



# SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

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*Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.*

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2024-2025**

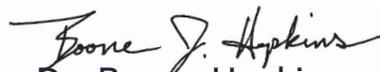


## **SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION**

TO: His Excellency, Governor Henry Dargan McMaster, and the  
Members of the South Carolina General Assembly

The South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission respectfully submits for consideration its annual report. Included in this report are general data and statistics concerning the program and specific data covering the 2024-2025 award year.

Respectfully Yours,



Dr. Boone Hopkins

2024-2025 Chair

SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

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# SC HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION

## Philosophy and Purpose

"Whereas, the General Assembly finds that as a result of the rising school population and the continuously rising cost of providing proper facilities for the higher education of young people, there exists in this State an urgent need to use all available educational resources wisely. A lack of higher education facilities is inimical to the welfare and prosperity of all residents of the State and to the continued financial growth of the State;

Whereas, the General Assembly also finds that within the State there exists several accredited independent institutions of higher learning whose facilities could be used effectively in the public interest by providing additional space for students thereby eliminating the need for substantial increases in capital outlay funds; and

Whereas, it is vital to the growth of the State that all qualified residents be offered the opportunity for furthering their education. To achieve this in the most economical manner, students willing to bear the major cost of their education expenses should be assisted where financial need exists in an effort to make their educational goals more readily attainable."

-- The Preamble to the Tuition Grants Law

## 2024-25 Commission Members

**Dr. Boone Hopkins, Chair**  
Converse University  
Spartanburg, SC

**Dr. Gene Fant, Vice Chair**  
North Greenville University  
Tigerville, SC

**Dr. Natalie Harder, Secretary**  
Coker University  
Hartsville, SC

**Dr. Ernest McNealey**  
Allen University  
Columbia, SC

**Dr. Pamela Richardson Wilks**  
Clinton College  
Rock Hill, SC

**Dr. John Dozier**  
Columbia College  
Columbia, SC

**Dr. Anita Gustafson**  
Presbyterian College  
Clinton, SC

**Dr. William Barker**  
Southern Wesleyan University  
Central, SC

**Dr. L. Jeffrey Perez**  
Commission on Higher Education  
Columbia, SC

## Agency Staff Members

**Ms. Katherine H. Stevens**  
*Executive Director*

**Mr. Zachary R. Christian**  
*Deputy Director*

**Ms. Kira L. Demery**  
*Fiscal Operations Manager*

**Mr. C. Ross Waddell**  
*Program Operations Coordinator*

## Location and Contact Information

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Columbia, SC 29210

Phone: 803.896.1120  
Email: [info@sctuitiongrants.org](mailto:info@sctuitiongrants.org)  
Web: <https://sctuitiongrants.org>

## Statutory Authority for the Commission

The General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, during the 1970 session, passed Act 1191 creating the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission. This Commission was created as a State agency charged with the responsibility for overseeing the operation of the Tuition Grants Program. The SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is authorized under Title 59, Chapter 113 of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

## History of the Commission

In 1970, the General Assembly passed a bill that created the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission, an agency that was charged with the responsibility of administering tuition grants to independent college students. The Governor signed the bill on May 1, 1970. The original appropriation was \$5,000. No awards were made the first year. In 1971-72, the program aided 43 students. In 1972-73, a total of 134 students received awards.

Since the beginning of the program and through the end of the 2024-25 academic year, just over 520,000 awards have been made.

*"Providing Opportunity.  
Promoting Choice."*

## Program Administered by the Tuition Grants Commission

The South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission has been charged by the General Assembly with the responsibility of administering the Tuition Grants Program. This program allows South Carolina residents who attend participating independent colleges in this state to receive financial assistance from the State if they meet the eligibility requirements of the program.

All grant recipients must be full-time students, of good moral character, must demonstrate financial need, and must meet specified standards of academic merit.

Eligible students may apply their grants only toward tuition and fees at a South Carolina independent college that is non-profit and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools or an independent bachelor's level institution chartered before 1962 whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina. The amount of the grant may not exceed the student's financial need or the total of tuition and fees charged by the college. Also, the amount may not exceed the average annual state subsidy for the students who attend the four-year public colleges in the state.

