The Lottery and Educational Opportunities for South Carolinians

Programs & Information

South Carolina Education Lottery®

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Where to go for information on Lottery-Funded Scholarships and Grants.

Many students depend on some form of financial aid to attend college and further their education. Lottery-funded scholarships and grants are an excellent source of financial aid for South Carolina residents who attend an in-state college or university. However, many students do not know where to turn for information on how to apply for lottery-funded scholarships and grants.

The financial aid opportunities supported with lottery proceeds include the Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and S.C. HOPE Scholarships, as well as S.C. Need-based Grants and Tuition Grants, Lottery Tuition Assistance and the S.C. National Guard College Assistance Program. The South Carolina Education Lottery (SCEL) neither administers nor awards lottery-funded scholarships and grants.

Students and parents interested in lottery-funded scholarships and grants, as well as other forms of financial aid, should contact the Commission on Higher Education (CHE). For more information on eligibility and application requirements, you can visit their website at www.che.sc.gov or call their general number at (803) 737-2260.

Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA) is a unique program for full- or part-time students of any age attending one of the colleges within the South Carolina Technical College System, one of the two-year regional campuses of the University of South Carolina, or an independent two-year college in the State. For information on LTA, students should contact the financial aid office at the two-year institution they are planning to attend and visit www.sctechsystem.com/lta.html.

Undergraduate students interested in attending one of South Carolina's 21 independent non-profit institutions are eligible to apply for the Tuition Grant. While State Need-based Grants are available for students attending South Carolina's public colleges, Tuition Grants are for full-time students attending the state's independent colleges. For additional information, contact the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission at 803-896-1120 or visit their website at www.sctuitiongrants.com.

High school students interested in finding sources of financial aid are also encouraged to visit their high school guidance department. Students can meet with their guidance counselor before school, after school, or during lunch for face-to-face discussion concerning finding funds for college. Additionally, parents may access the guidance department for scholarship information or college applications and transcripts for their students.

The Lottery's mission is to raise proceeds to support educational programs for students in the Palmetto State. This booklet contains information on where the money goes and descriptions of the various forms of lottery-funded financial aid. For more information, please visit www.sceducationlottery.com and click on the "Education Wins" link.

PALMETTO FELLOWS

(Must not be a recipient of a LIFE or an S.C. HOPE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance)

Eligibility Requirements

High School Requirements

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) at the time of high school graduation and be a legal resident of South Carolina as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes at the time of high school graduation;
- Score at least 1200 on SAT (SAT Writing subsection not applicable) or 27 on ACT;
- Earn a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average (GPA) based on SC Uniform Grading Policy (SC UGP); and
- Rank in the top 6% of class in the sophomore, junior, or senior year for those schools that have a policy on rank and the rank policy that has been reviewed for compliance.

Alternate High School Requirements (Without Regard to Rank)

- Score at least 1400 on SAT (SAT Writing subsection not applicable) or 32 on ACT and earn a minimum 4.0 cumulative GPA based on SC UGP (rank requirement waived).

To Retain Eligibility

- Earn a minimum 3.0 institutional cumulative GPA each academic year (Fall, Spring and Summer);
- Earn at least of 30 credit hours each academic year (excluding an AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, CLEP or exempted credit hours;
- Enroll full-time as a degree-seeking student at time of scholarship disbursement; and
- Must enroll in a four-year eligible South Carolina college or university full-time immediately after high school graduation.
- Out-of-state high school and home schooled students should contact CHE for eligibility requirements.

Application Deadlines & Award Notification

Early Application Deadline

- Mid-December of senior year of high school-Confirm date with CHE

Award Date

- March of senior year of high school

Late Application Deadline

- Mid-June at end of senior year of high school-Confirm date with CHE

Award Date

- Summer following graduation

Application Required in Senior Year

- It is the responsibility of the high school/home school association to identify all eligible applicants and complete and submit an application on the behalf of the eligible student. Students who have been determined to be scholarship recipients must: 1) return the designation form to CHE by the established date or forfeit the scholarship; and 2) accept the scholarship with both CHE and the financial aid office of the institution they plan to attend.

