

SC PALMETTO FELLOWS' SCHOLARSHIP

Updated: 06/03/2026

The Palmetto Fellows Scholarship is a merit-based program that is administered by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE).

Award Amount

The annual award amount for a student's freshman year is up to \$6,700. The award amount for the student's sophomore, junior and senior years is up to \$7,500.

General Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to apply for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, a high school senior must meet all the following general eligibility requirements:

- Be enrolled in an approved SC public or private high school, an eligible SC home school program of study or a preparatory high school located outside the State while a dependent of a legal resident of South Carolina.
- 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.
- Enroll in or be accepted for admission to an eligible institution in South Carolina.
- Certify that he/she has never been convicted of any felonies or convicted of any second or subsequent alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor offenses.

Academic Requirements

For Early Awards:

The school counselor/representative must submit the application and required documentation to CHE for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by April 15 of the student's senior year. Students must meet the following academic requirements:

Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT)¹ by the March national test administration, earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA on the SC Uniform Grading Policy (SC UGP) at the end of the junior year, and rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of either the sophomore or the junior year or score at least 1400 on the SAT (32 on the ACT) by the March national test administration and earn a minimum 4.00 cumulative GPA on the SC UGP at the end of the junior year.

For Late Awards:

The school counselor/representative must submit the application and required documentation to the CHE for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by June 30 of the student's senior year. High school seniors are eligible to apply if they meet one of the following sets of academic requirements. Score at least 1200 on the SAT (27 on the ACT) by the June national test administration of the senior year; earn a minimum 3.50 cumulative GPA 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 score at least 1400 on the SAT (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.

Application Process

Only school counselors/representatives are provided application materials through the SC Guidance Counselor Listserv. School counselors/representatives identify eligible students in their high schools who meet the criteria, and they must submit an electronic application through CollegeNET by the established deadline date. School counselors/representatives must also submit the hard copies of the required documentation to CHE on all eligible students by the established deadline date.

Application Status

Applications will be reviewed by CHE on a continuous basis. Students will be notified by email at the email listed on the student's application. If you are given a conditional award notification, you must turn in a Designation Form to CHE to indicate the university or college that you plan to attend in the Fall term.

Enrollment Requirements

Once you enroll at an eligible S.C. institution, you must maintain continuous full-time enrollment (12 credit hours each major term). If you take a break in continuous full-time enrollment, you will forfeit your scholarship. If you choose to take a gap year, you must complete and submit a Reapplication Form to CHE upon the time of your enrollment at an eligible SC institution no later than the fall term one year immediately following high school graduation to determine your eligibility for Palmetto Fellows.

Renewal Requirements

To continue receiving the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, students must earn at least 30 credits hours each academic year (fall, spring, summer) and earn a 3.00 SCC Cumulative GPA on a 4.00 scale by the end of the academic year (fall, spring, summer).

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Enhancement

Palmetto Fellows recipients must successfully complete at least 14 credit hours in mathematics or life and physical sciences or a combination of both by the end of their freshman year. Students must also declare an approved major in science, mathematics, or a health-related field. The Enhancement begins in the sophomore year and continues through the senior year. The total Enhancement award is \$2,500 per year. Half of the Enhancement is awarded in the fall semester and the other half in the spring semester.

Summer Eligibility

You may be eligible to receive the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship for the summer if you have demonstrated that you meet the continued eligibility requirements at the end of the spring semester.

Transferring the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship to Another Institution

To transfer your scholarship, you must receive approval from CHE first. Complete the In-State Transfer Form online via CHE.