A traumatic event DOES NOT include college adjustment issues, such as homesickness, problems with roommates, problems with the faculty or staff at the college or university, difficult course-load, misunderstanding of scholarship requirements, misadvisement by financial aid officers or advisors, dependent care issues, transportation problems, financial issues, exceptions to scholarship regulation (initial eligibility, transfer issues, exceeding terms of eligibility), etc. This is not an exhaustive list. Other issues may be deemed as inappropriate for appeal.

Scholarship Appeals

Students should understand that their appeal may not be granted. Therefore, they must take the necessary actions to secure funds to pay their tuition and fees during the time the appeal is being reviewed. If the appeal is granted, the scholarship funds may be awarded retroactively. In addition, CHE does not guarantee that a decision will be rendered prior to any institutional deadlines for tuition and fee payment. In these cases, it is up to the student to ensure that any financial obligation to the institution is fulfilled. If the appeal is granted, the scholarship funds may be awarded retroactively

Scholarship Appeals

A completed appeal's application must be filed with the Commission on Higher Education by the established deadline of the academic year the scholarship is requested. The student must provide:

- Application for appeal;
- Letter requesting an appeal describing the extenuating circumstance
- Official transcripts from **ALL** prior institutions;
- Supporting documentation

It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that all documents necessary to file an appeal are received at the Commission by the established deadline.

Commission staff will not contact the student regarding missing or incomplete appeals documentation.

Program Administration and Audits

Lottery Tuition Assistance	• 62-900.195. Program Administration and Audits.
Need-based Grants	• 62-500. Program Administration and Audits
SC HOPE Scholarship	• 62-900.135. Program Administration and Audits
LIFE Scholarship	• 62-1200.70. Program Administration and Audits: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	• 62-370. Program Administration and Audits

A. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education shall be responsible for the oversight of functions (e.g., guidelines, policies, rules, regulations) relative to this Program with the eligible independent and public institutions. The Commission on Higher Education shall be responsible for the allocation of funds, promulgation of guidelines and regulation governing the Program, any audits, or other oversight as may be deemed necessary to monitor the expenditure of funds.

Program Administration and Audits

Lottery Tuition Assistance	• 62-900.195. Program Administration and Audits.
Need-based Grants	• 62-500. Program Administration and Audits
SC HOPE Scholarship	• 62-900.135. Program Administration and Audits
LIFE Scholarship	• 62-1200.70. Program Administration and Audits: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	• 62-370. Program Administration and Audits

B. According to the Audit Policies and Procedures for Scholarship and Grant Programs Manual, all eligible independent and public institutions must abide by all Program policies, rules and regulations. Institutions also agree to maintain and provide all pertinent information, records, reports or any information as may be required or requested by the Commission on Higher Education or the General Assembly to ensure proper administration of the Program.

Student Records

Institutions may retain annual paper or electronic documentation for each award to include at a minimum. These are located in CHE's Audit Policies & Procedures for Scholarship and Grant Program Manual.

- **LTAP:** 62-900.195. (B) Program Administration and Audits.
- **Need-Based Grants:** 62-500. (B) Program Administration and Audits.
- **SC HOPE:** 62-900.135. (B) Program Administration and Audits
- **LIFE:** 62-1200.70. (B) Program Administration and Audits: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
- **Palmetto Fellows:** 62-370. (B) Program Administration and Audits.

- Award notification;
- Enrollment status and degree-seeking status;
- Student's residency status and citizenship status;
- Affidavit/Certification documenting that the student is not in default or does not owe a refund on any state/federal financial aid;
- Affidavit/Certification documenting that the student has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol/ drug related misdemeanor offense within the past academic year;
- Institutional disbursements to student;
- Military orders (if appropriate);
- Verification from Institutional Disability Services Provider of student's disability and approval of reduced course-load requirement (if appropriate);
- Verification of cumulative GPA and annual credit hours for renewal purposes;
- Verification from academic department of enrollment in a declared major in an eligible degree program (Enhancement purposes);
- Verification student met fourteen credit hour requirement at the end of the first year of college enrollment for the 07-08 freshman class and thereafter;

Military Mobilization

Lottery Tuition Assistance	• 662-900.181.(A) Military Mobilization.
SC HOPE Scholarship	• 62-900.111. (A) Military Mobilization
LIFE Scholarship	• 62-1200.45. (A) Military Mobilization: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	• 62-351. (A) Military Mobilization.

Service members who are enrolled in college and are affected by military mobilizations will not be penalized for the term they are required to withdraw after the full refund period based on the institutional policies and procedures.

Institutions are strongly encouraged to provide a full refund of required tuition, fees and other institutional charges or to provide a credit in a comparable amount against future charges for students who are forced to withdraw as a result of military mobilization. Additionally, the term(s) that the service member is mobilized will not count against the maximum terms of eligibility. The service member shall be allowed to receive the unused terms for their Scholarship and Scholarship Enhancement while mobilized during the succeeding summer or at the end of the maximum terms of eligibility based on initial college enrollment (provided the service member meets continued eligibility requirements).

Military Mobilization

Lottery Tuition Assistance	• 662-900.181.(A) Military Mobilization.
SC HOPE Scholarship	• 62-900.111. (A) Military Mobilization
LIFE Scholarship	• 62-1200.45. (A) Military Mobilization: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	• 62-351. (A) Military Mobilization.

The service member must re-enroll in an eligible institution within twelve months upon their demobilization and provide official documentation to verify military deployment to the institutional Financial Aid Office upon re-enrollment to receive their Scholarship and Scholarship Enhancement. Reinstatement of their Scholarship and the Scholarship Enhancement will be based upon the service member's eligibility at the time he/she was mobilized. If the student re-enrolls after the twelve month period, the service member must submit an Appeal Application to the Commission on Higher Education by the established deadline in order to be considered for reinstatement.