Between August and October of each year, the Tuition Grants Commission distributes Program information to all South Carolina secondary schools and to eligible colleges. The counseling offices at the secondary schools and the financial aid offices at the colleges assist with distributing this information to students throughout the state.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 2024-25 Impact at a Glance

**\$57.3 MILLION AWARDED**

**12,975**  
Grants Awarded



**4,078**  
First-time Freshmen



**\$4,406**  
Average Grant



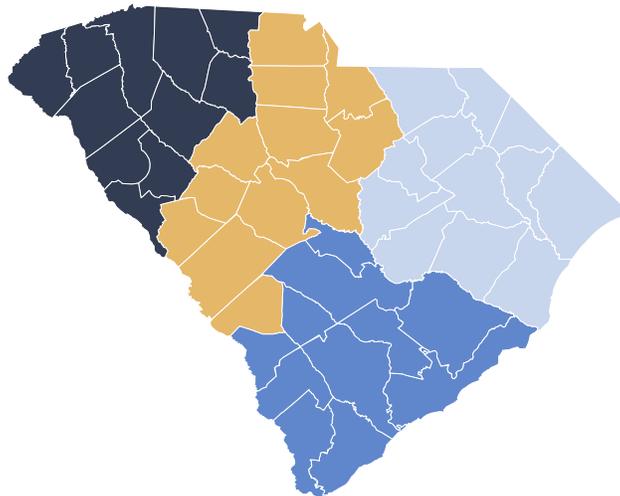
The Commission received **33,736** complete applications for grants for the 2024-25 award year. The Tuition Grants Program has opened the door of educational opportunity to thousands of South Carolinians, with **12,975** grants being disbursed to students attending the **22** participating colleges. Students received **\$4,406** on average in Tuition Grants funds. The maximum South Carolina Tuition Grant award amount was **\$4,800** for the award year.

Tuition Grants recipients ranged in age from **16** years to **71** years, with the average age being **21** years. Nearly eighty-five percent (**84.99%**) of recipients were considered dependent upon their parents/guardians, while just over fifteen percent (**15.01%**) were considered independent. Nearly ninety-three percent (**92.88%**) of recipients were enrolled in traditional day programs, while just over seven percent (**7.12%**) were enrolled as non-traditional students.

## Regional Reach and Impact

Tuition Grants Recipients hail from all 46 counties in the State. The following number of grants were made to students from each of the four main regions:

- Upstate: 5,315 Grants (\$23,635,311)
- Midlands: 3,433 Grants (\$15,100,433)
- Lowcountry: 2,441 Grants (\$10,763,571)
- Pee Dee: 1,776 Grants (\$7,843,785)



## Outreach Activities and Public Service

During the 2024-25 award year, Commission staff members participated in **ten** professional programs for students, their parents, and other populations. These financial aid information sessions were conducted throughout the State and were attended by over **714** participants.

The Commission staff conducted training workshops for colleges as needed including Program Orientation sessions for new college presidents. Executive staff presented Program information at various meetings of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, and at the annual statewide conference of the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

The Commission staff also conducted trainings with newly hired financial aid personnel at the participating colleges and universities, to ensure adequate training for those responsible for administering the Program.

The Commission's web site (<https://sctuitiongrants.org>), which complies with all State security requirements even though no personally identifiable information (PII) is available to the public through the site, provides students, parents, and the general public important program information, links to South Carolina's independent colleges, links to federal financial aid information, and links to necessary program documents for students and parents. Additionally, the Commission implemented a web-based Student Information System, "myTG," which provides a secure portal for college financial aid offices to access information and certify student eligibility online. A student portal is also available, enabling students direct access to their Tuition Grant application information and disbursement records.

## Fiscal Efficiency

Of the total state dollars appropriated in 2024-25, just 1.4% of the agency's budget, including salaries, benefits, and information security expenses, was used for administration. The remaining 98.6% of funds were awarded directly to students as need-based Tuition Grants. This ratio underscores the Commission's commitment to efficiency and maximizing the impact of every taxpayer dollar.

