



F.A.C.E.

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FACTS

South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
Spring 2009



A Message from SCASFAA

The South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators extend our support to all guidance counselors in South Carolina. You are our partners in educating our young people about the availability of financial resources. As we are in the process of awarding students for the 2009-2010 academic year, we want to take this time to remind you that the Counselor Relation Committee is here to assist you with any financial aid nights or workshops that you plan to host at your schools. We are committed to providing you timely, up-to-date financial aid information to assist you as you work with students and their families. SCASFAA looks forward to working with you to help students get ready for college. In this issue of F.A.C.E the Facts you will find the following topics:

- TEACH Grant
- Credit Crunch and Student Loans
- Scholarship Information from SC Commission on Higher Education
- SC Tuition Grant Information
- Information from our Peer Support Network
- SC National Guard Incentive Program
- FAFSA Tips 2009-2010
- Financial Aid FAQ's
- Important Deadline information from some of the Colleges and Universities in SC

We welcome all comments, suggestions and assistance. We are trying to select dates to host the Guidance Counselor trainings for the 2009-2010 academic year, please look at your calendar and send us dates that you would like to recommend. If there are certain topics that you would like for us to address in future newsletters and/or trainings, please let us know. Please forward all of the information to Aria Simmons at simmons@denmarktech.edu.

Aria Simmons
SCASFAA Counselor Relations Committee Chair
Denmark Technical College

TEACH Grant

Through the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, Congress created the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program that provides grants of up to \$4,000 per year to undergraduate students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. The aggregate limit is set at \$16,000. Graduate students may borrow up to \$4,000 per year and an aggregate amount of \$8,000. TEACH Grants are prorated for less than full-time students.

In exchange for receiving the TEACH Grant, the recipient agrees to serve as a full-time teacher (certified as highly qualified) in a high-need subject and low-income area (in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income students). You must teach for at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which you received a TEACH Grant. Failure to complete this service obligation will result in the grant to be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. You must repay the loan to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and you will be charged interest from the date the grant(s) was disbursed.

Student Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Complete the FAFSA
- 2) Be a U.S. Citizen or eligible non-citizen
- 3) Be enrolled as undergraduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate student that participates in the program
- 4) Be enrolled in coursework that is necessary to begin a career in teaching or plan to complete such coursework
- 5) Meet certain academic requirements (scoring in the 75th percentile on any single battery of a given test or maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.25)
- 6) Sign the Agreement to Serve (ATS) and complete TEACH Grant Counseling requirements

High-Need Fields:

- 1) Bilingual Education and English Language Acquisition
- 2) Foreign Language
- 3) Mathematics
- 4) Reading Specialist
- 5) Science
- 6) Special Education
- 7) A field documented as high-need or 'shortage subject area' by the Federal Government, a State government, or an LEA and approved by the Department of Education.

SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Program



SC Commission on Higher Education Programs

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education will promote quality and efficiency in the State system of higher Education with the goal of fostering economic growth and human development in South Carolina.

The Student Services Division of the Commission is responsible for coordinating activities including:

- LIFE Scholarship
- Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- LIFE & Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancements
- SC HOPE Scholarship
- Lottery Tuition Assistance
- SC Need-based Grant
- Veteran Education and Training Benefits
- Gaining early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)
- Higher Education Awareness Program (HEAP)

General Eligibility Criteria for Scholarships & Grants

- Must be a South Carolina Resident
- Must be a U.S. citizen or legal permanent resident
- Must be enrolled as a degree-seeking student at an eligible South Carolina public or independent institution
- Must not owe a refund or repayment on any State or Federal financial aid and not be in default on a Federal student loan
- Must have never been convicted of any felonies and have not been convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol/drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year (excluding Lottery Tuition Assistance)

For detailed information about the scholarship and grant programs administered by the SC Commission on Higher Education, visit our website at www.che.sc.gov or contact us at (803) 737-2260 / 877-349-7183.

The Impact of the Financial Market Meltdown on Student Loans

With the increasing number of student loan providers suspending their funding of higher education loan programs, it is evident that the financial market crisis has created a liquidity issue for the student loan industry.