Military Mobilization

SC HOPE Scholarship	• 62-900.111. (B-C) Military Mobilization
LIFE Scholarship	• 62-1200.45. (B-C) Military Mobilization: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	• 62-351. (B-C) Military Mobilization.

- Service members who are enrolled in college and are mobilized for an entire academic year may renew their Scholarship and the Scholarship Enhancement for the next academic year, if they met the eligibility requirements at the end of the prior academic year.
- Service members who are enrolled in college and are mobilized for one academic term must complete fifteen credit hours and either a 3.0 “LIFE GPA” 3.0 institutional GPA depending on their scholarship, by the end of the academic year to be eligible for their Scholarship and Scholarship Enhancement renewal for the next academic year.

Enrollment in Internships, Co-op Work Programs, Travel Study Programs, or National or International Exchange Programs

LIFE Scholarship

• 62-1200.40

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

• 62-350.

B. Eligible students may use the appropriated portion of their Scholarship and Scholarship Enhancement funds for internships, cooperative work programs, travel study programs, or National or International Student Exchange Programs that are approved by the home institution and that the home institution accepts as **full-time transfer credit**. The Scholarship and Scholarship Enhancement funds must be paid directly to the student's account at the home institution. The amount awarded cannot exceed the cost-of-attendance at the home institution or the cost-of-attendance at the host institution, whichever is less. The Commission on Higher Education will not transfer funds to the institutions where students will participate in internships, cooperative work programs, travel study programs, or National or International Student Exchange Programs. The home institution is responsible for funds according to the "Program Administration and Audits" Section.

Enrollment in Internships, Co-op Work Programs, Travel Study Programs, or National or International Exchange Programs

LIFE Scholarship

• 62-1200.40

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

• 62-350.

C. Students who enroll in one academic term at the home institution and also enroll in an internship, cooperative work program, travel study program, or National or International Student Exchange Program that are *approved* by the home institution and **that do not award full-time transfer credit** during the same academic year must earn at least fifteen credit hours and a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average at the home institution for graduation purposes by the end of the academic year to be eligible for **renewal the next academic year**. The student may continue to be eligible for up to the maximum terms of eligibility based on the date of initial college enrollment (provided the student meets the continued eligibility requirements).

Enrollment in Internships, Co-op Work Programs, Travel Study Programs, or National or International Exchange Programs

LIFE Scholarship

• 62-1200.40

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

• 62-350.

D. For students enrolling in an internship, cooperative work program, travel study program, or National or International Student Exchange Program that is approved by the home institution but does not award full-time transfer credit for the **entire academic year**, renewal for the next academic year will be based on the prior year's eligibility. The student may continue to be eligible for up to the maximum terms of eligibility based on the date of initial college enrollment (provided the student meets the continued eligibility requirements).

Enrollment in Internships, Co-op Work Programs, Travel Study Programs, or National or International Exchange Programs

LIFE Scholarship

• 62-1200.40

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

• 62-350.

F. The home institution will be responsible for obtaining official certification of the student's cumulative grade point average and annual credit hours earned for purposes of determining eligibility for Scholarship and Enhancement renewal for the next academic year. For purposes of Enhancement eligibility, the home institution must also obtain certification from the academic department of enrollment in a declared major in an eligible degree program.

Students with Disabilities

LIFE Scholarship

• 62-1200.45

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

• 62-345.

B. For renewal, students who qualify under ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 must meet all requirements as stated in the “Continued Eligibility” Section, except that if a student does not meet the annual credit hour requirement, the student must have been approved by the institutional Disability Services Provider in the prior academic year to be enrolled in less than “full-time” status or less than the required thirty credit hours. **Each academic year, students must complete the required number of credit hours approved by the institutional Disability Services Provider for their Scholarship and Scholarship Enhancement renewal and earn a 3.0 LIFE or Cumulative GPA.**

Students with Disabilities

LIFE Scholarship

• 62-1200.45

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

• 62-345.

C. The Institutional Disability Services Provider must provide written documentation to the Office of Financial Aid prior to each academic year verifying that the student is approved to be enrolled in less than full-time status or earn less than the required annual credit hours. The institution is responsible for retaining appropriate documentation according to the “Program Administration and Audits” Section.

Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation

	A.	B.	C.
<p>Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTAP) 62-900.200. Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation.</p>	<p>The Commission on Higher Education may review institutional administrative practices to determine compliance with pertinent statutes, guidelines, rules or regulations. <u>If such a review determines that an institution has failed to comply with Program statutes, guidelines, rules or regulations, the Commission on Higher Education may suspend, terminate, or place certain conditions upon the institution's continued participation in the Program and require reimbursement to the Program for any funds lost or improperly awarded.</u></p>	<p>Upon receipt of evidence that an institution has failed to comply, the Commission on Higher Education shall notify the institution in writing of the nature of such allegations and conduct an audit.</p>	<p>If an audit indicates that a violation(s) may have occurred or are occurring at any eligible independent or public institution, <u>the Commission on Higher Education shall secure immediate reimbursement</u> from the institution in the event that any funds were expended out of compliance with the provisions of the Act, any relevant statutes, guidelines, rules, and regulations.</p>
<p>Need-Based Grants 62-505. Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation.</p>			
<p>SC HOPE Scholarship 62-900.140. Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation</p>			
<p>LIFE Scholarship 62-1200.75. Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.</p>			
<p>Palmetto Fellows Scholarship 62-375. Suspension or Termination of Institutional Participation.</p>			



LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

62-1200.10. Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

- Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident;
- Be a South Carolina Resident
- Meet 2 out of 3 eligibility criteria
- Must not owe refund or repayment on any State or Federal financial aid and not be in default on a Federal student loan; and
- Must have never been convicted of any felonies and have not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol/drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year (excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance).

