

College Financial Newsletter

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www.cerra.org www.teachercadets.com

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South Carolina Financial Aid Eligibility

To see if you meet initial and continued eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows, Life Scholarship, and Hope Scholarship, [access the Eligibility Brochure at www.sccango.org](#). To learn more about available grants in SC visit [SC Higher Education Tuition Grants at sctuitiongrants.org](#).

South Carolina Student Loans

[Access SC Student Loan information here](#) and at www.scstudentloan.org.

What Should I Know?

Grants, Scholarships, Loans, Fellowships, and Student Employment

Grants and Scholarships DO NOT have to be repaid. Under most circumstances, loans **must be repaid**. Education loans usually have lower interest rates and most do not have to be repaid until the student leaves college. **Fellowships** are funds granted for advanced study. In many cases, Fellows share similar professional interests. **Student employment** is a job that the college coordinates or assigns for the student to offset the cost of attending school.



South Carolina Aid

South Carolina Scholarship Programs

Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

- For college freshmen entering in the fall of 2024, the amount of the scholarship is up to \$6700 towards the cost of attendance. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors may receive up to \$7500 per year.
- Math and science majors are eligible to receive up to \$2500 with the Palmetto Fellows Enhancement beginning their sophomore year.

Life Scholarship

- Freshman attending an eligible four-year college or university in the fall of 2024 may receive up to \$5000 (including a \$300 book allowance) each academic year towards the cost of attendance.
- The LIFE Scholarship pays up to the maximum cost of tuition at an approved two-year public, independent, or technical institution (plus a \$300 book allowance) each academic year.
- Students majoring in a Science, Technology, Engineering, and/or Mathematics (STEM) related field may qualify for an additional Life Scholarship Enhancement.

Hope Scholarship

- Eligible freshmen entering four-year institutions in South Carolina may receive up to \$2,800 (including a \$300 book allowance) for the first year towards the cost of attendance.
- If, by the end of the SC HOPE recipient's first year at an eligible institution, he/she has earned at least a 3.0 GPA and a minimum of 30 credit hours, the student will be eligible to receive the Life Scholarship for the second year of attendance.

Federal Financial Aid Information

Types of Federal Student Aid

1. Grants
2. Loans
3. Work Study

Visit @FederalStudentAid on YouTube to learn more.



Federal Financial Aid Eligibility

- Be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or permanent resident. (Eligible non-citizens may also receive federal student aid.)
- Be registered with the Selective Service, if you are a male 18 or older.
- Have documented financial need for certain types of aid.
- Have a high school diploma, a GED, or a passing score on a test approved by the U.S.
- Be enrolled as a regular student in a course of study leading to a degree or certificate.
- Have a valid Social Security number.
- Meet the school's standard for academic progress.

Federal Sources for Financial Aid

Federal Pell Grant

- Recipients receive up to \$7,395 of direct aid for students in 2024-2025, depending on program funding, financial need, and cost of attendance.

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)

- Annual grants of \$100 - \$4,000 for students with exceptional financial needs are awarded.

TEACH Grant

- Up to \$4,000 per year for students who are completing or plan to complete coursework needed to begin a career in teaching. Access TEACH Grants at www.studentaid.gov.

Direct Federal Loans

- Subsidized and unsubsidized loans are available for students and/or parents who qualify. To apply for a Direct Loan, you must first complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). More information may be found at www.studentaid.gov.

Federal Work Study Program (FWSP)

- FWSP are jobs on campus for students with financial needs. Students interested in Work-Study should contact the Financial Aid Office at their school to learn how the program works and apply for open positions.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form must be completed and submitted online at www.studentaid.gov. For more information, check with your school counselor, or call toll-free at 1-800-433-3243.
- Students may not complete the FAFSA application before October 1st or after June 30th of the year in which they will receive the aid. NO EXCEPTIONS. After applying, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) noting eligibility for aid.
- To apply for FAFSA, you will need the following:
 1. an application or a computer access for e-filing
 2. social security number
 3. the most recent student and parent income tax information
 4. all W-2 statements of earnings
 5. current bank statements
 6. a FSA ID to sign electronically

FAFSA

Financial Opportunities for Future Teachers

Teacher Cadet National Honor Society Scholarship (TCNHS)

One TCNHS Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000, is awarded annually. Those eligible for the lottery-styled drawing include a senior member of the TCNHS who is in good standing and has maintained a 3.5 GPA, has completed the TCNHS Service-Learning Project, and has paid his/her TCNHS dues.

Call Me MISTER

Call Me MISTER aims to increase the pool of available teachers from a broader background. Call Me MISTER combines the special strengths of Clemson University with the individualized instructional programs offered by several colleges and universities in South Carolina. The project also has limited enrollment in the middle school Master of Arts in Teaching Program. For more information about Call Me MISTER, call 800.640.2657, e-mail MISTER@clemson.edu, or visit [Call Me MISTER on the www.clemson.edu](http://www.clemson.edu) website.



TeachSC

The SC Department of Education has partnered with TeachSC to provide support to students considering going into a teacher preparation program. TeachSC provides up to \$100 in fee reimbursement for expenses related to applying for a program including testing fees. They also offer a chance to earn a regional scholarship of \$1000. To register and learn more about TeachSC visit <https://southcarolina.teach.org>.

