

## **S.C. LIFE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

*Updated: 06/03/2026*

### **General Eligibility Requirements:**

- 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 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;
- Be enrolled as a full-time degree-seeking student; minimum FT hours 12; students have through the end of summer to earn renewal eligibility.
- Certify that he or she has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any second of subsequent alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor convictions within the past academic year; state certifications mailed to students with LIFE award letters or may be picked up in office.
- Verify that he or she is not in default and does not owe a refund or repayment on any Federal or State financial aid;
- Must not be a SC HOPE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance Program (LTAP) recipient.

### **Initial Eligibility Requirements for a LIFE Scholarship:**

First-time entering freshmen attending an eligible two-year or technical institution must earn a cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the UGP as described in (1a) above. The required standardized test score and class rank for four-year institution requirements are waived.

### **To Regain or Earn the LIFE Scholarship:**

After completion of the first academic year of college or to earn the scholarship while in college, students must:

- Meet all general eligibility criteria;
- Earn an average of 30 credit hours\* by the end of each academic year (fall, spring, summer) equaling a minimum of 30 credit hours consistent with the policies and procedures of the institution if a rising second year student, 60 credit hours if a rising

third year student consistent with the policies and procedures of the institution, or 90 credit hours consistent with the policies and procedures of the institution if a rising fourth year student; (students beginning eligibility in the spring are required to earn at least 15 non-rem cred hrs. by end of summer and;

- Earn a minimum 3.0 LIFE grade point average (GPA) based on grades earned at ALL institutions attended excluding remedial, continuing education, and non-degree credit courses by the end of each academic year (fall, spring, summer). Please note that the new LIFE GPA includes any dual enrollment grades earned while in high school.

*\* Credit hours include any college credits earned during an academic year, as well as any AP, IB, Dual Enrollment, CLEP, and exempted credit hours*

### **LIFE Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):**

**Can I qualify for the LIFE Scholarship or LIFE Scholarship Enhancement if I graduated from a high school out-of-state or completed an approved home school program as prescribed by law?**

Yes, if you can provide verification to the college that you were a dependent of a South Carolina resident and a U.S. Citizen/Legal permanent resident at the time of high school graduation and at the time of college enrollment and you met all other eligibility criteria. To qualify for the LIFE Scholarship, the GPA and class rank requirements must be based on the UGP. Therefore, as a high school senior enrolled in an approved home school program or an out-of-state high school, you must request to have your grade point average and rank reported based upon on the UGP.

Should you feel that you meet the LIFE Scholarship eligibility requirements, please contact the admission office at your planned institution of attendance or the SC Commission on Higher Education to discuss the appropriate documentation that will need to be submitted on the student's behalf for residency determination. Additional information may be required to determine LIFE Scholarship eligibility.

**May I receive the LIFE Scholarship if I am required to take remedial courses?**

First-time entering freshmen attending an eligible two-year or technical college who enroll in remedial courses during the first term(s) of enrollment will not be eligible for scholarship funds during this period unless the student is enrolled in at least twelve credit hours of non-remedial courses. Credit hours earned during the term(s) of remedial enrollment will not be used to determine remaining scholarship eligibility at the completion of remediation unless the student has completed at least twelve hours of non-remedial coursework each term of enrollment. The student will be eligible for the LIFE Scholarship for the term following completion of remediation if the student was eligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship upon high school graduation.

**What do I need to do to keep the LIFE Scholarship?**

Earn 3.0 Cumulative LIFE GPA, calculated based on all college transcripts. Average 30, 60 or 90 hrs. if began during fall term. OR 15, 45, 75 if beginning during a spring term. Note: students have through the end of summer term to add hours, pull up GPA or to reach annual hours goal. Reminder, LIFE eligibility is based on continued enrollment to retain eligibility.