62-1200.10 Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Initial Eligibility Requirements for Students Attending Four-year Institutions:

First-time full-time entering freshmen attending an eligible SC institution must meet two of the following three criteria to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship:

1. Minimum **3.0** cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Scale;
2. Minimum **1100 SAT** or **22 ACT**; and
3. Rank in the **top 30%** of the graduating class (diploma eligible students only).

Initial Eligibility Requirements for Students Attending Two-year Institutions:

1. Minimum **3.0** cumulative GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (the standardized test score and class rank requirements are waived).



62-1200.20. Terms of Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

A. The maximum number of terms of eligibility is based on the student's initial college enrollment with the exception of the summer term immediately prior to the student's initial college enrollment and up to one academic year of full-time enrollment in remedial/developmental coursework.

62-1200.10 Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

I. Credit hours earned during the student's first two term(s) of remedial/developmental enrollment will not be used to determine remaining Scholarship eligibility at the completion of remediation unless the student has completed at least twelve credit hours of non-remedial/developmental coursework each term of enrollment. First-time entering freshmen attending an eligible two-year institution or technical college who enroll in fewer than twelve credit hours of non-remedial/developmental, including at least three hours of remedial/developmental courses during the first term(s) will not be eligible for Scholarship funds during this period. The student's initial college enrollment will begin after a maximum of two terms of remediation at an eligible two-year or technical college only. The student will be eligible for the Scholarship for the term following completion of remediation if the student was eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship upon high school graduation. If the student requires more than one academic year of remedial/developmental coursework, then he/she will not be eligible for the LIFE Scholarship the term after completion of remediation. If the student was not eligible for the Scholarship upon high school graduation, the student must meet the conditions set forth in Section J below in order to gain the LIFE Scholarship.

What does this mean?

1st time entering freshmen in less than 12 credit hours

- Delay their initial term of LIFE Scholarship eligibility

This same student can delay their initial term of LIFE Scholarship eligibility for their first two terms of enrollment only.

***** The remedial coursework must be taken at an eligible two-year institution in order for the student to qualify for this provision.**

62-1200.15 Continued Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

A. Students must meet the following criteria to renew eligibility for the LIFE Scholarship:

1. Continue to meet all eligibility requirements as stated in the “Student Eligibility” Section;

**End of 1st
Academic Year**

**Earn a 3.0 Cum
LIFE GPA**

**Earn average of at
least 30 credit hours**

**End of 2nd
Academic Year**

**Earn a 3.0 Cum
LIFE GPA**

**Earn average of at
least 60 credit hours**

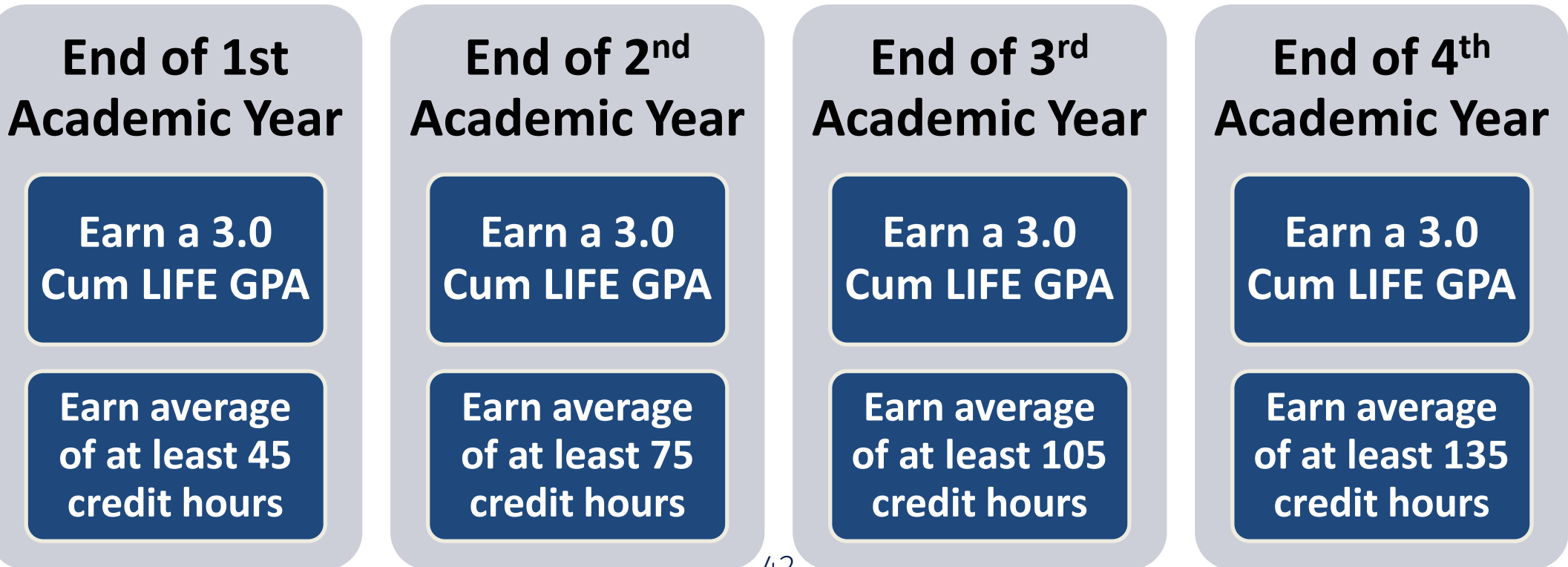
**End of 3rd
Academic Year**

**Earn a 3.0 Cum
LIFE GPA**

**Earn average of at
least 90 credit hours**

62-1200.15 Continued Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

C. Students who initially enroll in college **mid-year (spring term)** may be eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship the next academic year, if the student earns a minimum of **fifteen (15) credit hours and a 3.0 "LIFE GPA"** at the end of the academic year. For subsequent years, the student must meet the annual credit hour requirement and 3.0 LIFE GPA for renewal:





62-1200.15 Continued Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

Students who fail to meet the initial academic eligibility criteria to receive the LIFE Scholarship upon high school graduation, and who initially enroll in college mid-year (spring term) may be eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship beginning in their second Fall term of college attendance at an eligible institution, if the student earns a minimum of forty-five (45) credit hours and a 3.0 “LIFE GPA” by the end of the prior academic year. The student may be eligible to receive the maximum number of terms of eligibility based on initial college enrollment.

