



**Commission on
Higher Education**

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Executive Director

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Dalton B. Floyd, Jr., Chair, and Members
Commission on Higher Education

From: Ms. Susan Cole, Chair, and Members,
Committee on Access & Equity and Student Services

2002-2003 LIFE Scholarship Program

The Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship was established by the General Assembly during the 1998 legislative session and was signed into law on June 19, 1998. The LIFE Scholarship Program is a merit-based scholarship designed to increase access to higher education, improve the employability of South Carolina students, provide incentives for students to be better prepared for college, improve SAT scores, and encourage students to graduate from college on time.

During the 2002 legislative session, the General Assembly approved an increase in the award amount of the LIFE Scholarship Program. Forty million was allocated from the proceeds generated by the S.C. Education Lottery. Students attending a four-year public or independent institution received up to the cost-of-tuition, not to exceed \$4,700, plus a \$300 book allowance, while students attending a two-year public or technical institution received up to the cost-of-tuition plus a \$300 book allowance. In addition, students attending the two-year independent institution received up to the cost-of-tuition at the two-year regional campuses plus a \$300 book allowance.

In addition to the increased award amount, the General Assembly also amended the initial eligibility criteria. Effective Fall 2002, in order to qualify for the LIFE Scholarship students were required to meet two of the following three criteria: 1) earn a 3.0 cumulative grade point average, 2) earn a minimum score of 1100 on the SAT (24 ACT), 3) rank in the top 30% of the graduating class. The average SAT score for first-time entering freshmen in 2002 was 1160 (ACT scores were converted to SAT).

To earn or renew scholarship eligibility, the student is required to 1) meet all general eligibility criteria; 2) earn a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale by the end of the academic year (fall, spring, summer); and 3) earn an average of 30 credit hours each academic year (fall, spring, summer) equaling a minimum of 30 credit hours if a rising sophomore, 60 credit hours if a rising junior, or 90 credit hours if a rising senior.

As of August 31, 2003, the Commission on Higher Education awarded 24,502 students, totaling \$106.5 million for the 2002-2003 academic year. This is a 17% increase of the number of students awarded in 2001-02. The following reports provide additional information regarding the 2002-2003 LIFE Scholarship recipients including: number of students awarded and the amount disbursed by institution; recipients by classification; Fall 2002 retention; recipients by ethnicity; recipients by gender; first-time entering freshman by county of origin; and recipients by county of origin. These reports may also be found on the Commission's Website at www.che.sc.gov.

2002-2003 Number of LIFE Recipients and Amount Disbursed by Institution		
as of August 31, 2003		
Institution	# of Recipients	Amount Disbursed
Four-year Public Institutions:		
The Citadel	242	1,030,617
Clemson University	3761	17,998,588
Coastal Carolina University	602	2,576,996
College of Charleston	2023	9,478,440
Francis Marion University	649	2,826,217
Lander University	532	2,544,044
Medical University of South Carolina	71	352,500
South Carolina State University	314	1,509,148
U.S.C. - Aiken	611	2,733,542
U.S.C. - Beaufort	72	218,070
U.S.C. - Columbia	5125	24,745,042
U.S.C. - Spartanburg	619	2,876,710
Winthrop University	1448	7,016,905
SUB-TOTAL	16,155	\$75,905,519
Two-year Regional Campuses:		
U.S.C. - Lancaster	205	629,298
U.S.C. - Salkehatchie	95	286,621
U.S.C. - Sumter	182	570,999
U.S.C. - Union	41	129,930
SUB-TOTAL	523	\$1,616,848
Technical Institutions:		
Aiken Technical College	62	132,425
Central Carolina Technical College	68	128,067
Denmark Technical College	44	90,134
Florence-Darlington Technical College	144	318,509
Greenville Technical College	436	928,960
Horry-Georgetown Technical College	168	321,822
Midlands Technical College	410	923,828
Northeastern Technical College	96	215,706
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College	111	238,320
Piedmont Technical College	238	537,891
Spartanburg Technical College	310	656,828
Technical College of the Low Country	14	30,525
Tri-County Technical College	441	925,077
Trident Technical College	280	585,019
Williamsburg Technical College	10	20,502
York Technical College	140	308,246
SUB-TOTAL	2,972	\$5,961,859
Four-year Independent Institutions:		
Allen University	21	90,000
Anderson College	380	1,853,000
Benedict College	323	982,500
Bob Jones University	373	1,805,158
Charleston Southern University	438	2,088,000
Clafin University	287	1,427,000
Coker College	147	690,490
Columbia College	322	1,462,510
Columbia International University	97	362,500
Converse College	214	1,037,500
Erskine College	196	947,500
Furman University	350	1,722,119
Johnson and Wales University	89	301,564
Limestone College	72	355,000
Morris College	62	260,587
Newberry College	197	967,500
North Greenville College	404	1,896,187
Presbyterian College	317	1,552,500
Southern Wesleyan University	88	431,875
Voorhees College	34	142,500
Wofford College	339	1,682,500
SUB-TOTAL	4,750	\$22,055,400
Two-year Independent Institution:		
Spartanburg Methodist College	188	598,902
SUB-TOTAL	188	\$598,902
GRAND TOTAL	24,502	\$106,542,918

Fall 2002 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Ethnicity

The table below shows a break down of the Fall 2002 recipients by ethnicity. It also shows a comparison by ethnicity for Fall 2001 and Fall 2002. There was an increase in the number of minority recipients due to the new eligibility criteria.

Ethnicity	Recipients		Fall 2002 Percentage of Total Recipients
	Fall 2002	Fall 2001	
Black/African-American	3,636	2,151	15.6%
American Indian/Alaskan National	68	37	0.3%
Asian/Pacific Island	425	352	1.8%
Hispanic	241	166	1%
White/Non-Hispanic	18,278	15,046	78.4%
Unknown	678	1,596	2.9%
Total	23,326	19,348	100%

Fall 2002 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Gender

Gender	Students	Percentage
Male	8,508	36.5%
Female	14,752	63.2%
Unknown	66	0.3%
Total	23,326	100%

Fall 2002 LIFE Scholarship Recipients by Classification

Compared to Fall 2001, the number of freshmen recipients increased 22.2%. The percentage of upper classmen remained the same.

Classification	Fall 2002	
	# of Students	Percentage
Freshmen	9,959	42.7%
Sophomores	5,787	24.8%
Juniors	3,800	16.3%
Seniors	3,643	15.6%
Unclassified Undergraduate	4	.02%
Unknown	133	.57%
Total	23,326	100%

Fall 2002 LIFE Scholarship Retention

Students receiving the scholarship in Fall 2001 retained the scholarship in Fall 2002 at a rate of 68%. First-time entering freshman in Fall 2001 retained the scholarship in Fall 2002 at a rate of 51% as compared to sophomores, 87% and juniors, 85%. Data shows that since 1998 the retention numbers have steadily increased each year.

Institution	Retained at Same Institution			
	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Total
Senior Public	51%	77%	84%	67%
Two-Year Regional of USC	32%	0	0	32%
Technical	24%	0	0	24%
Senior Independent	50%	78%	85%	68%
Two-Year Independent	33%	0	0	33%
Sub-Total	46%	77%	84%	63%
Including students who transferred from originating institution to another institution in the State and retained LIFE. The Grand Total is:	51%	87%	85%	68%