

State Scholarships: South Carolina Residents

The state awards several different types of lottery –funded scholarships to eligible South Carolina residents. Any one of the awards listed below can be added to any university-issued scholarship.

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

Annual value: up to \$6,700 for the first year

Four-year value: up to \$29,200

You are eligible to apply for this state-awarded scholarship, worth up to \$6,700 for the first year and up to \$7,500 for the next three years, if you are a South Carolina high school student with exemplary academic credentials. Palmetto Fellows recipients are not eligible for LIFE or S.C. HOPE scholarships.

There are specific criteria to meet in order for a student to retain eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship:

- Be continuously enrolled full-time at a four-year eligible institution at the time of scholarship disbursement
- Earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA at your home institution for graduation purposes by the end of each academic year (**beginning with fall, including spring and ending with the immediately succeeding summer**)
- Earn at least 30 non-remedial credit hours for graduation purposes by the end of each academic year (**beginning with fall, including spring and ending with immediately succeeding summer**). Exempted credit hours (i.e., AP, IB, CLEP), credit hours earned before high school graduation (i.e., dual enrollment courses) and credit hours earned the summer term immediately following high school graduation cannot be used to meet the annual credit hour requirement for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- Maintain South Carolina residency as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes
- Cannot be in default or owe a refund/repayment on any state or financial aid by submitting a signed affidavit to your college financial aid office
- Certify that you have never been convicted of any felonies and have not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year by submitting a signed affidavit to your college financial aid office
- Complete any other documentation required by your college financial aid office.

LIFE Scholarship

Annual Value: up to \$5,000
Four year value: up to \$20,000

The Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence Scholarship is a state-awarded scholarship valued at \$5,000 per year. If you meet two of the following three requirements, you are eligible for this scholarship: 1) your final, cumulative grade point average is at least a “B” (3.00); 2) your SAT score is at least 1100 on critical reading and math sections combined (ACT composite score of at least 24); or 3) you graduate in the top 30 percent of your class.

To Regain or Earn the LIFE Scholarship or LIFE Scholarship Enhancement: After completion of the first academic year of college or to earn the scholarship while in college, students must:

- Meet all general eligibility criteria
- Earn an average of 30 credit hours by the end of each academic year (fall, spring, summer) equaling a minimum of 30 credit hours consistent with the policies and procedures of the institution if a rising second year student, 60 credit hours if a rising third year student consistent with the policies and procedures of the institution, or 90 credit hours consistent with the policies and procedures of the institution if a rising fourth year student
- Earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE grade point average (GPA) based on grades earned at ALL institutions attended excluding remedial, continuing education, and non-degree credit courses by the end of each academic year (fall, spring, summer). Please note that the new LIFE GPA does include any college grades earned while in high school.
- To receive the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement, the student must be a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship in his/her second, third, or fourth year of enrollment at an eligible four-year institution in SC. In addition, the student must have a declared major in a math or science field and have successfully completed a total of at least fourteen credit hours of instruction in mathematics and life and physical science courses (including AP, IB and dual enrollment courses taken during high school) by the end of the student’s first year of enrollment in college (based on initial date of college enrollment)

South Carolina HOPE Scholarship

Annual value: \$2,800

The S.C. HOPE Scholarship is state-awarded and valued at \$2,800 for the freshman year only. If your final, cumulative GPA is at least a “B” (3.00) and you do not qualify for a Palmetto Fellows or LIFE scholarship, you are eligible to receive this scholarship.

Duration of HOPE Scholarship:

- Students are eligible to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship for no more than 2 terms (or its equivalent) during the freshman year of attendance only.
- 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.
- 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.