62-1200.5 Definitions

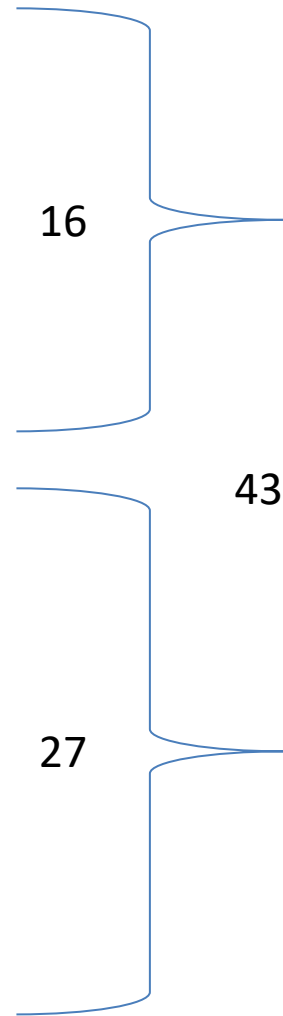
B. A student who has earned a GED diploma or SC High School Diploma through Adult Education without a cumulative GPA may be eligible to earn the LIFE Scholarship **at the end of the first academic year of a non-GED program**. The student must meet the annual credit hour requirement (or equivalent) and a 3.0 “LIFE GPA” at the end of the first academic year. To qualify for subsequent years, the student must meet all eligibility requirements as stated in 62-1200.15., Continued Eligibility section of the LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

What does this mean?

A GED student must wait an academic year before they can be awarded the LIFE Scholarship.

How to Calculate LIFE GPA

•	AP			Credits: 7	
•	Dual Enrollment				
	English 101	C	QP: 6	Credits: 3	}
	English 102	C	QP: 6	Credits: 3	
•	Transfer				}
	Math	C	QP: 6	Credits: 3	
•	Fall 2016				}
	Biology 101	B	QP: 9	Credits: 4	
	History	B	QP: 9	Credits: 3	
	Psych 101	A	QP: 12	Credits: 3	
	Seminar	A	QP: 12	Credits: 3	}
•	Spring 2017				
	Biology 102	A	QP: 12	Credits: 4	
	Soc 101	A	QP: 12	Credits: 3	
	Art History	B	QP: 9	Credits: 3	}
	Chemistry	B	QP: 9	Credits: 4	



84 Institutional QP

- Total Quality Points :
102
- GPA Hours: 36
- Earned Hours: 43

- Institutional GPA: 3.11
- **LIFE GPA: 2.83**

Proviso - Dual Enrollment

- LIFE GPA Calculation

- UPDATE THIS SLIDE



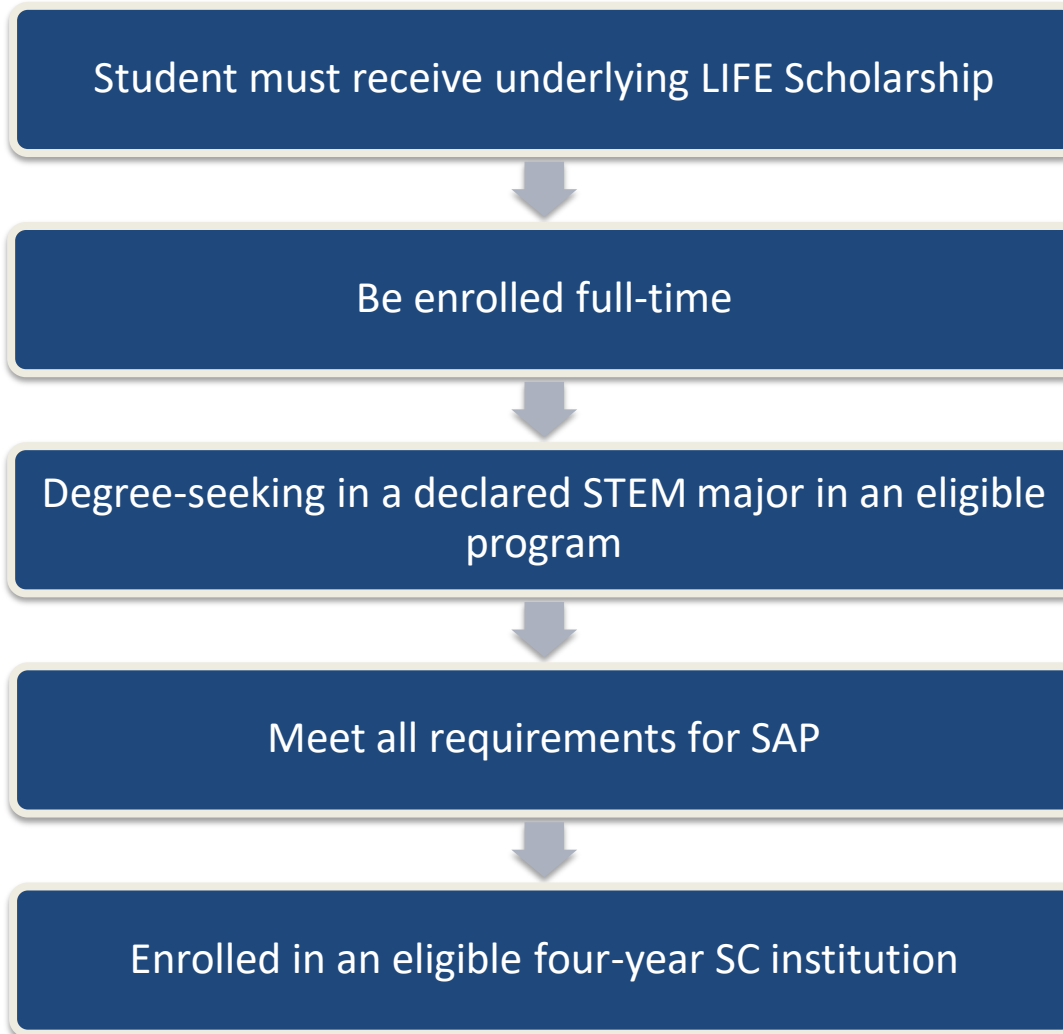
62-1200.35. Students with Disabilities: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