State General Fund Appropriation for Tuition Grants	<b>\$27,558,624</b>
State Lottery Allocation	<b>\$19,930,000</b>
Children's Education Endowment Funds	<b>\$14,847,360</b>
+ Interest Earned for Tuition Grants	<b>\$351,051</b>
<hr/>	<hr/>
= <i>Total Tuition Grants Program Funding</i>	<b><i>\$62,687,035</i></b>
+ Administrative Budget (Salaries, Benefits, Operating)	<b>\$983,061</b>
<hr/>	<hr/>
= <i>Total Program and Administration Funding</i>	<b><i>\$63,670,096</i></b>
**Total Administrative Expenditures for 2024-25	<b>\$901,126</b>

**\*\*Total administrative expenditures were *just 1.4%* of the total agency appropriation.**

## PARTICIPATING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Participation in the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program is limited to Independent Institutions of Higher Learning as defined by §59-113-50 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. An independent institution of higher learning means an:

1. independent eleemosynary junior or senior college in South Carolina whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina and which is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; or
2. independent bachelor's level institution chartered before 1962 whose major campus and headquarters are located within South Carolina.

There were twenty-two colleges and universities eligible to participate in the Program during the 2024-25 award year:

<b>Allen University</b> <i>Columbia, SC</i>	<b>Anderson University</b> <i>Anderson, SC</i>
<b>Benedict College</b> <i>Columbia, SC</i>	<b>Bob Jones University</b> <i>Greenville, SC</i>
<b>Charleston Southern University</b> <i>Charleston, SC</i>	<b>Claflin University</b> <i>Orangeburg, SC</i>
<b>Clinton College</b> <i>Rock Hill, SC</i>	<b>Coker University</b> <i>Hartsville, SC</i>
<b>Columbia College</b> <i>Columbia, SC</i>	<b>Columbia International University</b> <i>Columbia, SC</i>
<b>Converse University</b> <i>Spartanburg, SC</i>	<b>Erskine College</b> <i>Due West, SC</i>
<b>Furman University</b> <i>Greenville, SC</i>	<b>Limestone University*</b> <i>Gaffney, SC</i>
<b>Morris College</b> <i>Sumter, SC</i>	<b>Newberry College</b> <i>Newberry, SC</i>
<b>North Greenville University</b> <i>Tigerville, SC</i>	<b>Presbyterian College</b> <i>Clinton, SC</i>
<b>Southern Wesleyan University</b> <i>Central, SC</i>	<b>Spartanburg Methodist College</b> <i>Spartanburg, SC</i>
<b>Voorhees University</b> <i>Denmark, SC</i>	<b>Wofford College</b> <i>Spartanburg, SC</i>

\*Limestone University announced its permanent closure upon the end of the Spring 2025 semester.

## 2024-25 Tuition Grants Recipients by College

College	Freshmen		Sophomores		Juniors/Seniors*		Total	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
ALLEN UNIVERSITY	62	\$263,436	57	\$259,200	103	\$436,874	222	\$959,510
ANDERSON UNIVERSITY	423	\$1,920,962	424	\$1,960,151	683	\$2,991,352	1,530	\$6,872,465
BENEDICT COLLEGE	239	\$1,048,276	132	\$561,872	261	\$1,185,440	632	\$2,795,588
BOB JONES UNIVERSITY	149	\$665,813	128	\$576,494	223	\$913,584	500	\$2,155,891
CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY	464	\$2,034,484	313	\$1,406,719	612	\$2,652,409	1,389	\$6,093,612
CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY	342	\$1,550,221	313	\$1,390,668	424	\$1,830,822	1,079	\$4,771,711
CLINTON COLLEGE	54	\$235,200	25	\$100,800	33	\$127,200	112	\$463,200
COKER UNIVERSITY	106	\$450,173	91	\$416,216	226	\$1,005,120	423	\$1,871,509
COLUMBIA COLLEGE	164	\$694,937	121	\$525,554	332	\$1,341,745	617	\$2,562,236
COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY	90	\$403,826	66	\$298,966	147	\$636,892	303	\$1,339,684
CONVERSE UNIVERSITY	141	\$617,726	102	\$476,730	207	\$942,134	450	\$2,036,590
ERSKINE COLLEGE	135	\$590,510	109	\$477,835	155	\$709,458	399	\$1,777,803
FURMAN UNIVERSITY	112	\$526,628	132	\$613,690	226	\$1,056,902	470	\$2,197,220
LIMESTONE UNIVERSITY	201	\$896,062	130	\$586,916	301	\$1,239,328	632	\$2,722,306
MORRIS COLLEGE	61	\$264,682	59	\$261,600	94	\$408,000	214	\$934,282
NEWBERRY COLLEGE	310	\$1,379,078	239	\$1,077,126	308	\$1,339,931	857	\$3,796,135
NORTH GREENVILLE UNIVERSITY	244	\$1,056,375	189	\$850,386	523	\$2,264,385	956	\$4,171,146
PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE	138	\$634,707	110	\$513,600	128	\$586,568	376	\$1,734,875
SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	59	\$263,855	78	\$358,950	145	\$610,970	282	\$1,233,775
SPARTANBURG METHODIST COLLEGE	415	\$1,823,727	213	\$927,412	189	\$784,047	817	\$3,535,186
VOORHEES UNIVERSITY	39	\$177,600	17	\$81,600	54	\$213,600	110	\$472,800
WOFFORD COLLEGE	130	\$613,392	172	\$806,036	303	\$1,426,148	605	\$2,845,576
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,078</b>	<b>\$18,111,670</b>	<b>3,220</b>	<b>\$14,528,521</b>	<b>5,677</b>	<b>\$24,702,909</b>	<b>12,975</b>	<b>\$57,343,100</b>