The SC Teachers Loan Program

SC Teachers Loan Program

The SC Teachers Loan Program encourages South Carolina residents to enter the teaching profession. These loans are forgiven by teaching in a SC public school in a critical subject and/or critical geographic area.

What are the critical subject and geographical areas?

Critical subject and geographical areas vary. Visit www.ed.sc.gov/educators and click the Critical Needs Subjects and Schools link to learn more.

How can I calculate the percentage of the loan forgiven?

The loan is forgiven at the rate of 20% or \$3,000, whichever is greater, for each full year of teaching in a SC public school in a critical subject or geographic area. If you teach in a public SC school in both critical subject and critical geographic area, your loan will be forgiven at the rate of 33.33% or \$5,000, whichever is greater, for each year of full-time teaching.

Do you qualify?

You must:

- rank in the top 40% of your high school graduating class
- be a SC resident,
- be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States,
- have a SAT/ACT score equal to or greater than the SC average for the year of graduation from high school. Currently, the average scores are: SAT (two parts) 1021; ACT 18.

Steps to loan renewal:

- students must re-apply each year,
- undergraduates must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale,
- after freshman year, a student must take and pass the Praxis Core exam. Students with a SAT score of 1100 or greater are exempt from the Praxis requirement. For information on the Praxis, visit the ETS website at www.ets.org/praxis/site.html or call 609-771-7395.

Additional Opportunities for Future Teachers

Teach Grant

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education grant program provides grants up to \$4,000 per year to students who intend to teach in a private or public elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. As a recipient of a TEACH Grant, recipients must teach in a high need field for at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which they received a TEACH Grant. If a recipient fails to complete the service obligation, all amounts of the funding from TEACH Grants received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. For more information about the TEACH Grant, visit www.studentaid.gov and search for Teach Grants.



Ken Bower: Teacher Cadet Scholarship

Who Can Apply

High school seniors who participated in the Teacher Cadet Program and plan to attend a South Carolina college or university to become a teacher are encouraged to apply.

Application Window

The Ken Bower application window opens February 1, 2024. The application must be completed and received no later than 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2024.

Announcement

The selected scholarship recipients will be announced next spring and notified by letter. Recipients will also be posted online at www.teachercadets.com.

Disbursement of Funds

The scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the college/university by August 2024. Recipients of the Ken Bower Scholarship will receive a one-time award of \$1,000. Awards are determined based on the merits of scholarship, school and community involvement, teacher recommendations, and a written essay. The Ken Bower scholarship is not "needs-based" and does not rely on the Teacher Cadet's family financial information. Teaching Fellows may also be recipients of the Ken Bower Scholarship. For more information or to apply for the Ken Bower Scholarship, visit www.teachercadets.com.

Teaching Fellows Scholarship

Who Can Apply

Applicants must be a high school senior or junior graduating early, a United States citizen or permanent resident or alien legally authorized to be in the United States, and a legal resident of South Carolina.

Application Window

The Teaching Fellows application window opens from October 1, 2023 to December 1, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Supporting documents must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on December 3, 2023.

Announcement

Award notifications will be made in early spring 2024.

Awards

Teaching Fellows receive up to \$24,000 in fellowship funds (up to \$6,000 a year for four years) while they complete a degree leading to initial teacher certification. The fellowship provides up to \$5,700 for tuition and board and \$300 for specific enrichment programs administered by CERRA. All Teaching Fellows awards are contingent upon funding from the SC General Assembly. A Fellow agrees to teach in a South Carolina public school one year for every year he/she receives the Fellowship. Visit www.cerra.org for more information.

Testing and Contact Information

ACT and SAT Registration and Testing Date Information

Find ACT Registration and Testing Dates at www.act.org.

Find SAT Registration and Testing Date at <https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat>.

Study.com

CERRA has partnered with Study.com to offer support to students preparing to take the Praxis. Please visit www.teachercadets.com and click on the website banner to learn more.

Contact Information at a Glance and a Click

Please note: longer URL website addresses are listed below and are intended for the viewer to access the websites listed by double clicking on each link.

ACT: www.act.org

ACT Fee Waivers (needs-based): 319-337-127

Call Me MISTER:

<http://www.clemson.edu/education/programs/programs/call-me-mister.html>

CERRA: www.cerra.org or 1-800-476-2387

College Board: <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
<https://studentaid.gov> or call 1-800-433-3243

Federal Information:

<https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements>

Gates Millennium: <http://www.gmsp.org/>

NABSE: <http://www.nabse.org/>

Private Sector Scholarships:

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

SAT: <http://www.collegeboard.com/>

SAT Fee Waivers (need-based):

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration/fee-waivers>

SC Student Loan Corporation:

<http://www.scstudentloan.org/> or call or 1-800-347-2752

SC Teaching Fellows: <https://www.cerra.org/teaching-fellows.html>

SC Teacher Loan: <https://scstudentloan.org/school-loans/sc-teacher-loan-programs-forgiveness>

SC Tuition Grants:

<https://www2.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml?src=rt>

TeachSC: <https://southcarolina.teach.org/>

The Go-to Guide for College Financial Aid:

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

US Department of Education Veterans Affairs:

<https://www.va.gov/education/>



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