C. For renewal, students who qualify under ADA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 must meet all requirements as stated in the “Continued Eligibility” Section, except that if a student does not meet the annual credit hour requirement, the student must have been approved by the institutional Disability Services Provider in the prior academic year to be enrolled in less than “full-time” status or less than the required thirty credit hours. Each academic year, students must complete the required number of credit hours approved by the institutional Disability Services Provider for LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement renewal and earn a 3.0 “LIFE GPA.” ...

62-1200.10 Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

- O. To be eligible for a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement each academic year, the student must:
- Meet all of the eligibility requirements at the end of each academic year to receive a LIFE Scholarship as stipulated by state law and regulation and be a recipient of LIFE Scholarship funds at the time of LIFE Scholarship Enhancement disbursement. **The student must receive the underlying LIFE Scholarship;**
 - **Be enrolled as a full-time, degree-seeking student in a declared major of science or mathematics in an eligible program that is approved** and assigned a CIP code by the Commission on Higher Education at the time of disbursement of LIFE Scholarship Enhancement funds. The student must meet all requirements for satisfactory academic progress towards completion of the declared major as established by the policies of both the institution and the academic department in which the student is enrolled; A link to the CHE approved coursework and majors can be found at: <https://che.sc.gov/life-and-palmetto-fellows-math-and-science-scholarship-enhancements>
 - Be enrolled at an eligible **four-year public or independent institution** located in South Carolina;

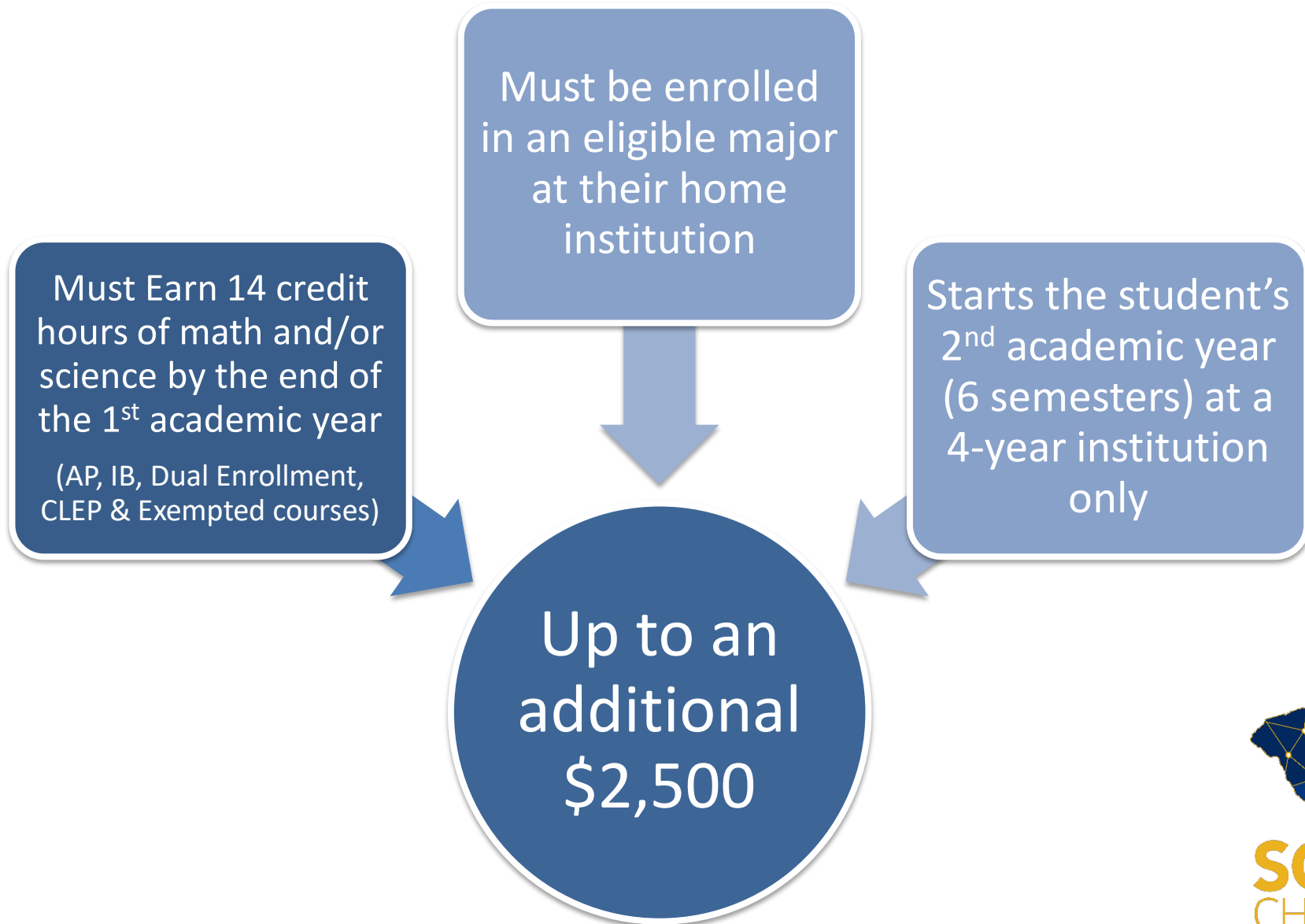
What does this mean?



