



South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education
Access | Affordability | Excellence

SC Need-based Grant

New Financial Aid Counselor Workshop

Regulations

South Carolina
Commission on Higher Education

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Regulations

Detailed Scholarship and Grant Information

✓ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

∨ LIFE Scholarship

∨ South Carolina HOPE Scholarship (Freshmen)

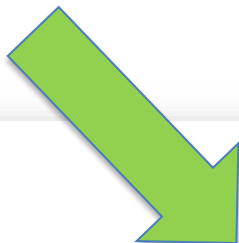
∨ South Carolina Need-based Grant

∨ Lottery Tuition Assistance

<https://www.che.sc.gov/index.php/students-families-and-military/scholarships-and-grants-sc-residents>



Regulations



The screenshot shows the top portion of the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education website. On the left is the logo featuring a blue map of South Carolina with a network of white lines and dots, next to the text "South Carolina Commission on Higher Education". On the right is a search bar with the text "Search CHE Site" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the logo and search bar is a dark blue navigation bar with four white text links: "For Students, Families and Military", "For Institutions and Educators", "Analytics, Data and Reports", and "About the CHE". Below the navigation bar is a light gray breadcrumb trail that reads "Home » For Institutions and Educators". The main heading "For Institutions and Educators" is displayed in a large, dark blue font.

<https://www.che.sc.gov/institutions-and-educators>



Scholarship Regulations

- [Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [LIFE Scholarship Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [SC HOPE Scholarship Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [SC Need-based Grant Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [Lottery Tuition Assistance Program Regulations \(PDF\)](#)
- [Free Tuition for Residents Over 60 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Eligibility at Two-Year Institutions and Technical Colleges for Fall 2021 Term \(PDF\)](#)

Scholarship Administration

- [Policies and Instructions for Applications for Academic Program and Course Eligibility for Scholarship Enhancement \(PDF\)](#)
- [Policy for the Addition and Removal of Programs to the List of Programs Eligible for Scholarship Enhancements \(PDF\)](#)
- [LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Math and Science Scholarship Enhancements](#)
- [Palmetto Fellows Application Timeline \(PDF\)](#)
- [Notification to Institutions \(Regarding Provisos 117.159 and 117.183\)](#)
- [Final Ranking Reports 2023](#)

Related Trainings



Information that pertains 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 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.



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	• 62-500. (F) Program Administration and Audits.
SC HOPE Scholarship	• 62-900.135. (D) Program Administration and Audits
LIFE Scholarship	• 62-1200.70. (D) Program Administration and Audits: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	• 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	• 62-900.195. (C) Program Administration and Audits.
Need-based Grants	• 62-500. (D) Program Administration and Audits
SC HOPE Scholarship	• 62-900.135. (C) Program Administration and Audits
LIFE Scholarship	• 62-1200.70. (C) Program Administration and Audits: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.
Palmetto Fellows Scholarship	• 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.

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.
- 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;

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>			

SC Need-based Grant



62-465 Student Eligibility

A. To be eligible for a Need-based Grant each academic year, the student must:

Complete the FAFSA application and be considered 'Needy' by Title IV reg.

Be a U.S. Citizen or legal permanent resident

Be a SC Resident

Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a part-time or full-time degree-seeking student in an eligible program of study at an eligible public institution

Must reapply for the Need-based Grant each academic year and meet all eligibility requirements annually.

62-475 Duration of Award and Continued Eligibility

E. For continued eligibility, the student is required to:

- 1. For graduation purposes, earn at least 24 credit hours each regular academic year if awarded a Need-based Grant as a full-time student or earn at least twelve credit hours if awarded a Need-based Grant as a part-time student. If a student is awarded a Need-based Grant for one semester of the academic year as a part-time student and the other semester as a full-time student, the student must earn at least eighteen credit hours each regular academic year. If a full-time student is awarded a Need-based Grant for only one semester of the academic year, the student must earn at least twelve credit hours by the end of the academic year. A part-time student who is awarded a Need-based Grant for only one semester must earn at least six credit hours by the end of the academic year. Credits earned during any additional semesters (i.e., interim, winterim or other non-regular semester) cannot be used to replace or reduce the minimum credit hour requirement for the regular academic year; and

What does this mean?

Annual Credit hour requirement for Full time
24 credits

• 2.0 GPA

Annual Credit hour requirement for Part time
12 credits

• 2.0 GPA

Annual Credit hour requirement for Full time one term/part time another term
18 credits

• 2.0 GPA

Credits earned during any additional semesters (i.e., interim, winterim or other non-regular semester) cannot be used to replace or reduce the minimum credit hour requirement for the regular academic year

62-470 Policies and Procedures for Awarding Need-based Grants

I. Annual allocations of funds to the public institutions will be based on each institution's percentage of the State's total enrollment of South Carolina resident undergraduate full-time degree-seeking headcount enrollment. The percentage will be based on the previous year's total as determined by the Commission on Higher Education. Unused funds, which cannot be awarded by an institution, must be returned to the Commission on Higher Education, which may redirect the funds to institutions where unmet need exists.