For numerous lenders participating in the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) and private loan programs, the financing of student loans has become increasingly difficult or impossible, resulting in their inability to acquire the capital needed to originate new loans for students and parents. Although federal loans are still widely available, many lenders have discontinued making both federal and private loans. Lenders still offering private loans have however been forced to increase their credit criteria and interest rates, making it more difficult for borrowers to obtain private loans.

As a result of the turmoil in the financial markets, Congress passed the Ensuring Continued Access to Student Loans Act of 2008 to ensure that federal student loan accessibility would not be affected by the credit market crisis. The passage of this act will allow lenders to continue to originate new federal loans even if normal financing mechanisms are not available.

Chuck Sanders, President and CEO of South Carolina Student Loan, said there is sufficient money for students for the current year and the 2009-10 academic year. "We are deeply committed to making higher education possible, and we will continue to work diligently with the financial aid community, Congress, and the new Administration to strengthen the long-term health of the Federal Family Education Loan Program," Sanders said. Although the credit crisis has impacted a significant number of student loan providers across the nation, students and parents in South Carolina can rest assured that adequate funding will be available for students to acquire a post-secondary education.



SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Program

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is administered by the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission and is made possible through annual appropriation by the South Carolina General Assembly. The purpose of the program is to provide undergraduate grant assistance to allow South Carolina residents the choice of attending full-time an eligible in-state independent college that best meets their academic needs.

Students apply for a South Carolina Tuition Grant by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The paper version of the FAFSA is available at high schools, colleges and libraries. The Commission recommends that students apply via the Internet by using "FAFSA on the Web" found at www.fafsa.ed.gov. By submitting the FAFSA to the federal government's processor and by listing the eligible South Carolina independent college of the student's choice in the college section, the Tuition Grant Commission is able to electronically receive the student's application from the federal processor. The Commission then uses the application information to calculate South Carolina Tuition Grant eligibility. In completing the FAFSA, students with e-mail addresses are asked to list their current e-mail addresses. The South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission, with the support of the South Carolina Assistance Authority and the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation, send notification of Tentative Awards via e-mail on the same day that awards are made.

The FAFSA may be submitted beginning on January 1 of the year when the student plans to attend. Students are encouraged to apply as early as possible. The Commission has an absolute deadline of June 30th each year and only eligible applications received by the federal processor through June 30 will be funded. Applicants completing the "FAFSA on the Web" should pay special attention to selecting the correct application since more than one year's application is available early in the application process. On-line applications should also be sure to complete all steps in the process until they receive a message indicating their application is complete. It is highly recommended that students keep copies of all application information including their on-line data and the final confirmation page with the date stamp for receipt. Also, because South Carolina Tuition Grants are available only to legal residents of South Carolina, it is extremely important that students accurately complete all questions on the FAFSA regarding state residency for both themselves and their parents (if providing parental income data).

Financial need is a requirement to receive a South Carolina Tuition Grant. To calculate financial need for a South Carolina Tuition Grant, the Commission considers (1) family income, (2) family assets, (3) cost of the college selected, (4) number of family members in the household and (5) the number of household members attending college. In addition to financial need, academic merit is required by state law to receive a South Carolina Tuition Grant. Entering freshman must graduate in the top 75% of their final high school graduating class OR score at least 900 on the Math and Critical Reading

sections of the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) OR score at least 19 for the composite score on the ACT OR graduate from high school with at least a 2.00 GPA on the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale to meet the academic standard for eligibility. For upperclassmen, the academic standard for eligibility requires that recipients pass at least 24 semester hours of classes each year. Students who do not meet these academic standards are ineligible for a South Carolina Tuition Grant regardless of financial need.