\*Effective with the 2024-2025 FAFSA, reported grade level combined Junior and Senior to "Other Undergraduate."

**12,975**  
Grants Awarded



**\$4,800**  
Maximum Grant

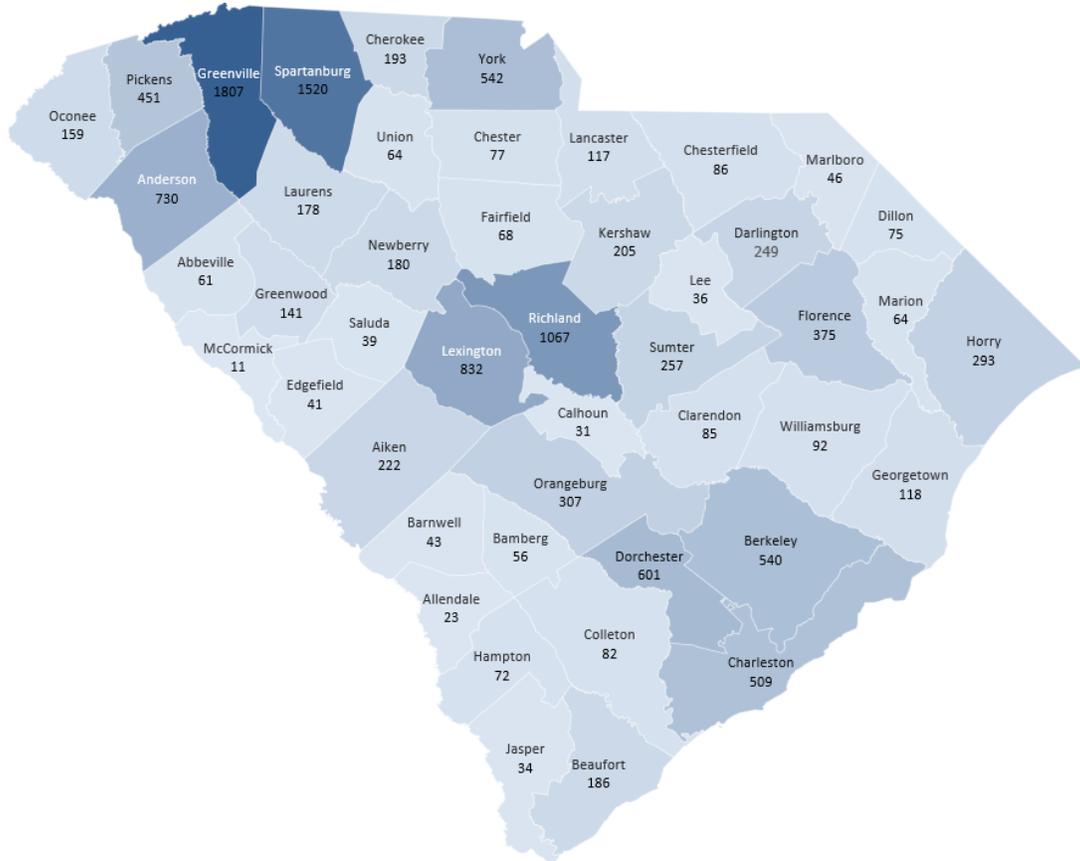


