### DO I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT THIS NOW?

This is the best time, as you prepare for high school. Start making good choices now and you will be able to make the best use of all four years of high school.

### WHAT IF MY GRADES AREN'T GOOD?

No matter what your school grades have been so far, high school gives you a brand new opportunity to be a better student and enjoy greater success in life!

### WHAT COURSES SHOULD I TAKE?

Being prepared for college means taking a recommended path of courses in the areas of English, math, science, social studies, foreign language, and electives. These courses are to be college preparatory, to help students prepare for college and a freshman level curriculum.



COURSES

High School
High School
Pre-Requisites for
Graduation
SC Public 4-Year
Requirements
Institutions

|                               | Requirements    | Institutions               |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| English / Language Arts       | 4               | 4                          |
| Mathematics                   | 4               | 4 <sup>A</sup>             |
| Science                       | 3               | 3 <sup>B</sup>             |
| Foreign Language              | 1 <sup>c</sup>  | 2 <sup>D</sup>             |
| U.S. History and Constitution | 1               | 1                          |
| Economics                     | .5              | (See Other Social Studies) |
| U.S. Government               | .5              | (See Other Social Studies) |
| Other Social Studies          | 1               | 2 <sup>E</sup>             |
| Physical Education or ROTC    | 1               | 1                          |
| <b>Computer Science</b>       | 1               |                            |
| Fine Arts                     |                 | 1 F                        |
| Electives                     | 7               | 2                          |
| <b>Total Credits</b>          | 24 <sup>c</sup> | 20                         |

Current as of May 2015.

Please consult with your school counselor or college admissions officer for updates and questions.

Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and either Algebra III / Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, or Discrete Mathematics

Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Earth Sciences for entering College Freshman beginning academic year

cFor a student in a College Prep program to meet the state high school diploma requirements, one unit must be earned in a foreign language.

pMust be the same foreign language.

Elt is strongly suggested that one of the Social Studies units consist of .5 Economics and .5 Government.

**F**One unit in Fine Arts should be in appreciation, history, or performance.

GThe student must demonstrate computer literacy before graduation.



College Goal South Carolina is an event sponsored by the

South Carolina
Commission on Higher
Education. This day-long
event helps students and
families complete the
application for financial
aid for education beyond
high school. At this event,

students and families will receive assistance in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and will learn about financial aid opportunities. College Goal South Carolina will be held throughout the state. Please contact your school counselor or the Commission on Higher Education for more information. For additional information about going to college, visit www.sccango.org

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South Carolina Commission on Higher Education 1122 Lady Street, Suite 300 Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 737-2260 Information and Eligibility Requirements for SC LIFE Scholarship and SC HOPE Scholarship











The South Carolina HOPE Scholarship Program was established in 2001 and was implemented during the 2002-03 academic year. It is a merit-based award designed for

first-time entering freshmen attending four-year institutions who do not meet the qualifications for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or the LIFE Scholarship. Since its inception, the SC HOPE Scholarship Program has served as an entry scholarship that has allowed students to attend a four-year institution in this state and receive funding for a year, before moving on to the LIFE Scholarship. Eligible full-time students entering eligible four-year institutions in South Carolina may receive the following award:

Up to \$2,800 (including book allowance) for the first academic year toward the cost of attendance at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina.

At the end of the SC HOPE recipient's first year at an eligible institution, if he/she has earned at least a 3.0 LIFE GPA and earned a minimum of 30 credit hours, the student will be eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship for the second year of attendance.

# **Initial Eligibility Criteria:**

Students must meet the following criteria to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship:

- Graduate from high school with at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy.
- Not be a recipient of the LIFE, Palmetto Fellows, or Lottery Tuition Assistance.

### **Continued Eligibility Criteria:**

To receive the LIFE Scholarship in their second year of attendance, SC HOPE recipients must:

- Earn at least a 3.0 LIFE GPA.
- Earn at least 30 credit hours by the end of their first academic year.

### Students must also:

- Be SC residents at the time of high school graduation and college enrollment; and
- Enroll as a full-time degree seeking student at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina.



The South Carolina General Assembly established the Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Program in 1998 to increase access to higher education, improve employability of South Carolina's

students, provide incentives for students to be better prepared for college, and encourage students to graduate from college on time. Eligible full-time students may receive the following awards:

Up to \$5,000 (including book allowance) each academic year toward the cost of attendance at an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina.

Up to the cost of tuition including a \$300 book allowance each academic year at an eligible two-year public or technical institution in South Carolina. At the approved two-year independent institution\* in South Carolina or a two-year USC regional campus, students may receive up to the maximum average of the tuition cost.

\*As of Fall 2012, Spartanburg Methodist College is the only approved two-year independent institution in SC

### **Initial Eligibility at four-year institutions:**

Be SC residents at the time of high school graduation and college enrollment.

Students must meet two of the following three criteria:

- Graduate from high school with at least a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy.
- Rank in the top 30 percent of the graduating class based on the Uniform Grading Policy.
- Score at least 1100 on the SAT (or 22 on the ACT) by June of the senior year. Only the math and evidence-based reading & writing scores of the SAT may be included.

### **Initial Eligibility at two-year institutions:**

- Graduate from high school with at least a cumulative 3.0
   GPA based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy.
- Students must also:
  - Be SC residents at the time of high school graduation and college enrollment; and
  - Not be recipients of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship, or Lottery Tuition Assistance.

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

www.che.sc.gov

Note: There is no application required for the SC HOPE or LIFE Scholarship. The eligible institution will notify students if they qualify.

# **LIFE Scholarship Enhancements**

During the 2007 legislative session, the General Assembly created the LIFE Scholarship Enhancements. The Scholarship Enhancement increases the LIFE Scholarship award from \$5,000 up to a maximum of \$7,500. The Enhancement is available to students majoring in the mathematics, science, and health fields at eligible South Carolina four-year institutions. Students who meet the eligibility requirements for both the LIFE Scholarship and the Enhancement, will receive an annual award of up to \$7,500 to cover their cost of attendance at any eligible four-year public or independent institution located in the state. Eligible students can be awarded a LIFE Scholarship Enhancement to meet their cost of attendance for up to six consecutive terms starting the second year of college enrollment.

## To be eligible for the Scholarship Enhancement you must:

- 1) Be a recipient of the LIFE Scholarship;
- 2) Earn at least 14 credit hours of instruction in approved mathematics or life and physical sciences or a combination of both by the end of the first academic year of college enrollment; and
- 3) Declare an approved major in science, mathematics, or health related field at the institution. For eligible majors, courses and institutions, visit the Commission's website at www.che.sc.gov.

# WHAT YOU EARN WILL DEPEND ON WHAT YOU LEARN.

The next two-four years are the best chance you will have to determine your future. Starting today is the best time to plan your high school years—and your whole life.

That's right, dreams of a great job, financial security and a great life can come true if you make the most of your education. Tomorrow's best jobs require people with good skills in English, math, science, and technology. The jobs that usually require these skills often pay the highest salaries.

Taking rigorous courses within the career cluster you choose and having a positive attitude toward your work will best prepare you for college, the military or other post-high school endeavors. Deciding to excel early will have a huge impact on your future earnings.

Who wouldn't like to have a job that's interesting, enjoyable and pays well? What **YOU** earn will depend on what **YOU** learn.