Further questions about the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program should be addressed to the Financial Aid Office at one of the eligible participating colleges or to the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPATING SOUTH CAROLINA INDEPENDENT COLLEGES:

ALLEN UNIVERSITY
ANDERSON UNIVERSITY
BENEDICT COLLEGE
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY
CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY
COKER COLLEGE
COLUMBIA COLLEGE
COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
CONVERSE COLLEGE
ERSKINE COLLEGE
FURMAN UNIVERSITY
LIMESTONE COLLEGE
MORRIS COLLEGE
NEWBERRY COLLEGE
NORTH GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY
PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE
SOUTHER WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE
VOORHEES COLLEGE
WOFFORD COLLEGE

South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission
101 Business Park Boulevard
Suite 2100
Columbia, SC 29203-9498
Phone: (803)896-1120
Fax: (803) 896-1126
Web: www.sctuitiongrants.com
E-mail: infor@sctuitiongrants.org

Submitted by:
Earl Mayo
Executive Director



SCASFAA's Peer Support Network 2008-2009

SCASFAA invites the South Carolina Guidance Counselor community to continue to take advantage of its Peer Support Network resource when seeking advice or the answer to a financial aid related question.

The SCASFAA Peer Support Network was launched during 2004 and was recognized by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators with a State Award for Service to the Profession in 2005.

To access the Peer Support Network Directory, go to the SCASFAA web site at www.scasfaa.org. You can click on Peer Support Network in the titles across the top of the page. There you will find a brief introduction and then a directory which lists over 60 specific topics with the names of Peer Network members who have volunteered to serve as resources in one or more areas. By clicking on the topic of interest you will be given a list of SCASFAA members who consider themselves a resource for that topic. The listing will include the member's name, along with contact information with which you can continue seeking assistance. If the topic for which you are seeking assistance is not listed, please contact the 2008-2009 Peer Support Network Chairperson, Caroline Thornton, at 803-535-1224 or thorntonc@octech.edu. The Peer Support Network will be updated periodically with new topics and member listings.

The SCASFAA membership is very pleased to be able to offer this resource to you and hope that you will feel free to take advantage of its Peer Network at any time that you are challenged by an inquiry or are just seeking out additional information.

SC National Guard Incentive



The South Carolina National Guard College Assistance Program (SCNG CAP) is for providing incentives for enlisting or remaining for a specified time in both the South Carolina Army and Air National Guard's (SCNG).

Program Benefits and Maximum Assistance

Qualifying members of the National Guard may receive college assistance program benefits up to an amount equal to 100% of college 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 at the particular institutions in any given award year; and the cumulative total of all college assistance program benefits received may not exceed \$18,000. These SC National Guard College Assistance Program benefits cover the cost of attendance as defined by Title IV regulations up to a maximum of \$4,500 each year. A member may not qualify for college assistance program benefits for more than one hundred thirty semester hours or related quarter hours.

Micheal L. Brown
Director of Access & Equity
SC Commission on Higher Education
1333 Main St., Suite 200
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 737-2144 / Fax : (803) 737-2297



Tips on Filing the FAFSA:

APPLY EARLY

APPLY ACCURATELY

Register for a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov and file the FAFSA on-line (www.fafsa.ed.gov) to save 3 weeks of processing.

Part 1: Demographic Information

- Name and Social Security Number: Be sure these match your Social Security Card.
- E-mail address: If you enter this you will receive no paper mail. Only enter this if you use this address regularly.
- Are you a U.S. Citizen? Be sure to answer this. An eligible non-citizen is:
 - A U.S. Permanent Resident (I-551 or I-151), A conditional permanent resident (I-551 C), or
 - A noncitizen with an I-94 showing: "Refugee," "Asylum Granted," "Parole" or "Cuban-Haitian Entrant"
- What is your marital status "today"? This can not be changed. If your status will change you may want to wait to file.
- What is your State of Legal Residence? Be sure you answer this to be considered for State Aid.
- Do you wish to be registered with Selective Service? Men must be registered in order to qualify for Federal Aid.
- Have you ever been convicted of possessing or selling illegal drugs while receiving Federal Student Aid? You must answer this. Be careful. Only answer Yes if you were convicted during a period of college enrollment for which you were receiving Federal Student Aid (grants, loans, etc...)
- Parents' highest school completed? If you answer these you may be considered for special programs.
 - If neither parent attended college you would be a "First Generation College Student."
- What will be your high school completion status? GED recipients are eligible for most but not all financial aid.
- Will you have your first Bachelor's Degree? This is a college degree, so the answer is probably "No"
- What grade level will you be in?
 - First time college students are in Grade Level 0 (never attended college & 1st year undergrad.)
 - If you have ever taken classes before you may be Grade Level 1 (attended college before & 1st year undergrad)
- What degree are you working on? First time students are working on a 1st Bachelor's Degree or Associates Degree
- What do you expect your enrollment status to be? You should mark "full-time" if you aren't sure.
- Interested in Work-Study or Loans? You will automatically be considered for grants. If you indicate loans and/or work-study you may be awarded them, but do not have to accept them. Work study funds are limited.
- Are you planning on becoming a teacher? If so you may be eligible for special teacher loans and grants.