62-1200.10 Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

O (5). Beginning with the Fall 2007 freshman class and thereafter, all students must have successfully completed a total of **at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in mathematics and LIFE and physical science courses**, in any combination, by the end of the student's first year of enrollment in college (based on initial date of college enrollment). For purposes of meeting the required minimum level of instruction in mathematics and LIFE and physical science courses during a student's first year, Exempted Credit Hours placed on the student's official college transcript by the institution at which they were earned, College Level Examination Program (CLEP), Dual Enrollment, Pass/Fail courses with a grade of "Pass" (only), Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory courses with a grade of "Satisfactory" (only), International Baccalaureate (IB) courses and Advanced Placement (AP) courses in mathematics and LIFE and physical sciences taken in high school in which the student scored a three or more on the advanced placement test and received college credit may count toward the fulfillment of this minimum requirement.

What does this mean?




62-1200.10 Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

P. The LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement are to be annual awards. Half of the Scholarship and Enhancement funds are to be disbursed in the fall and half are to be disbursed in the spring. In the cases where students who initially enroll in college mid-year (i.e., spring term) as a freshman and meet the requirements under Sections 62-1200.10 (O) and 62-1200.15 (C), such student shall be awarded the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement one academic year after initial college enrollment (i.e., spring term). Students who change their major from an ineligible degree program to an eligible degree program during the same academic year shall not receive the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement until the beginning of the next academic year (i.e., fall term). Students who change their major from an eligible degree program to an ineligible degree program during the same academic year may continue to receive the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement during the current academic year; however, the student cannot be awarded the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement the next academic year of enrollment in an ineligible degree program.

62-1200.65 Institutional Disbursements: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

E. After the last day to register for each term of the academic year, the institution will verify enrollment of each recipient as a South Carolina resident who is a full-time, degree-seeking student. The institution must submit a request for LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement funds and/or return of funds by the established deadline each term. In addition, a listing of all eligible recipients by identification numbers with award amounts for the term must be sent to the Commission on Higher Education. At this time any unused funds must be returned to the Commission on Higher Education immediately.



SC HOPE Scholarship

62-900.95. Student Eligibility

3.0 SC UGP
upon HS
graduation

SC Resident

U.S. Citizen or
Lawful
permanent
resident

Not receiving
LTAP, LIFE, or
Palmetto
Fellows

Certify no
felonies, &
drug/alcohol
misdemeanors

Awarding Process

- Full-time students attending an eligible four-year institution may receive **up to \$2,800 (including a \$300 book allowance) toward the cost-of-attendance** during the first year only. Half will be awarded in the fall semester and half in the spring semester.
- Students are eligible to receive the SC SC HOPE Scholarship for **up to two terms based on initial college enrollment.**
- Students who receive the SCSC HOPE Scholarship and earn a **3.0 LIFE GPA and 30 credit hours** by the end of the first year may receive the LIFE Scholarship for the second year of college.



62-900.100. Duration of Award

- A. Students are eligible to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship for no more than two terms (or its equivalent) during the freshman year of attendance only.
- B. The maximum number of terms of eligibility is based on the student's initial college enrollment with the exception of credit hours earned during the summer session immediately prior to the student's initial college enrollment.
- C. If a student enrolls mid-year (spring term) and receives the SC HOPE Scholarship during that term, then qualifies to receive the LIFE Scholarship at the end of the summer term, the student will not be eligible to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship for the next term. If the student does not meet the requirements to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship, then the student may receive the SC HOPE Scholarship the next term of eligibility.



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 (11.15, 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/student services/Year-RoundPolicyGuideline_Website.pdf

FY16 Appropriations Act (Budget) Part 1B Proviso

11.13. (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 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 <i>the end of Spring</i>