**\$4,406**  
Average Grant

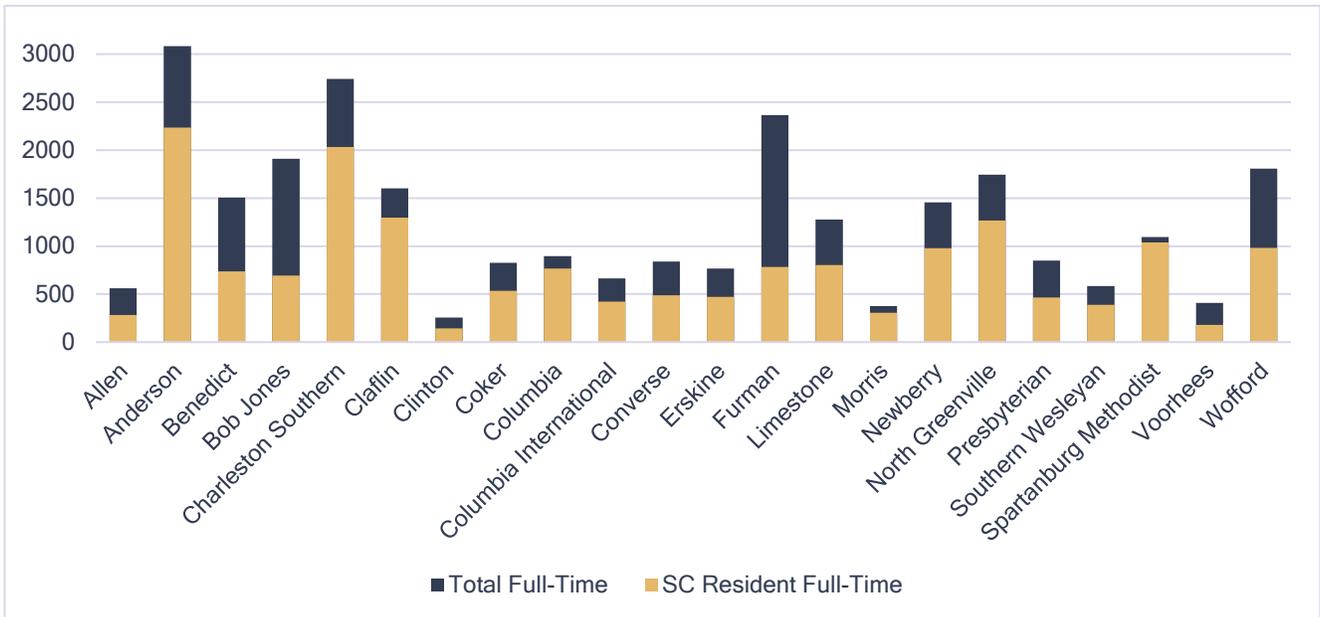


# SOUTH CAROLINA TUITION GRANTS PROGRAM DATA

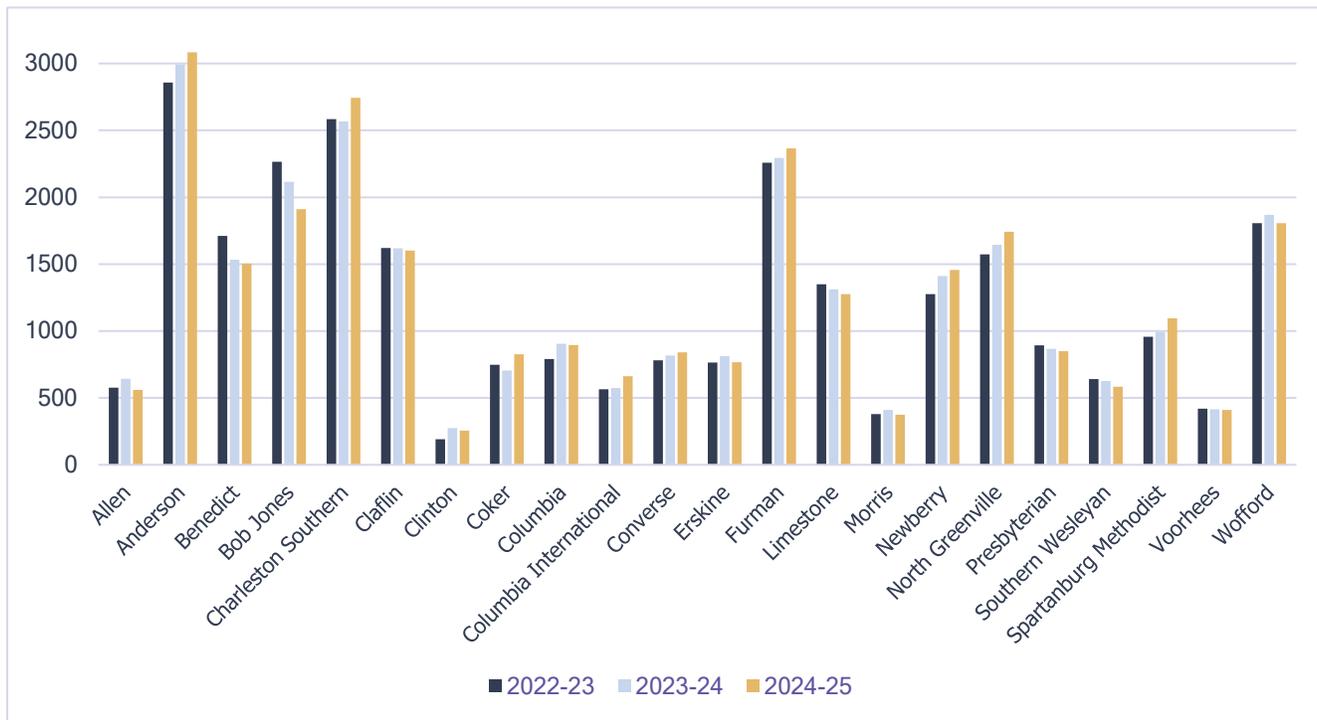
## 2024-25 Tuition Grants Recipients by County