Part 2: Student's Finances

- ❖ **In this section you will report the student's financial information. Be sure to read the questions carefully.**
- ❖ **Some of these answers can be taken directly from your Federal Tax Form. Beneath those questions you will see a line that says something like "Adjusted gross income is on IRS Form 1040 – line 37; 1040A – Line 21; or 1040EZ – line 4." All you need to do is find that line on your taxes and copy the number in that field to the FAFSA.**
 - Have you completed a tax return? If you have not filed yet, be sure to update the application when you do.
 - What form did you file? The form name is on the bottom right hand corner of your tax form.
 - Were you eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ? If so, certain types of income might not count against you.
 - "No" if you and your spouse made less than \$100,000 and did not itemize, did not receive income from your own business or farm and did not receive alimony.
 - What was your adjusted gross income? This may not match total income earned from working, so use the tax line.
 - What was your Income Tax? This is the amount you paid after any refund. This is not your withholdings.
 - Enter your exemptions: If you filed a 1040EZ and someone else claimed you, this would be 0.
 - How much did you earn from working? If you worked but didn't file taxes, you still must answer this.
 - If you are married and filing jointly you can get this information from your W-2s.
 - Unemployment benefits are not considered income from work.
- ❖ **Student's Asset Information:**
 - As of today, total current balance of cash, savings and checking accounts? Don't include funds targeted to pay a bill that is not educational related.
 - As of today, what is the net worth of your investments, including real estate (not your home)? You don't report the house you live in as an investment; if you own more than one house, report all but the one you live in.
 - As of today, what is the net worth of your business and/or investment farms? You only report a business if you employ more than 100 people. There are special considerations for family farms and family businesses.
 - Veterans Education Benefits: If you will receive the GIBILL, report the chapter you will receive.

Tips on Filing the FAFSA:

❖ Student's Additional Financial Information:

These questions must be answered, even if the answer is \$0.

If you don't know what something is you probably don't have it.

➤ Reductions in Income:

- **Education Credits:** If you didn't pay for school last year you won't have anything in this space. You can only claim a credit for tuition, fees, books and supplies paid after scholarships and grants (loans count as paying).
- **Child support you paid:** This is child support you paid out for children that do not live with you (not income).
- **Taxable earnings from need based employment programs:** If you had Federal College Work-study in the prior year you report that income here so you aren't penalized for financial aid you received.
- **Student grant and scholarship aid counted as part of AGI:** If you received grants and scholarships that exceeded your tuition, fees, books and supplies in the prior year, you had to report that as part of your AGI on your taxes. To prevent this from counting against your financial aid eligibility, report it here as well.
- **Combat Pay or Special Combat Pay:** If you received military pay for combat, it shouldn't count against your financial aid eligibility. Report it here.

➤ Untaxed Income:

- **Payments to tax-deferred pensions and savings plans:** This is money held out before taxes are calculated on your income. Be sure to check your W-2 and if you think your W-2 is inaccurate, check with your employer.
- **IRA deductions and payments to self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, Keogh and other qualified plans:** If you put money into one of these plans that was untaxed you must report the untaxed amount here.
- **Child support received:** This is income you received for your children (not what you paid).
- **Untaxed portions of IRA Distributions/ Pensions:** If you received payments from one of these programs you must report the untaxed portion. Be sure to subtract the Taxed portion from the Total Distribution, otherwise you will be reporting this income twice.
- **Housing, food and other living allowances for members of military, clergy or other:** If you receive Military Housing or live in a Parsonage you must report this here.
- **Veterans non-education benefits:** This includes disability and survivor benefits.
- **Other Untaxed Incomes:** Be sure to read the types of untaxed incomes NOT to include.
- **Money received/paid on your behalf:** This means gifts and bills paid on your behalf. This does not include "In-Kind" support, which simply means room and board in a relative's house that they already pay for.