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

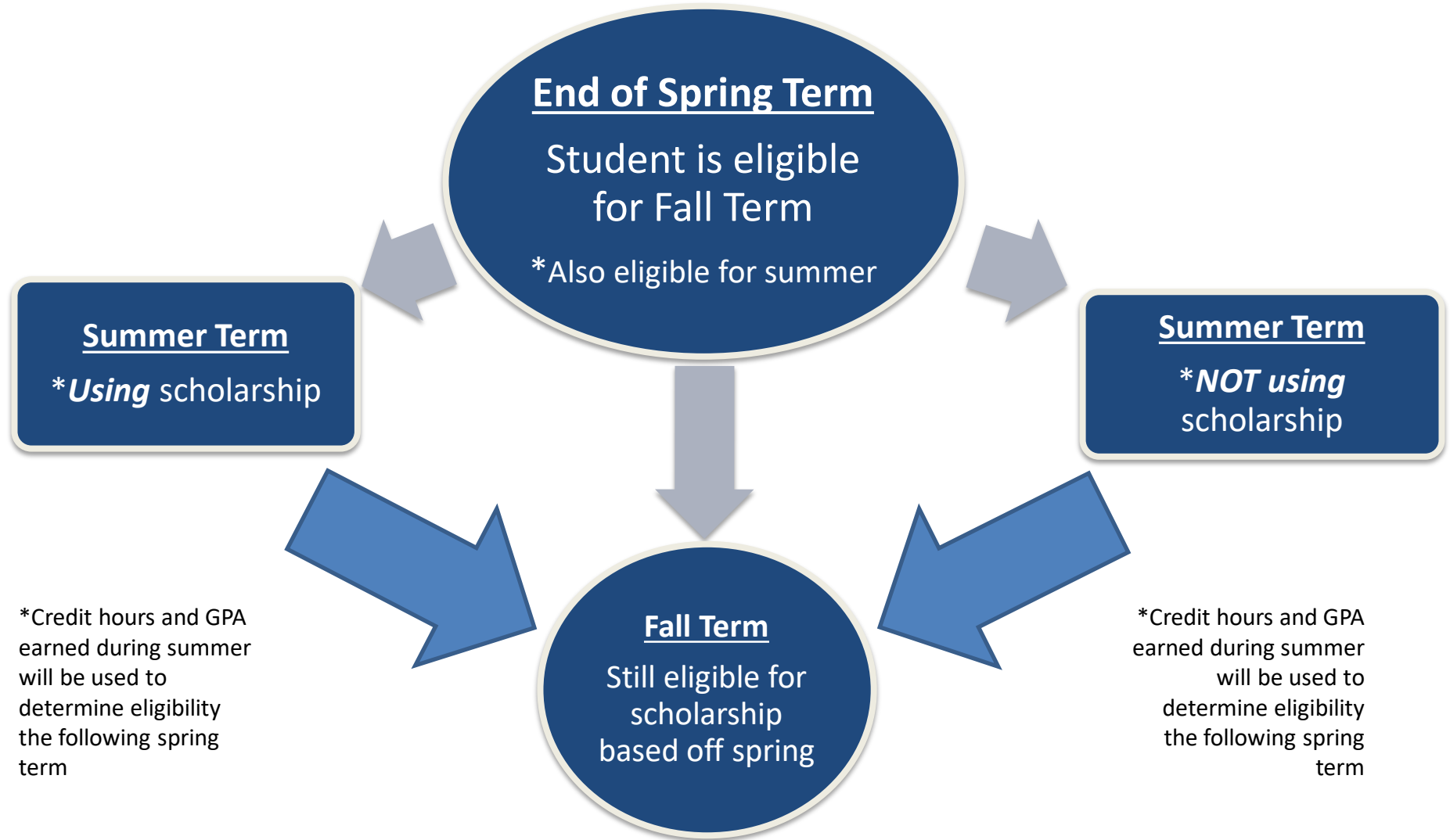
This is consistent with existing end of spring term eligibility review practices.



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

Eligible Students: Year-round scholarship visual



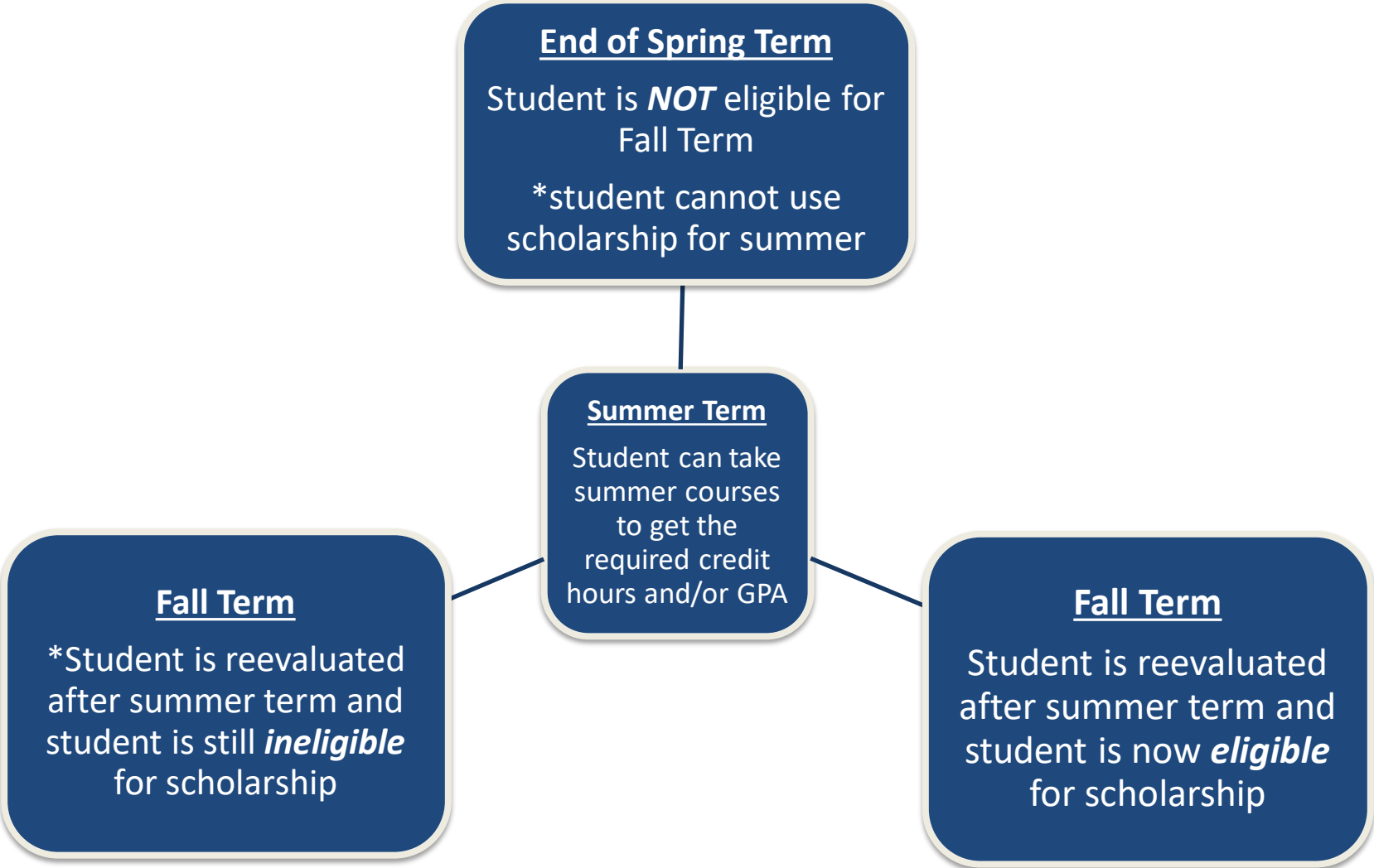
Ineligible Students

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.