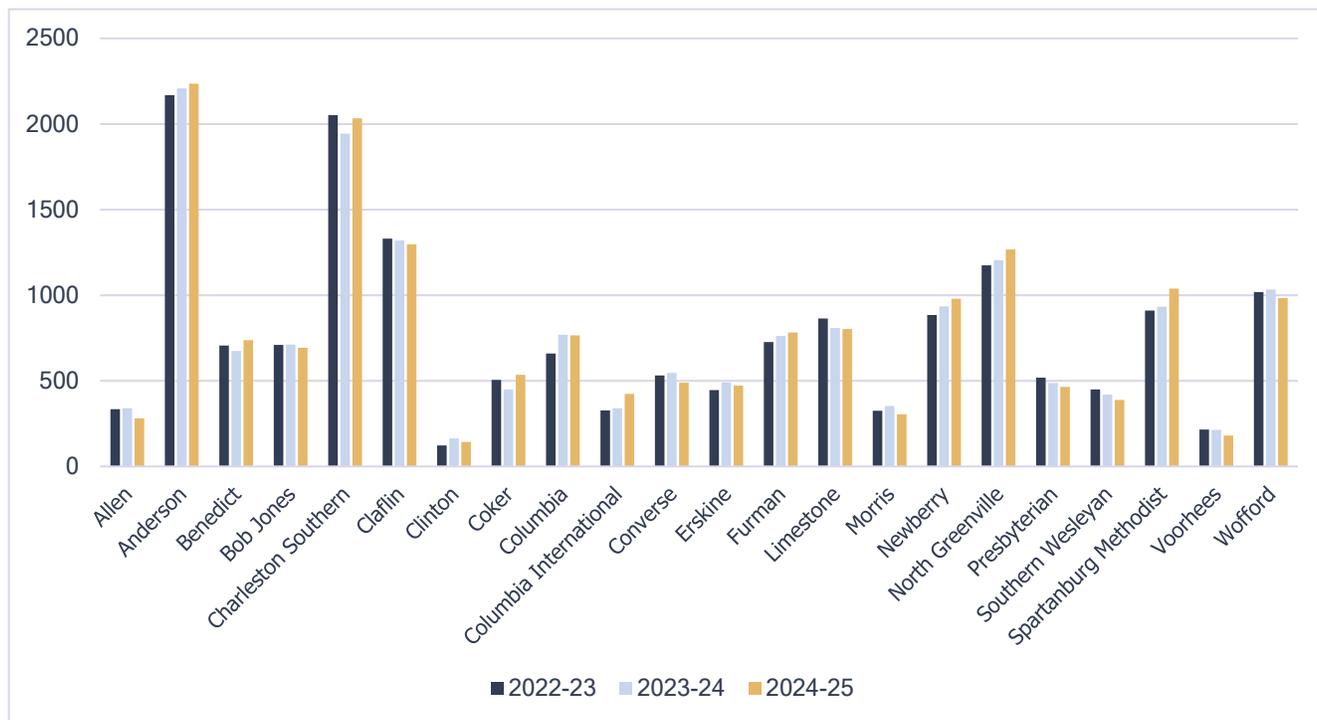
## 2024-25 Total Undergraduate Full-Time Enrollment vs. Total South Carolina Resident Full-Time Enrollment



