

Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship

The LIFE Scholarship is an academic scholarship funded by the State of South Carolina. **Note: *It is the students responsibility for understanding the criteria that you must meet to have continued eligibility for the next academic year.*** All students must meet these eligibility requirements:

- Have graduated from a high school located in South Carolina, an approved home-school program as defined in the State Statute, Sections 59-65-40, 45, and 47 or a preparatory high school located outside of the state while the student is a dependent of a legal resident of South Carolina who has custody or pays child support and college expenses of the dependent high school student, and
- Be a legal resident of South Carolina and a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen, and
- Have no felony convictions, and
- Not been adjudicated delinquent, convicted or pled guilty or nolo contendere to any second or subsequent alcohol or drug related offense for one academic year, and
- Not owe a repayment to a federal or state grant or be in default on any state or federal student loan, and
- Enroll full-time (minimum of 12 non-remedial credit hours per semester) in a degree, diploma or certificate program.

In addition, a **first-time freshman** must:

- Have earned a minimum 3.0 high school cumulative grade point average on the Uniform Grading Scale, and
- Have a calculation date between the date of graduation and no later than June 15, and
- Submit the final, official high school transcript to the SCC admissions center.

A student may gain eligibility by:

- Earning a GED diploma if not a high school graduate, and
- Earning at least 15 credit hours for every semester elapsed since the initial enrollment in a post-secondary institution whether or not enrollment was continuous (students who begin mid-year may receive the award no earlier than their fourth term of enrollment), and
- Earning a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 3.0, and
- Submitting to the SCC admission center an official transcript from each post-secondary institution attended.

A **transfer student** must:

- Earn at least 15 credit hours for every semester elapsed since the initial enrollment in a post-secondary institution whether or not enrollment was continuous, and
- Earn a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 3.0, and
- Submit to the SCC admission center an official transcript from each post-secondary institution attended, and
- Contact the LIFE Scholarship Coordinator in the SCC financial aid office to determine eligibility.

To have the scholarship **renewed** for a second academic year, the student must:

- Earn at least 30 non-remedial credit hours (or 15 non-remedial credit hours if the student began during a spring semester). (Note: A student needs to take 12 non-remedial credit hours per semester to receive LIFE, but to renew LIFE the following year the student must earn at least 30 non-remedial credit hours (or 15 non-remedial credit hours if eligibility began during a spring semester). The student

may need to take additional credit hours during the fall and spring semesters or enroll during the summer semester.

- Earn a minimum cumulative collegiate GPA of 3.0 (excluding grades for remedial courses and excluding grades for any non-remedial courses earned prior to the spring semester if eligibility began during a spring semester), and
- Have terms of eligibility remaining. A student may receive the LIFE scholarship for 2 semesters if enrolled in a 1-year program or for 4 semesters if enrolled in a 2-year degree program.

Why Do Students Who are Eligible for LIFE Sometimes Not Receive It?

- To be admitted to SCC, a student must take a skills assessment. Depending on the scores, the student may need to take refresher courses in math, reading or English. These refresher courses are also referred to as “remedial” or “transitional” courses.
- A student cannot use a LIFE Scholarship until he or she is enrolled in at least 12 non-remedial credit hours during a semester. Remedial courses are not covered by LIFE.
- If the student needs to take remedial courses, then the LIFE Scholarship can be deferred for up to one year.
- Zero level, 100 level, COL 101 and ESL 102 are considered remedial courses. (MAT 031 and RDG 100 are examples.)
- If the student needs remediation, he or she should discuss all possibilities with the academic advisor. But, the financial aid office does not recommend taking 12 non-remedial credit hours while enrolled in remedial classes. The student may negatively affect his or her ability to renew the LIFE Scholarship.

What are Some Other Things That Students Need to Know about the LIFE Scholarship?

- A student cannot receive LIFE during a summer semester.
- A student cannot receive LIFE and Lottery Tuition Assistance. If the student received LIFE during a fall or spring semester, he or she cannot receive Lottery Tuition Assistance during the following summer semester.
- If eligible, the student must sign a certification form each year.
- Questions about eligibility should be addressed to the LIFE Scholarship Coordinator in the SCC financial aid office.
- Funding is contingent on state approval. These guidelines may not be inclusive of all eligibility criteria and are subject to change.

What if I Graduate Early from High School?

- Students who complete all requirements for high school graduation prior to the official graduation date in May or June may be eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship for the spring term if they meet all initial and general eligibility criteria.
- The following must be submitted to SCC by the last day of the spring term:

Submit to the SCC Admissions Center:

1. An official high school transcript in a sealed envelope. The transcript must include all grades through January and a cumulative GPA based on the S.C. Uniform Grading Policy, and
2. A letter from your high school principal on the school’s letterhead indicating you have completed all requirements for high school graduation.

Submit to the SCC Financial Aid Office:

1. The SCC LIFE Scholarship Application for Early High School Graduates.