Award Amount

4-year Degree (Eligible S.C. Public or Private Institution)

- Up to $6,700 in the freshman year not to exceed the cost of attendance; sophomores and above receive up to $7,500 per academic year not to exceed the cost of attendance.
- Sophomores and above who are also eligible for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement may receive up to $10,000 ($7,500 PFS and $2,500 Enhancement Funds) per academic year not to exceed the cost of attendance.

LIFE

(Must not be a recipient of an S.C. HOPE or a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance)

Eligibility Requirements

High School Requirements for a 4-year Institution

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) at the time of high school graduation **and** be a legal resident of South Carolina as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes at the time of high school graduation; and
- Earn two out of the following three:
  1) Score at least 1100 on SAT (SAT Writing subsection not applicable) or 24 on ACT; or
  2) Earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on SC UGP at end of senior year; or
  3) Rank in the top 30% of graduating class for those schools that have a policy on rank and the rank policy that has been reviewed for compliance.

High School Requirements for a 2-year Institution

- Earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on SC UGP at end of senior year (test score and rank requirements waived).

To Retain Eligibility Each Academic Year After Initial Date of College Enrollment

- Earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE GPA each academic year (Fall, Spring and Summer);
- Earn an average of 30 credit hours each academic year; and
- Enroll full-time as a degree-seeking student at time of scholarship disbursement.

Application Deadlines & Award Notification

- Application not required (institution requires official high school transcript)
- College or university notifies and awards eligible students

Award-Amount

4-year degree (Eligible S.C. Public or Private Institution)

- Up to $5,000 ($4,700 plus $300 book allowance) per academic year not to exceed the cost of attendance.
- Sophomores and above in approved math/science programs may receive up to $7,500 per academic year not to exceed the cost of attendance. See page 4 for information on the LIFE Scholarship Enhancements.

2-year College Associate Degree (Eligible S.C. Public or Private Institution)

- Up to the cost of tuition to include a $300 book allowance per academic year (total award shall not exceed $5,000)
- Students attending 2-year institutions or technical colleges are NOT eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

S.C. Technical College Degree

- Up to the cost of tuition to include a $300 book allowance per academic year (total award shall not exceed $5,000)
- Students attending 2-year institutions or technical colleges are NOT eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

Enhancements for LIFE & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Recipients in Eligible Math and Science Programs

As of Fall 2007, LIFE and Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipients may qualify for additional scholarship money. Increased funds are provided to students who have met the eligibility requirements for either the LIFE Scholarship or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and have declared a major in an eligible program in the areas of science, mathematics, computer science, engineering, science education, math education, healthcare, and related disciplines including nursing, pre-medicine, and pre-dentistry. To receive a Scholarship Enhancement, students must earn at least 14 credit hours of instruction in approved math and science courses by the end of the first year of enrollment. For specific information on the requirements for the Scholarship Enhancements, visit the Commission on Higher Education's website at www.che.sc.gov or call (803) 737-2260. Check the CHE website, www.che.sc.gov, for eligible majors at each institution.

S.C. HOPE

(Must not be a recipient of a LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance)

Eligibility Requirements

High school requirements (Award only available for freshman year of college)

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) at the time of high school graduation **and** be a legal resident of South Carolina as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes at the time of high school graduation;
- Earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA based on SC UGP at the end of senior year; and
- Enroll full-time as a degree-seeking student at time of scholarship disbursement.

Application Deadlines & Award Notification

- Application not required (institution requires official high school transcript)
- College or university notifies and awards eligible students

Award-Amount

4-year degree (Eligible S.C. Public or Private Institution)

- Up to $2,800 to include a $300 book allowance for the first academic year (two terms) only toward cost of attendance.

State Need-based Grant

(Public Institutions or Independent Colleges)

Eligibility Requirements

Initial Eligibility

- Complete FAFSA and be determined a "needy" student; and
- Enroll as a part-time or full-time, degree-seeking student at time of scholarship disbursement.