## Total Undergraduate Full-Time Students at Participating Colleges for the Last Three Years

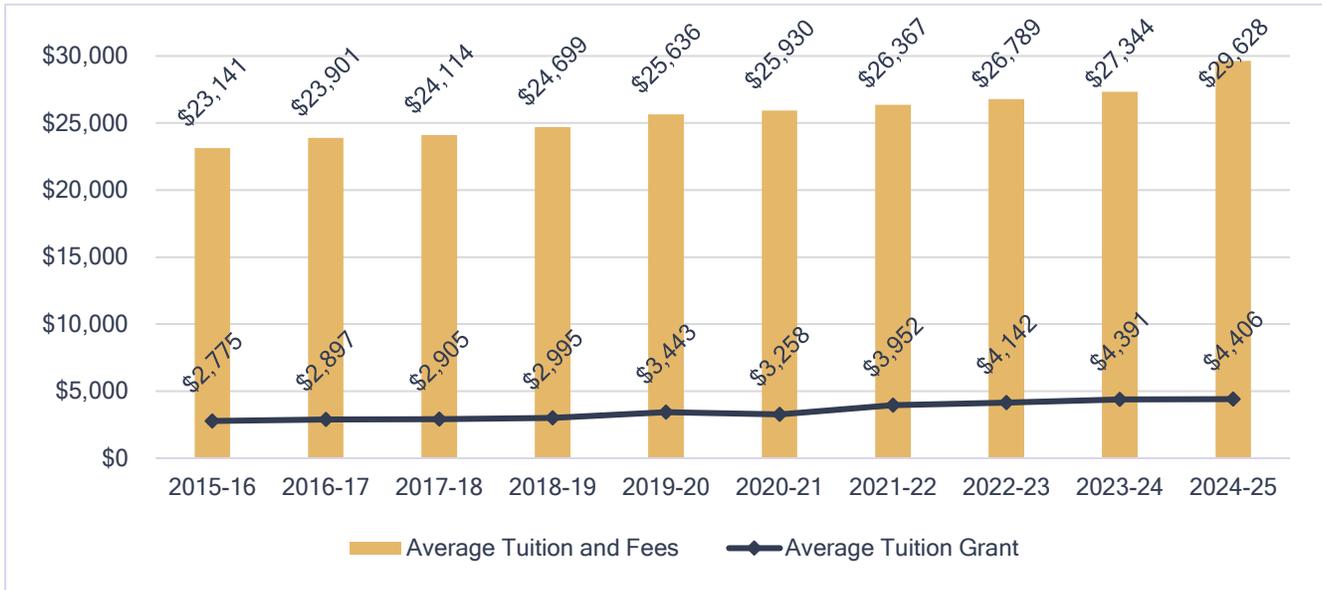


## South Carolina Resident Undergraduate Full-Time Students at Participating Colleges for the Last Three Years



## Ten-year Review of Average Grant vs. Average Tuition & Fees

Over the past ten years, the average cost of Tuition and Fees among the participating colleges and universities have ranged from **\$23,141** in **2015-16** to **\$29,628** in **2024-25**. During this same period, the average Tuition Grant award amount has ranged from **\$2,775** to **\$4,406**. In the 2024-25 award year, the average Tuition Grant covered **14.87%** of the average Tuition and Fees.

