



Agenda Item 3.03.b
CHE Meeting
1/7/98

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Austin Gilbert, Chairman, and Members,
Commission on Higher Education

FROM: Mr. Frank Gilbert, Chairman, *FG*
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

Consideration of Regulations for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program

On September 3, 1998, the Commission on Higher Education approved the regulations for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program as required under the Administrative Procedures Act. Subsequent to that meeting, the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Advisory Committee met and made two additional recommendations. Attached are the revised regulations that are consistent with existing legislation and were approved the Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services on January 5, 1999. Upon approval by the Commission on Higher Education and the General Assembly, these regulations will govern the administration of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program.

These recommendations were made in order to achieve consistency among State scholarship programs, specifically in streamlining the administration of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program with the Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship Program. The changes proposed in the regulations are as follows:

63-310 Program Definitions

F. "Academic year" is defined as the twelve-month period of time during which a full-time student is expected to earn 30 credit hours. The period of time used to measure the academic year will consist of a *fall, spring and summer term*.

63-335 Duration and Renewability of Award

D. (3). Complete a minimum of *30 credit hours* by the end of the academic year. Students who fail to do so will forfeit their eligibility to be considered for award renewal. This requirement applies to those students who will be awarded the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship beginning with 1999-2000 and thereafter. Students who have been awarded the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship in previous years shall remain under the prior requirement of completing a minimum of 24 credit hours by the end of the regular academic year. For students awarded the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship in years prior to 1999-2000, the academic year shall be defined by the U.S. Department of Education as the period of time a full-time student would normally be expected to complete the equivalent of two semesters of instruction.

This proposed change in the regulations will allow students an additional term during the academic year to complete the required 30 credit hours. This is consistent with the LIFE Scholarship Program.

63-320 Student Application

F. Qualifying test scores must be certified by the high school on the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship application by no later than the scholarship deadline. *It is permissible to select a verbal score from one test administration and a math score from a different test administration in order to obtain the qualifying composite score.*

According to the regulations, students must have certification that they earned a score of at least 1200 on the SAT, or an equivalent ACT score. The Commission shall convert all ACT scores to the equivalent SAT scores. Previously, students must have earned a qualifying test score from a single test administration rather than the best combined score from different test administrations.

This would give a greater opportunity for students to earn qualifying test scores. This is consistent with the LIFE Scholarship Program.

Recommendation

The Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services recommends that the Commission on Higher Education approve the proposed regulations including the above changes for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program.