To Retain Eligibility

- Earn a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA each academic year (Fall, Spring and Summer);
- Earn a minimum of 24 credit hours per academic year for full-time students; or
- Earn a minimum of 12 credit hours per academic year for part-time students; and
- Complete FAFSA and be determined a "needy" student each academic year.

Application Deadlines & Award Notification

Deadline

- Applicants should submit FAFSA as early as possible after January 1st each year. Check with your public institution's financial aid office for their priority financial aid deadline for awarding.
- Foster care youth must self-identify and submit the waiver form to be eligible for any additional funds.

+ Students who plan to attend independent colleges should contact the S.C. Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission at (803) 896-1120.

Award-Amount

- Up to $2,500 per academic year toward cost of attendance for full-time enrollment (at least 12 hours per semester)
- Up to $1,250 per academic year toward cost of attendance for part-time enrollment (6-11 hours per semester)
- Foster care youth may receive the maximum award of $2,500 and an additional award of up to $2,000 per academic year. Award amount cannot exceed the cost of attendance.

Lottery Tuition Assistance

(Must not be eligible for or a recipient of a LIFE, Palmetto Fellows, or an S.C. HOPE Scholarship)

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility Requirements for Each Academic Year

- Complete FAFSA or FAFSA Waiver;
- Enroll in at least 6 credit hours as a degree-seeking student at time of grant disbursement;
- Make reasonable academic progress in an eligible program toward completion of a certificate, degree, or diploma; and
- After attempting 24 credit hours, earn a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA.

Application Deadlines & Award Notification

Deadline

Complete FAFSA (or FAFSA Waiver if applicable)

Award-Amount

2-year degree (Eligible S.C. Public or Private Institution)

Award based on student's enrollment status. In calculating the award amount, Federal grants and the S.C. Need-based Grant must be awarded first. Award amounts are subject to change each term based upon the number of eligible recipients and available funding each academic year. Award must be applied toward cost of tuition only.

National Guard College Assistance Program

Eligibility Requirements

Initial Eligibility

A National Guard member must:

- Be and remain in good standing with the active National Guard throughout the entire academic year;
- Have valid tuition and fee expenses from an eligible institution;
- Maintain satisfactory academic progess as defined by the institution;
- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident who meets the definition of an eligible non-citizen under state residency statutes;
- Be admitted, enrolled, and classified as a "degree-seeking" full-time or part-time student at an eligible institution in South Carolina; and
- Satisfy additional eligibility requirements issued by the Commission on Higher Education.

Individuals joining the National Guard become eligible for college assistance program benefits upon completion of Basic Combat Training (BCT)/Basic Military Training (BMT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT)/Technical Training for sequential regular terms (fall, spring, or trimester) or other terms (summer and other). Enlisted personnel must continue their service during the term of the courses covered by the benefit received. Officers must continue their service for at least 4 years after completion of the most recent program benefit award or degree completion. National Guard members receiving full ROTC scholarships are not eligible. Priority may be given to applicants in areas of critical needs as determined by the S.C. National Guard.

To Retain Eligibility

Members must continue to meet all eligibility requirements.

Application Deadlines & Award Notification

New applications must be completed and sumbitted each year prior to the beginning of the fall term of the academic year by the deadline determined by the South Carolina National Guard. The CAP application window will open June 1st of every academic year and close August 1st of every academic year.

