

**South Carolina  
Higher Education  
Tuition Grants Commission**

115 Atrium Way, Suite 102

Columbia, SC 29223

Phone: (803) 896-1120

Fax: (803) 896-1126

**TENTATIVE SC TUITION GRANT ELIGIBILITY - 2016-2017**

COLLEGE:

TENTATIVE SC TUITION GRANT:

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY EACH SECTION OF THIS LETTER**

The Commission highly recommends that you save this document and all other financial aid correspondence for your records.

**DEAR STUDENT:**

On your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) you listed a South Carolina independent (private) college among your college choices. As a result of your application, you are *tentatively* eligible for a South Carolina Tuition Grant for the 2016-2017 academic year. If you meet ALL eligibility requirements, and if you enroll full-time (minimum of 12 eligible undergraduate semester hours) in an approved program at the SC independent college listed above, you will receive a SC Tuition Grant for the 2016-2017 academic year. All SC Tuition Grants awards are contingent on funding of the program by the General Assembly; therefore, any change in program funding could necessitate a change in your award. In addition, tentative eligibility is calculated based on prior years' enrollment patterns and the total number of eligible students; therefore, any substantial changes in student enrollment may also require a change in your award amount. Because your *tentative* eligibility for this award is communicated in writing to the college listed on this letter, you are not required to submit this letter to your college in order to receive a SC Tuition Grant.

**PROGRAM FUNDED ANNUALLY BY SOUTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The SC Tuition Grants Program is supported by the South Carolina General Assembly, on a non-partisan basis, through annual state appropriations. You and your family may wish to write letters thanking the members of your local legislative delegation for their support of this program.

**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

To be eligible as a first-time freshman, you must graduate in the top 75% of your high school graduating class OR score at least 900 on the SAT Test (Math & Critical Reading Sections Only) OR 19 Composite on the ACT Test OR graduate from high school with a GPA of at least 2.000 on the SC Uniform Grading Policy. If you have previously attended college, to be eligible you must have passed 24 credit hours during your last year of full-time enrollment. If you did not enroll full-time during your most recent college enrollment, your credit hours requirement will be adjusted according to SC Tuition Grants Program policies. Returning students are also required to comply with the college's Federal Satisfactory Academic Progress policy in order to receive the SC Tuition Grant. If, at any time, you lose federal aid eligibility due to violations of the institutional Satisfactory Academic Progress policy, you will also lose your SC Tuition Grant award for the semester(s) impacted by such a violation. Your award is contingent upon your satisfying these academic requirements. If, after you receive this award letter, the Commission is notified by your college that you do not meet these criteria, your eligibility will be terminated and this award will be canceled immediately. Your Financial Aid Office can answer any questions about academic eligibility.

**PLEASE READ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE**

**[www.sctuitiongrants.org](http://www.sctuitiongrants.org)**

## **DETERMINATION OF AWARD AMOUNT AND OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

The amount of your SC Tuition Grant is determined by criteria such as income, assets, family size, number of family members attending college, the cost of attendance at your college, and the amount of money appropriated for the program. **If you are enrolled in a Non-Traditional or Evening Program, the amount of the SC Tuition Grant as previously indicated might change. In addition, your grant may be reduced or canceled if you receive funds from other sources that are used to specifically pay your tuition (i.e. employee tuition assistance, Veterans educational benefits, ROTC tuition scholarships).** You may receive a SC Tuition Grant for up to, but not exceeding, eight semesters provided you remain eligible. **You must reapply annually by the June 30 deadline.** No preference is given to renewal applicants. You (or your parents, if you filed the FAFSA as a “dependent” student) must have been domiciled in South Carolina **and** must have been permanent legal resident(s) of South Carolina for at least twelve continuous months immediately preceding the date classes begin for the Fall term. Your college will verify this. To receive a SC Tuition Grant, you must be an undergraduate student who has not yet received a bachelor’s degree.

## **VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

If you are selected for Verification, you are required to submit IRS tax transcripts and other pertinent information to your college Financial Aid Office to verify the accuracy of the financial information on your application. Failure to have your Verification completed by your college and communicated to the Commission by November 15<sup>th</sup> of this year will make you **ineligible** for a SC Tuition Grant. Selection notification will come from the federal processor and/or your college Financial Aid Office. Please respond promptly to any directions given concerning Verification. Please note that this award may be canceled or adjusted by the SC Tuition Grants Commission if any corrections are made to the information you supplied on your application.

## **REQUIRED AFFIDAVIT**

To be eligible to receive a SC Tuition Grant, you cannot have **ever** been convicted of, pled guilty to, or pled no contest to a felony. Additionally, you cannot have been convicted of, pled guilty to or pled no contest to a second or subsequent drug or alcohol related offense during the twelve-month period prior to the first day of classes for the Fall Semester. **You are not eligible for a Tuition Grant until you sign an affidavit (required annually) that you meet this requirement. You should obtain a copy of an affidavit from your college’s financial aid office and submit it as soon as possible, but not later than November 15<sup>th</sup> of this year, to your college’s financial aid office.**

## **DISBURSEMENT OF YOUR SC TUITION GRANT FUNDS**

After your college has reported to the SC Tuition Grants Commission that you have enrolled as a full-time student for the Fall Semester, the Commission will forward the first semester portion of your SC Tuition Grant to your college to be credited toward your tuition charges. By state law, SC Tuition Grant monies may only be used toward payment of your tuition and required fees at a South Carolina independent college. Your acceptance of this SC Tuition Grant is indicated by your full-time enrollment (minimum of 12 eligible undergraduate semester hours) at the SC independent college indicated on this letter. Your full-time enrollment is also an indication that the choice to use the SC Tuition Grant funds to attend and pay tuition at the selected South Carolina independent college was made entirely by **you**, the student, and not by the State of South Carolina. The payment of funds to your chosen institution is a result of **your** decision to attend that specific college. Awards are made for the full academic year. **By failing to enroll full-time during the Fall Semester, you will forfeit your SC Tuition Grant for the full year.** If you withdraw from college, a refund must be made to the Commission according to the college’s refund policy.

## **TRANSFERRING YOUR SC TUITION GRANT AWARD TO ANOTHER SC INDEPENDENT COLLEGE**

If you wish to transfer your SC Tuition Grant to another eligible South Carolina independent (private) college, you must notify the SC Tuition Grants Commission **in writing**. A change in college from the one listed on this award letter may affect the amount of your SC Tuition Grant.

## **APPEALS OF INELIGIBILITY**

If it is determined that you are not eligible for a SC Tuition Grant based on any of the program requirements listed in this notice, you may appeal this determination in writing to the SC Tuition Grants Commission. Extenuating circumstances, **beyond the student’s control**, must exist for an appeal to be considered by the Commission’s Appeals Committee. Regardless of the reason for appeal, the SC Tuition Grants Commission has established an **absolute deadline of November 15th for the receipt of all complete appeals.** An appeal is not considered “complete” until all documentation necessary to consider the appeal is received by the Commission. The Commission’s Appeals Committee is the final authority on all decisions concerning written appeals. Please contact the Commission or your financial aid officer if you have any questions about appeals.

**[www.sctuitiongrants.org](http://www.sctuitiongrants.org)**