Do I report untaxed Social Security Benefits? No, though at one time you had to report untaxed portions, that is no longer the case.

Part 3: Student Status

❖ In this part you will answer the questions that determine if you are "Dependent" or "Independent" for *Financial Aid Purposes Only*. "Dependent" for Financial Aid Purposes Only simply means that you have to report your parents' information on this application so your eligibility can be determined.

- **Were you born before January 1st, 1986?** If you are over the age of 23, you are Independent.
- **As of today are you married?** Your dependency status won't change if you marry or divorce after you filed.
- **Will you be working on a master's or doctorate program?** No, unless have a degree already.
- **Are you currently serving on Active Duty for purposes other than training?** Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training aren't "Active Duty".
- **Are you a Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?** Must have been discharged for reasons other than "dishonorable"
- **Do you have Children or Dependents who will receive *more than half of their support* from you?**
 - You personally must be providing more than 50% of the cost to support that person, including food and housing. If you don't, answer "No".
 - Answer "No", if your parents provide this support for your child.
- **When you were age 13 or older...**
 - **were both your parents deceased?** Both parents must be deceased to answer "Yes"
 - **were you or are you in foster care?** If you are adopted answer "No".
 - **were you or are you a ward/dependent of the court?** You may be in foster care.
- **Are you an Emancipated Minor?** The court order must still be in effect.
- **Are you in Legal Guardianship?** You must have a court appointed legal guardian.
- **On or after July 1st, 2008; were you determined to be an unaccompanied youth who was Homeless?** This means under the age of 22 or still enrolled in high school, not living in the physical custody of your parent or guardian and lacking fixed, regular and adequate housing, which includes living in shelters, motels or cars, or temporarily living with other people because you had nowhere else to go. If you answer "Yes", be prepared to provide proof.
- **On or after July 1st, 2008; did the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determine that you are self-supporting and at risk of becoming homeless?** If you answer "Yes", be prepared to provide proof.

I have a child, why can't I claim her on my FAFSA as a dependent?
For Financial Aid Purposes only, you must provide at least half of the support to consider that child a dependent. If someone else supports her they can count her as their dependent.

Why am I dependent?
Living on your own and claiming yourself on your taxes isn't enough. The U.S. Department of Education will consider parents as a financial resource until you are 24.

If you can truly answer "Yes" to any of these questions do not complete the Parent Part.



Tips on Filing the FAFSA:

Part 4: Parental Information

- ❖ *You only need to complete this part if you were determined to be Dependent in Part 3.*
- ❖ **In this part you will report the parent's demographic and financial information.**
- ❖ **You must get your parents' assistance in completing this part.**
- ❖ **You must report parent information on the application, but this does not make them liable for any charges from the institution. The information is only needed to determine if you, the student, qualify for aid.**
- ❖ **If there are extenuating circumstances that make it impossible or harmful for you to get information from your parents, then you need to contact the Financial Aid Office at the institution you wish to attend.**
 - What is your parents' marital status as of today?
 - This can not be changed. If their status will change you may want to wait to file
 - Month and date of marital status? Be sure to give this, it is required.
 - If your parents are divorced, you only need to report information for the parent who you lived with for more than 50% of the last 12 months.
 - Father's/Step-Father's and Mother's/Step-Mother's Social Security Number, last name and Date of Birth?
 - You need to report this information for the parents whose income you are reporting on the FAFSA.
 - If they are married, report both.
 - Step-Parents: If the parent you lived with is remarried you must report your step-parent's information.
 - How many people are in your parents' household? Count all those who your parents provide at least half the support for. If they live with your parents but they or someone else provides most of the support, do not count them. If you are determined to be dependent, but do not live in your parents' household, still count yourself.
 - How many will be college students?
 - Count yourself, but do not count your parents.
 - Only count those who are attending at least half-time and are dependents of your parents.
- ❖ **Some of these answers can be taken directly from your parents' Federal Tax Form. Beneath those questions you will see a line that says something like "Adjusted gross income is on IRS Form 1040 – line 37; 1040A – Line 21; or 1040EZ – line 4." All you need to do is find that line on their taxes and copy the number in that field to the FAFSA.**
 - Did you, your parents or anyone in your parents household receive benefits from any of the federal benefits programs listed?
SSI, Food Stamps, Free or Reduce Price School Lunch, TANF, WIC
 - If they received one of these you may qualify for more financial aid.
 - Only check one of these if they received these benefits in the prior year.
 - Be prepared to provide evidence to the Financial Aid Office at the institution you attend.
 - Have your parents completed a tax return? If not, but will, update the app. when they do.
 - Were they eligible to file a 1040A or 1040EZ? If so, certain types of income might not count against you. Answer "No" if they made less than \$100,000 and did not itemize, receive income from their own business or farm and did not receive alimony.
 - As of today, are either of your parents a dislocated worker? A dislocated worker is someone who has been laid off or received a lay-off notice from their job, or is self-employed but currently unemployed due to economic conditions or natural disasters. A homemaker may be considered a dislocated worker if he or she was, but is no longer, supported by their spouse and is unable to find employment. If a person quits work, generally they are not a dislocated worker.
 - What was your parents' adjusted gross income? This may not match total income earned from working, so use the tax line.
 - What was your parents' Income Tax? This is the amount they paid after any refund. This is not their withholdings.
 - Enter your parents' exemptions: Remember that if you claimed yourself, your parents can't.
 - How much did your parents earn from working? If they worked but didn't file taxes, they still must answer this.
 - If they are married and filing jointly you can get this information from their W-2s.
 - Unemployment benefits are not considered income from work.
- ❖ **Parents' Asset Information:**
 - As of today, total current balance of cash, savings and checking accounts? Don't include funds targeted to pay a bill that is not educational related.
 - As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' investments, including real estate (not their home)? You don't report the house your parents live in as an investment; if they own more than one house, report all but the one they live in.
 - As of today, what is the net worth of your parents' business and/or investment farms? You only report a business if your parents employ more than 100 people. There are special considerations for family farms and family businesses.
- ❖ **Parents' Additional Financial Information**
 - You must get your parents' assistance in completing this question. Only they will know the answers to these.
 - *Use the Tips from Part 2, Student's Additional Financial Information, to complete this portion of the FAFSA.*

Who is considered a parent? A parent is either a biological parent or an adoptive parent. A legal guardian is not considered a parent. If you live with someone who didn't adopt you, you will still need your parents' information. If you have a legal guardian, you are Independent.



Tips on Filing the FAFSA:

Part 5: Independent Student Information

❖ *You only need to complete this part if you were determined to be Independent in Part 3.*

- How many people are in your household? Count all those who you provide at least half the support for. If they live with you but they or someone else provides most of the support, do not count them.
- How many will be college students?
 - Count yourself.
 - Only count those who are attending at least half-time and are counted in your number in household above.
- Did you or anyone in your household receive benefits from any of the federal benefits programs listed? SSI, Food Stamps, Free or Reduce Price School Lunch, TANF, WIC
 - If they received one of these you may qualify for more financial aid.
 - Only check one of these if they received these benefits in the prior year.
 - Be prepared to provide evidence to the Financial Aid Office at the institution you attend.
- As of today, are either of your parents a dislocated worker? A dislocated worker is someone who has been laid off or received a lay-off notice from their job, or is self-employed but currently unemployed due to economic conditions or natural disasters. A homemaker may be considered a dislocated worker if he or she was, but is no longer, supported by their spouse and is unable to find employment. If a person quits work, generally they are not a dislocated worker.

Part 6: Colleges to Receive Information

- Federal School Codes: You will be able to search for these when filing on-line. Otherwise check with the college.
- Housing Plans: Be sure to answer this question, but remember not all schools have dorms.