Award-Amount

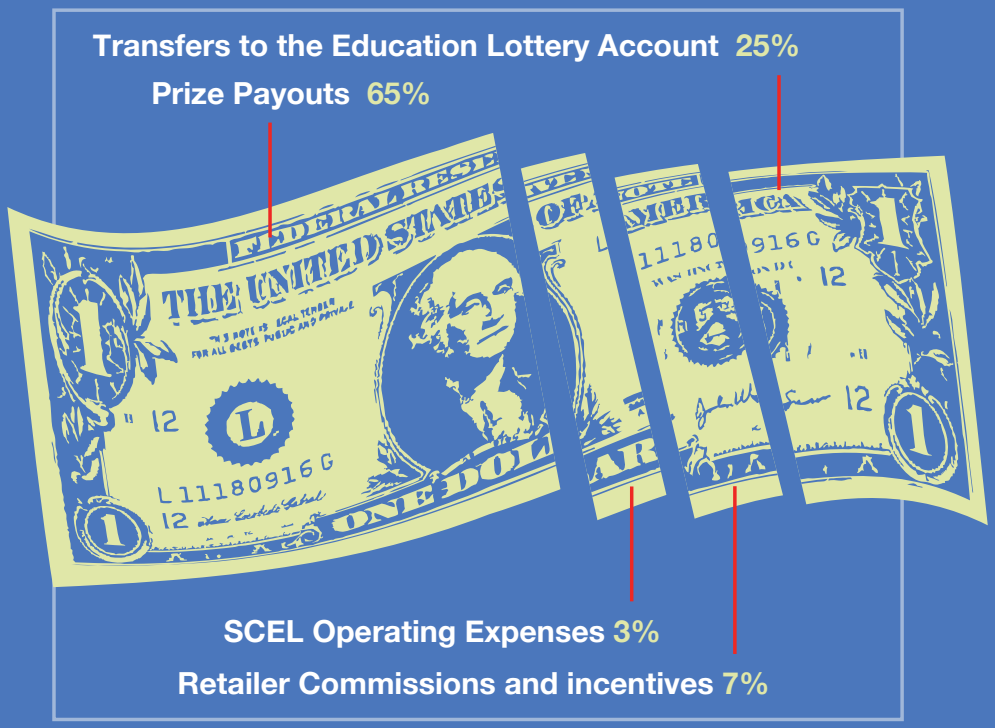
First one-year certificate, first two-year program, or associate's degree, or first bachelor's, or a program of study that is structured so as not to require a bachelor's degree for acceptance into the program (and leads to a graduate degree).

(Eligible S.C. Public or Private Institution) Qualified members of the National Guard may receive college assistance program benefits up to 100% of the cost of attendance, provided, however, these college assistance program benefits in combination with all other grants and scholarships shall not exceed the cost of attendance in any given award year and the cumulative total of all college assistance program benefits received may not exceed $18,000. The awards are based on the amount of available funds as approved by the General Assembly. No benefits will be awarded for more than 130 semester hours or related quarter hours from the time of initial eligibility of the program, for continuing education, or for graduate degree courses. Members who have been awarded a bachelor's or graduate degree are not eligible for benefits.

