

## **SOUTH CAROLINA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT HONORS AWARD**

**To receive a South Carolina Academic Honors Award, a student must meet the following criteria:**

- Complete twenty-four units of credit as prescribed;
- Be eligible for graduation with a state high school diploma;
- Receive a minimum grade of “B” for each semester course in grades 9–12 through the seventh semester; and
- Achieve either a score of 710 or higher on the SAT verbal, a score of 690 or higher on the SAT mathematics, a score of 30 or higher on the ACT English, or a score of 33 or higher on the ACT mathematics;

**- OR -**

- Complete twenty-four units of credit as prescribed;
- Be eligible for graduation with a state high school diploma;
- Receive a minimum grade of “B” for each semester course in grades 9–12 through the seventh semester; and
- Achieve a combined score of 1400 on the SAT verbal and math sections, or an ACT composite score of 31.

Of the twenty-four units earned, **eighteen units** must be **college preparatory coursework**, four units in additional electives, and two units in one or more of the following: English, science, social studies, or mathematics.

College preparatory coursework includes the following:

English (English I or above), four units

Mathematics (Algebra I or above), four units

Laboratory science, three units

Social studies (United States History and Constitution, economics and United States Government and one unit of world history, world geography or western civilization), three units

Computer science, one unit

Physical education, one unit

Foreign language, two units

## Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship

### Initial Eligibility Requirements for a LIFE Scholarship:

In order to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship, first-time entering freshman attending an eligible four-year institution must meet two of three of the following criteria:

- A 3.0 final grade point average (GPA) based on the SC Uniform Grading A minimum
- SAT score of 1100 or 24 on the ACT
- Rank in the top 30% of the graduating class.

First-time entering freshmen attending an eligible two-year or technical institution must earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the Uniform Grading Scale as described above. The standardized test score and class rank requirements are waived.

### Award Amount:

Eligible Institutions	Award Amounts
Four Year Public	Up to the cost-of -tuition, not to exceed \$4,700, plus a \$300
books allowance	
Four Year Independent	Up to \$4,700 plus a \$300 book allowance
Two-year Public and Independent	Up to the cost-of-tuition plus a \$300 book allowance
Technical	Up to the cost-of-tuition plus a \$300 book allowance

\*Award amounts are dispersed half in the fall term and half in the spring term.

The LIFE Scholarship in combination with all other scholarships and grants shall not exceed the cost of attendance as defined in Title IV regulations for any academic year.

### General Eligibility Requirements (LIFE Scholarship):

- Graduate from high school or complete a home school program as prescribed by law. Attend an eligible South Carolina public or private college or university.
- Be a South Carolina resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment.
- Be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.
- Be enrolled as a full-time degree-seeking student.
- Certify that he or she has not been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor convictions within the past academic year.

- Verify that he or she does not owe a refund or repayment on any federal or state financial aid.
- Must not be eligible for or be a SC HOPE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellow Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance recipient.
- Seniors who graduate prior to their class graduation date and do not have a rank are not eligible for the scholarship.

*\*Please be aware that the information provided in this publication is subject to change. The Commission on Higher Education staff will update this information as necessary.*

### **Academic Requirements for Palmetto Fellow Scholar:**

• **For Early Awards**, the guidance counselor/school representative must submit the application and required documentation to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by December 15th. Students are eligible to apply if they meet one of the following sets of academic requirements:

1. Score at least 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT by the November national test administration, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA<sup>2</sup> on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (SC UGP) at the end of the junior year, and rank in the top six percent<sup>3</sup> of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year;

OR

2. Score at least 1400 on the SAT or 32 on the ACT by the November national test administration and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA<sup>2</sup> on the SC UGP at the end of the junior year.

- **For Late Awards**, the guidance counselor/school representative must submit the application and required documentation to the CHE for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by June 15th. If the deadline falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday the deadline is the preceding Friday. High school seniors are eligible apply if they meet one of the following sets of academic requirements:

1. Score at least 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT by the June national test administration of the senior year; earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA<sup>2</sup> on the SC UGP at the end of the senior year; and, rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of the sophomore, junior or senior year;

OR

2. Score at least 1400 on the SAT or 32 on the ACT by the June national test administration of the senior year and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGP at the end of the senior year

### **Marion County School District Diploma of Excellence**

The Marion County School District Diploma of Excellence is designed to encourage students to strive for more than the minimum requirements to complete high school.

The requirements for the Diploma of Excellence are:

- Minimum of 29 units

- Minimum of 4 math units and 4 science units

- Overall Grade Point Average of B with no individual course average of less than C

**Exception: Any behavior that results in expulsion during the four-year period in high school prohibits a student from being considered for the Diploma of Excellence.**

Students who complete all elements of the Marion County School District Diploma of Excellence will receive special recognition in the following ways:

- District diploma

- Notation in graduation bulletin Newspaper article

- Gold stamp on college transcript & on permanent record card Letter of explanation attached to college transcripts