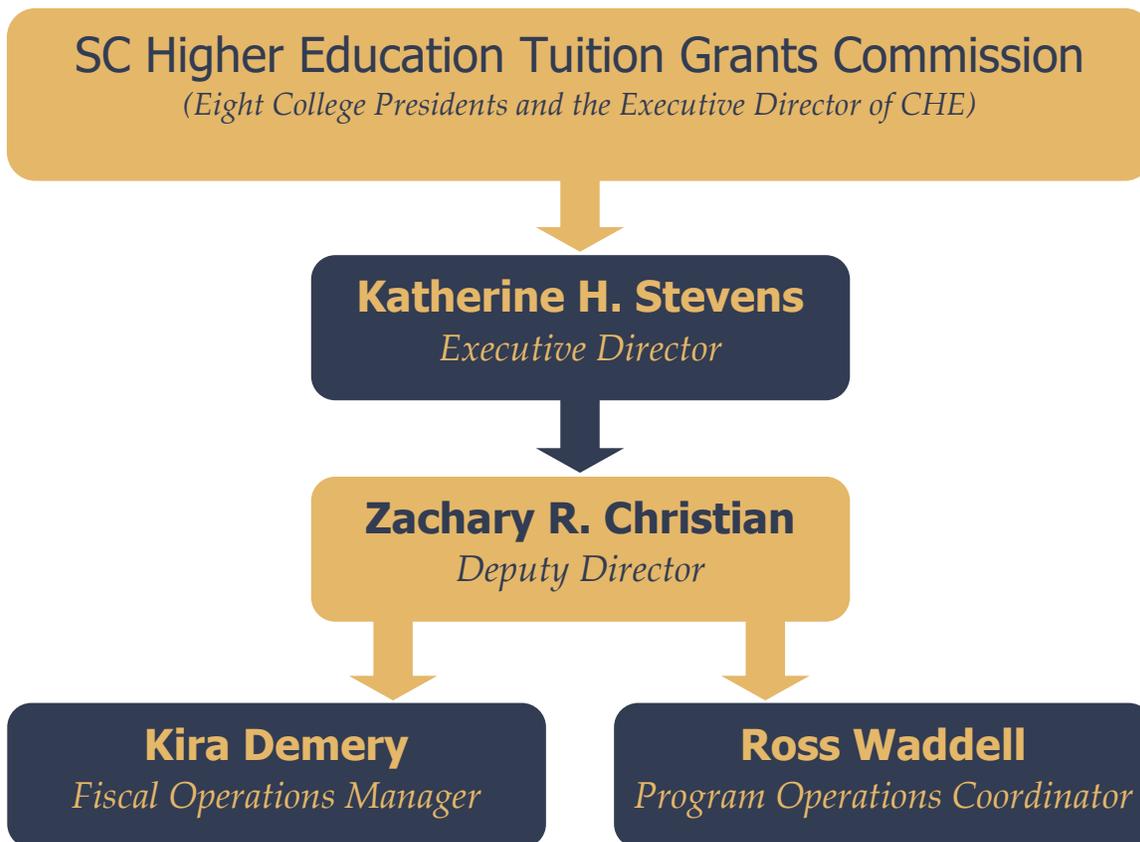


## Ten-year Review of Estimated Savings

The maximum South Carolina Tuition Grant award amount cannot exceed the average per-student subsidy at public institutions. The difference between the average Tuition Grant award amount and the per-student subsidy provides estimated cost avoidance to State taxpayers.

Year	Public College Subsidy		Average Tuition Grant		Dollars Diff.		Number of Awards		Estimated Cost Avoidance
<b>2024-25</b>	<b>\$8,568</b>	-	<b>\$4,406</b>	=	<b>\$4,162</b>	x	<b>12975</b>	=	<b>\$54,001,950</b>
<b>2023-24</b>	\$7,529	-	\$4,391	=	\$3,138	x	12,473	=	\$39,140,274
<b>2022-23</b>	\$5,831	-	\$4,142	=	\$1,689	x	12,036	=	\$20,328,804
<b>2021-22</b>	\$5,032	-	\$3,952	=	\$1,080	x	11,262	=	\$12,162,960
<b>2020-21</b>	\$5,583	-	\$3,258	=	\$2,325	x	12,202	=	\$28,369,650
<b>2019-20</b>	\$4,392	-	\$3,443	=	\$949	x	13,817	=	\$13,112,333
<b>2018-19</b>	\$4,041	-	\$2,995	=	\$1,046	x	13,534	=	\$14,156,564
<b>2017-18</b>	\$3,722	-	\$2,905	=	\$817	x	13,588	=	\$11,101,396
<b>2016-17</b>	\$3,732	-	\$2,897	=	\$835	x	13,214	=	\$11,033,690
<b>2015-16</b>	\$3,795	-	\$2,775	=	\$1,020	x	13,340	=	\$13,606,800

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission is pleased to announce the availability of interactive data dashboards and other visualizations through the Agency's new **Data Center** webpage. To view interactive data dashboards pertaining to the information included in this Annual Report, please visit <https://sctuitiongrants.org/data>.