





# SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

*Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.*

111 Executive Center Drive  
Suite 242  
Columbia, SC 29210  
(803) 896-1120  
info@sctuitiongrants.org

Katherine H. Harrison  
Executive Director

## **Staff Recommendation Regarding Freshman Academic Requirements**

Per current Commission policy, first-time freshmen must meet one of the four following requirements to qualify for South Carolina Tuition Grants:

- Graduate in the top three-fourths (top 75%) of their high school class; **OR**,
- Score at least 900 on the SAT (combined Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing sections); **OR**,
- Score at least a 19 Composite on the ACT; **OR**,
- Graduate from a South Carolina high school with at least a final GPA of 2.700 on the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy (UGP)

Additionally, the current policy states: "An incoming freshman who is twenty-two (22) years old or older by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the award year and who has obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED or Adult Education Diploma) is academically eligible for a Tuition Grant. Incoming Freshman under twenty-two (22) years of age who complete their high school diplomas through an Adult Education Program (i.e., not graduating from high school) qualify only if they meet the SAT or ACT Test Score Requirement since they cannot meet the High School Rank or GPA requirements."

On average, over 75 students annually are deemed ineligible for South Carolina Tuition Grants during their freshman year for not meeting these Freshman Academic Requirements. While Statute requires South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients to have demonstrated qualities of academic merit, Commission Staff are of the opinion that a student who is admitted as a degree-seeking student has been deemed by their college or university to have demonstrated qualities of academic merit.

Commission staff recommend the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission consider the following change to the South Carolina Tuition Grants Satisfactory Academic Policy, effective with the 2023-2024 Academic Year:

### **INCOMING FRESHMAN:**

Incoming freshman who are admitted as degree-seeking students based on the college's academic requirements for admission, and who have obtained a high school diploma or its equivalent (GED or Adult Education Diploma) shall be considered academically eligible for South Carolina Tuition Grants.

**A vote by the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission is required to change the currently approved Freshman Academic Requirements for Eligibility.**



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**Staff Recommendation Regarding Maximum South Carolina  
Tuition Grants for 2023-2024**

Based on the appropriated funds for FY24, carry-forward funds currently available, and following the established awarding philosophy of equalized grant values, the Commission staff recommends to the Commission that maximum grants for 2023-2024 be approved as follows:

The Maximum Grant should be increased from the current 2023-2024 Initial Maximum Grant of \$4,700 to a Maximum Grant of **\$4,800** for the 2023-2024 Award Year.

**A vote by the South Carolina Tuition Grants Commission is required to approve this change to the Maximum Tuition Grant for the 2023-2024 academic year.**