Ineligible Students: Year-round scholarship visual





TRANSCRIPTS

Transcript Requirements:

Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

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 3 days prior to the date of the high school graduation and no later than June 15th

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

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 (electronic or otherwise) that demonstrates the following items:

- [A valid signature](#) (electronic or otherwise) from the Principal.* In the event that the Principal is not available, the Superintendent signature is acceptable.
 - ***For Independent/Private and home school students: The administrator, registrar, or an official from the home school/accountability group. Should provide letter stating designated school rep.*
- [SC UGP GPA](#) must be demonstrated
- [Date calculated date](#) must be date calculated between 3 days prior to the date of the high school graduation and no later than June 15th
 - For the LIFE Scholarship and the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Late Award the transcript MUST demonstrate that it is the final official transcript, as well as reflect a graduation date
- [Rank](#)
 - If an independent high school or home school association has an approved policy on rank, a rank must be demonstrated on the official transcript (even if the student is not using rank for scholarship eligibility).
 - A rank report must also be submitted with a date calculated matching the transcripts even if the student is not using rank. (LIFE 62-1200.10.C)

Transcript Requirements:

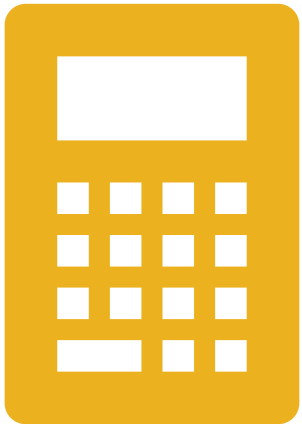
Scholarship Eligibility Purposes

Out-of-State High Schools & Scholarship Eligibility

For Scholarship purposes, out-of-state schools must comply with SC UGP GPA and ranking (*if applicable*).

- If the institution is not converting the grades, the out-of-state high school must submit a 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
- 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; *and*
 - If using rank, the entire academic class must be converted to the SC UGP and a 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.
- If the high school or home school association does not rank 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).

Rank & State Scholarship Eligibility



- For the purposes of the LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship (PFS) programs two students may not occupy the same rank.
 - LIFE Scholarship: Top 30% of the graduating class (NOT rounded up to the next whole number)
 - PFS: Top 6% (rounded up to the next whole number)
- In the event of a tie, the high school/home school association is responsible for determining the legitimate rank for each eligible applicant.
 - For the purposes of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship the student's GPA may need to be truncated past two decimal points in order to determine the true rank for each student.
 - *Inquire about your School District or Board's approved policy*
- Commission staff will NOT be able to participate in a process to determine a student's true rank.

Rank Policies

- In order for a student to use rank from any in-state, out-of-state, public, private, virtual, or charter high school or home school association the process in which rank is determined must be the same for each student.
- A rank policy* is considered the following:
 - Based on the SC UGP;
 - Ranks ALL academic classes at the END of each academic year (9th, 10th, 11th, 12th);
 - Includes the entire class. If the entire class is not included when calculating class rank, then rank CANNOT to be considered;
 - Rank and SC UGP must be demonstrated on the official transcript submitted to CHE or eligible SC institution

**Please Note: In accordance with 62-1200.10 C (3): Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement and 62-320 C (4): Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Application, "High schools or home school associations shall not use ranking for the sole purpose of obtaining eligibility for the state scholarships."*

Rank Policies

- The rank policy and rank policy information needs to be consistent in all places rank information is provided
 - School profile
 - Student/parent handbook
 - School website
- Made available to:
 - Students/parents
 - SC Commission on Higher Education staff
 - SC colleges and universities that award State scholarships

Please Note: A Rank Report is required to be submitted to Commission staff and/or eligible SC institution by any independent/private high school or homeschool association should a student be using rank as an eligibility criteria for any of the State scholarship programs. (In compliance with Regulation 62-1200.10)

Rank Reports

If the school/home school association officially ranks as a policy, a rank report must also be submitted to verify class rank on transcript.

Rank reports must include:

- All diploma-seeking students in the class;
- List their GPAs;
- List their class rank;
- Show “Date Calculated”
 - No later than June 15th
- **Information on rank report MUST match information on Transcript.**



NEW

Rank Reports

Per the memo sent to institutions and high schools on June 15, 2023, beginning with the Class of 2024, all ranking schools MUST submit their final 12th grade ranking report to CHE no later than June 30 of each academic year.

Ranking schools no longer need to send ranking reports to SC Colleges and Universities.



Early Graduate vs. Graduating Early

Early Graduate

(Senior graduating mid-year > not during the Spring Cohort)

LIFE Scholarship

- For scholarship eligibility the student **CANNOT** use rank as an eligibility criterion.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

- Student can qualify with class rank from the end of the 10th or 11th grade year.
- **Palmetto Fellows: can only apply during the Early Award Period PRIOR to completing their high school graduation requirements.**

Graduating Early

(Student graduates academic year(s) early > graduates with Spring Cohort)

SC HOPE / LIFE Scholarship

- Eligibility is based on the end of the academic year with the student's "new" graduating class

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

- Early Award Application Period can use the end of 10th or 11th grade rank, must use end of 11th grade GPA
- Late Award Application Period can use the end of 10th or 12th grade rank, must use end of 12th grade GPA

Questions?



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