Part 7: Signatures

- If you are Dependent, both you and **your parent must sign this application**
- If you, or your parents do not have a PIN, you can create one on-line at www.pin.ed.gov
- If you can't access your PIN, you can print the signature page and mail it to the address on the form.
- If someone else completed this application for you, they must sign as the "Preparer".

Important Dates:

January 1 st	FAFSA on the web available	http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/
February 28 th	College Goal Sunday	http://www.collegegoalsundaysc.org/
March 30 th	Recommended date to have FAFSA filed	
April 15 th	Federal Tax filing deadline	
June 30 th	Deadline to file the FAFSA for the SC Tuition Grant.	
July 31 st	Recommended date to have FAFSA filed to receive financial aid for the Fall semester.	

School Priority Deadlines: Many institutions have a "priority deadline". You should check their website or call their financial aid office to find out what this deadline is. If you get your FAFSA filed and complete by that date you may be considered for all possible awards. After this date limited funding awards are often gone.

Need more help? Try these:

FAFSA on the Web Worksheets:	http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/before012.htm
Federal Student Aid FAFSA guidance	http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/completing_fafsa/index.html
College.gov	http://www.college.gov/wps/portal
College Goal Sunday	http://www.collegegoalsundaysc.org/
S.C. Commission on Higher Education	http://www.che400.state.sc.us/
S.C. Association of S.F.A. Administrators:	http://www.scasfaa.org/docs/toc_counselors.html
Fastweb Resources (click on "FAFSA")	http://www.fastweb.com/fastweb/resources
Schoolsoup search engine for scholarships:	http://www.schoolsoup.com/
"You can Afford It" by NASFAA:	http://www.nasfaa.org/subhomes/doitaffordit/afforditcover.html
S.C. Student Loan Corporation Services:	http://www.scstudentloan.org/
SallieMae Planning for the College Process	http://collegeanswer.com/



South Carolina Association of
Student Financial Aid Administrators

Updated 11/03/2008
by Kenneth T. Cole.



Financial Aid Tips

➤ What is Financial Aid?

Money granted or loaned to a student to assist in the cost of paying for college.

➤ What sources of Financial Aid are there?

The Federal Government:

- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Individual Grant programs (i.e. Americorp, WIA)

State Government:

- S.C. Commission on Higher Education
- S.C. Tuition Grants Commission

Educational Institutes:

- Public and Private Colleges, Universities and Technical Institutes

Private Agencies:

- Student Loan lending agencies (i.e. South Carolina Student Loan Corporation)
- Organizations and Associations awarding grants and scholarships (i.e. Rotary Club, Coca-Cola)
- Any organization that makes awards

➤ What types of Financial Aid are there?

Grants: Free money awarded primarily on need

Scholarships: Free money awarded on merit

Loans: Money borrowed by a student to pay for college, that must be paid back. Some are based on need.

Work Study: Employment at an educational institution that works around the student's school schedule. Usually awarded on need. Paychecks are earned; aid is not applied up front to bill.

➤ How do I apply for Grants and Scholarships?

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid:

The FAFSA determines eligibility for:

- Federal Awards:** Pell Grant, SEOG, A.C.G., Smart Grant, College Work Study, Perkins Loans, Federally Guaranteed Stafford Loans, etc...;
- Sate Awards:** Lottery Tuition Assistance, South Carolina Need Based Grant, and South Carolina Tuition Grant;
- Private Awards:** some grants and loans from private agencies.

Scholarships Applications:

- **May be required for some scholarships**
- **Usually require an essay**
- **Often available as early as November**
- **Contact the awarding agency for details**

➤ How do I apply for Federal and Alternative Student Loans?

Federally Guaranteed Student Loans:

- **Federally Guaranteed (no credit check)**
Perkins Loans: School is the lender
Direct Stafford Loans: Government is the lender
FFELP Stafford Loans: Private lenders
- **FAFSA required**
- **Choose a Lender (if FFELP)**
- **Promissory Note must be signed**
- **Loan Entrance Counseling required**
- **Certification of Enrollment required**

Alternative Loans: Private lenders

- **May require Credit Check or Cosigner**
- **Loan Application required**
- **Promissory Note must be signed**
- **Might require Certification of Enrollment**

➤ Do I have to apply for the South Carolina LIFE, HOPE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarships?