62-470 Policies and Procedures for Awarding Need-based Grants

B. The participating institution will make awards in amounts to be defined in accordance with the Need-based Grants Program regulation and criteria, but not to exceed \$1,750 per eligible part-time student and \$3,500 per eligible full-time student per academic year, based on the institution's allocated funds for Need-based Grants and other financial aid awarded to individual applicants. However, the Commission, due to inflation increases or other relevant factors, may periodically adjust the maximum award for the Need-based Grants Program. An eligible student may receive a Need-based Grant for up to three terms of the academic year, not to exceed 100 percent of the annual award amount, assuming continued eligibility. No more than fifty percent of the annual award amount shall be disbursed in any given term.



62-470 Policies and Procedures for Awarding Need-based Grants

E. In determining the amount awarded for the Need-based Grant, all other sources of gift aid, including Federal, State, private and institutional funds, must be applied to the total cost-of-attendance before calculating the unmet need and awarding the grant. The Need-based Grant shall be awarded only after all other sources of gift aid have been exhausted. Adjustments to the financial aid package will be made to the Need-based Grant in accordance with prescribed Title IV Regulations in order to prevent an over-award.



62-490 Institutional Disbursement of Need-based Grants

A. The participating institution will identify award amounts, which cannot exceed \$1,750 per eligible part-time student and \$3,500 per eligible full-time student per academic year. A maximum of fifty percent of the annual award amount may be disbursed in a given term of the academic year, not to exceed 100 percent over the course of three terms of the academic year. Students who meet satisfactory academic progress (see 62-475. D.) may not receive Need-based Grant funding totaling more than \$14,000 if the students are seeking their first baccalaureate degree or a program of study that is structured so as not to require a baccalaureate degree and leads to a graduate degree, \$7,000 if the students are seeking their first associate's degree, or \$3,500 if the students are seeking their first one-year certificate or diploma. Students who have obtained an associate's degree initially are eligible to apply for a Need-based Grant upon enrollment in their first baccalaureate degree or a program of study that is structured so as not to require a baccalaureate degree. Students who have obtained a recognized educational credential in a one-year program initially are eligible for application for a Need-based Grant upon enrollment in their first associate's degree, first baccalaureate degree, or a program of study that is structured so as not to require a baccalaureate degree and leads to a graduate degree.

What does this mean?

**First one-year
certificate or
diploma**

- **\$3,500**

**First
Associates**

- **\$7,000**

**First
Bachelors**

- **Max \$14,000**
- **Max 8 terms**

SC Need-based Grant: Foster Care Youth

Proviso 11.8

- 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

Eligible SC higher education institution = the IHL receives SC NBG funds from CHE or through the SC Tuition Grants Commission.

NBG Awarding Process Section 62-470 (F): Institutions must give first priority and award the maximum allowable NBG plus the additional Foster-Care grant up to \$2,000 toward unmet need (\$1,000 per term if full-time, \$500 per term if part-time) to Foster Care youth who are in the custody of DSS or participating in aftercare programming through DSS.

Before you can award, you need:

- A “SC Need-based Grant Waiver Form For Foster Care Youth” completed by the student’s DSS representative

AND

- A letter from the DSS representative indicating that the student is in custody of DSS or participating in Independent Living Services

** Students are only required to provide this documentation once per institution; copies must ALSO be sent to CHE.**

Eligibility Requirements for Foster Care Youth

If the student meets the eligibility requirements of the S.C. Need-based grant and submits proper documentation, you are free to award a full Need-based grant of \$3,500 (if full-time, \$1,750 if part-time) plus the additional Foster Care Youth grant up to \$2,000 toward unmet need (\$1,000 per term if full-time, \$500 per term if part-time).

Once you have awarded the student(s), please send CHE an invoice for the additional Foster Care Youth funds.

Send Foster Care Youth Invoices to kharris@che.sc.gov



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

6 Institutions in South Carolina

- Clemson University
- Coastal Carolina University
- College of Charleston
- University of South Carolina – Aiken
- University of South Carolina – Columbia
- Winthrop University

College Transition Program **Grant**:

- FAFSA is required.
- Funding is up to \$10,000 per year for up to 8 terms.

College Transition Program **Scholarship**:

- FAFSA is not required.
- Funding is up to \$10,000 per year for up to 8 terms.

62-495 Refunds and Repayment

A.

In the event a student who has been awarded a Need-based Grant **withdraws**, is suspended from the institution, or drops below part-time (six credit hours) or full-time (twelve credit hours) status during any regular semester of the academic year, institutions **must reimburse** the Need-based Grants Program for the amount of the grant for the semester in question pursuant to refund policies of the institution. Collection is the responsibility of the institution.

C.

In the event a **student withdraws or drops below part-time or full-time status after** the institution's refund period and therefore must pay tuition and fees for part-time or full-time enrollment, **the award may be retained by the student pursuant to the refund policies of the institution.**

62-495 Refunds and Repayment

B. The institution may redistribute such funds to other eligible students in accordance with the guidelines, or if such funds cannot be redistributed within the academic year, the institution shall return the refund amount to the Commission on Higher Education for redistribution to other institutions.

Questions?



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