Proceeds

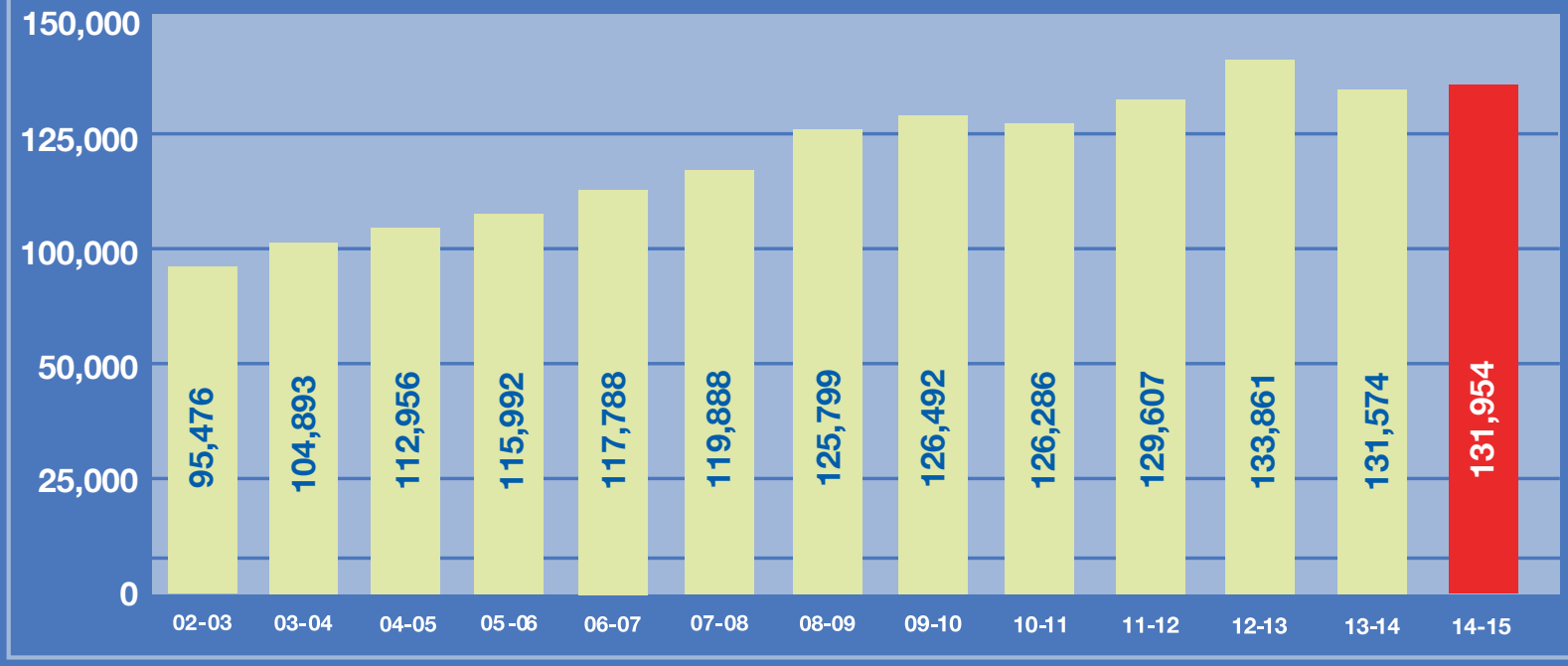
SCEL raises proceeds that are deposited into the Education Lottery Account (ELA). Each year, the General Assembly appropriates these funds to support a wide range of educational opportunities for Palmetto State citizens.

What is the breakdown of SCEL's gross proceeds? +



Figures represent Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Number of Scholarships per Academic Year ++



Source: Information is based on CHE chart of distribution of scholarships to each instution of higher education.

+ Figures represent the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2015.

++ Data includes information from the Commission on Higher Education and the S.C. Tuition Grants Commission.

Program Funding

Each year the General Assembly, in concert with the Governor, decides which educational programs are funded using lottery net proceeds.

Appropriations

(Figures shown are in millions.)

Since the start of the Lottery in January of 2002, the Legislature has appropriated more than $4.1 BILLION through Fiscal Year 2015-16.

Higher Education**

Scholarships and Grants	$ 2,751	85%
Endowed Chairs (SmartState™ Program)	$ 180	6%
Technology	$ 142	4%
Other Higher Education Programs	$ 153	5%

K-12**

K-5 Education Programs	$ 517	62.28%
Education Accountability Act Resource Programs	$ 104	12.53%
School Buses	$ 104	12.59%
Other K-12 Programs (K-12 Technology Initiative)	$ 104	12.61%

Community Education**

Allied Healthcare Initiative	$ 20.1	29%
ETV	$ 19.9	29%
County Libraries	$ 18.8	28%
Other Community Education Programs	$ 6.8	10%
Gambling Addiction Services	$ 2.8	4%

Total*

Higher Education Programs	$ 3,227	78%
K-12 Education Programs	$ 830	20%
Community Education Programs	$ 68	2%

**Source of appropriations: Executive Budget Office. "Education Lottery Appropriations." www.admin.sc.gov

*Dollar figures incorporate the period from January 7, 2002 - June 30, 2014. Figures received January 9, 2014.

For more information on lottery-funded scholarships and grants, please call the Commission on Higher Education at (803) 737-2260 or visit www.che.sc.gov

For more information on Lottery Tuition Assistance for students attending one of the colleges in the South Carolina Technical College System, one of the two-year regional campuses of the University of South Carolina, or an independent two-year college in the state, visit www.che.sc.gov, www.sctechsystem.com or contact the financial aid office at the two-year institution they are planning to attend.

sceducationlottery.com