No. Eligibility is determined from your admissions application at the institution. To determine eligibility the institution requires the *High School transcript, SAT or ACT scores, and proof of residency in South Carolina.* The Financial Aid Office will notify you of your award, and require you to *sign an affidavit.*

➤ What is Verification?

Verification is when the Financial Aid Office has to compare the information from your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to your income and tax information, to verify its accuracy. Approximately 1 in 3 applicants is selected randomly by the U.S. Department of Education. This must be completed before you can be awarded financial aid.

➤ Will I have to complete any other paperwork?

Yes. After you have been awarded financial aid, you may be asked to complete other forms required. Be sure to sign and return these in a timely manner.

➤ Do I have to make good grades to keep my awards?

Yes. Federal Student Aid, State Aid, and most Institutional Aid require students to be meeting "Satisfactory Academic Progress" (SAP). This will require you to maintain a *passing Grade Point Average* and be *progressing towards the completion of your degree* at a reasonable rate. Each institution is allowed to set its own measures for SAP.

Important Web Sites

<http://www.pin.ed.gov>

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/>

<http://www.che400.state.sc.us/>

<http://www.sctuitiongrants.com/>

<http://www.scgrad.org/>

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

<http://www.scstudentloan.org/>

<http://www.collegegoalsundaysc.org/>

Register for a Personal Identification Number (PIN) for you and your parents to sign the FAFSA

File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid on-line for FREE

A student's guide to Federal Student Aid

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education, click on

The South Carolina Tuition Grant for Private Schools.

The South Carolina Tuition Prepayment Program

For Veterans of the Armed Forces, the GI Bill is a resource for VA Education Benefits

The South Carolina Student Loan Corp. administers the *South Carolina Teacher's Loan*

College Goal Sunday (Feb 28th 2009; Get free assistance filing the FAFSA on-line)

Students &
Parents



Save the Date: Priority Deadlines for Colleges and Universities

Clemson

FAFSA priority date for scholarships: February 15

FAFSA priority date for all other aid: April 1

Admissions priority deadline: December 1

Orientations:

Session 1: June 15-16 – Freshman - Honors

Session 2: June 17 – Transfer (Bridge Students Only)

Session 3: June 18-19 - Freshman

Session 4: June 22-23 - Freshman

Session 5: June 24 – Transfer

Session 6: June 25-26 – Freshman

Session 7: June 29-30 – Freshman

(Summer school starts on July 1)

Session 8: July 2-3 – Freshman- Honors

Session 9: July 8 – Transfer

Session 10: July 9-10 – Freshman- Honors

Session 11: July 13-14 – Freshman

Session 12: July 15 – Transfer

Benedict College

Financial Aid Priority Funding Deadline:
March 15 Scholarship and Admissions

Deadline: Rolling Deadline SC Tuition Grant Deadline
June 30

Central Carolina Technical College

The Financial Aid Priority deadline is March 1.

The Foundation's Scholarship deadline is March 15.

Denmark Technical College

FAFSA Priority Deadlines:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Fall	July 1
Spring	November 1
Summer	April 1

Lander University

Lander's priority deadline for receiving the FAFSA is March 31.

OC Tech

March 1 is the priority deadline for Fall 2009 financial aid.

SC State University

Admissions Application deadline is July 31 for Fall semester

Financial Aid priority date: May 1 for Fall semester,
November 1 for Spring semester, and April 1 for Summer

Trident Technical College

FAFSA Priority Deadlines:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Fall 2009	June 5, 2009
Spring 2010	November 6, 2009
Summer 2010	April 2, 2010

USC-Lancaster

Financial Aid Priority Deadline: April 15, 2009

Financial Aid Cutoff Date for Fall Semester: August 1,
2009

USC-Salkehatchie

FAFSA priority deadline is April 30.



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