



## WHAT SHOULD I KNOW FIRST?

**Grants and Scholarships** do not have to be repaid.

Most **loans** must be repaid, under most circumstances. They usually have low 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 Scholarship Programs

### PALMETTO FELLOWS

- **1200 SAT/27 ACT**
- cumulative **3.5 GPA** based on the Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) at the end of the junior year
- **rank in the top 6% of the sophomore or junior class**  
For college freshmen entering in the fall of 2010, the amount of the scholarship is up to \$6,700 toward the cost of attendance. Math and science majors are eligible to receive up to a \$2,500 supplement beginning in their second/sophomore year.

### LIFE SCHOLARSHIP

Students must meet two of the following three academic criteria to receive funds at a four-year institution:

- **1100 SAT/24 ACT**
- cumulative **3.0 GPA** based on the UGS upon high school graduation
- **rank in the top 30% of the graduating class**

Freshmen attending a four-year college or university in the fall of 2010 may receive up to **\$5,000** (including a \$300 book allowance) each academic year toward the cost of attendance. Math and science majors are eligible to receive up to a \$2,500 supplement beginning in their second/sophomore year.

For students attending a two-year private college, the LIFE scholarship pays up to the maximum cost of tuition

at two-year regional campuses (plus a \$300 book allowance) each academic year.

Students must earn a cumulative **3.0 GPA** based on the UGS upon high school graduation to receive the LIFE Scholarship at a two-year college.

### HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

- **3.0 GPA** based on the UGS upon high school graduation

Freshmen attending an eligible four-year college or university may receive up to **\$2,800** (including a \$300 book allowance) toward the cost of attendance.

[http://www.che.sc.gov/New\\_Web/GoingToCollege/FinAsst.htm](http://www.che.sc.gov/New_Web/GoingToCollege/FinAsst.htm)

## Federal Sources for Financial Aid (09/10)

### Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)

- Loans made to parents who are then responsible for repaying the amount borrowed.

**Federal Pell Grant** - Direct aid for students based on need. Maximum amount awarded for the 2009 – 2010 academic year is **\$5,350** depending upon program funding, financial need, and costs of attendance. FAFSA completion automatically targets students who may qualify. (See next page for FAFSA information.)

**Federal Perkins Loan Program** - Loans to students with exceptional financial

need. After college, students repay the loan with 5% interest. *Possibility of loan forgiveness for teaching.*

### Federal Stafford Loan

- Loans made by banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, and some colleges. Interest is variable, and there is an origination fee of up to 4%. Repayment begins six months after graduating from or leaving college. "Unsubsidized" means the interest accumulates from the first day of the loan and is added to the loan amount. "Subsidized" means the government pays the interest while the student is enrolled full-time. The award amount

varies. If you are a dependent undergraduate student, you may borrow up to **\$5,500** as a freshman, **\$6,500** as a sophomore, and **\$7,500** as a junior or senior.

**Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)** - Grants of up to \$4,000 for students with exceptional financial needs.

**Federal Work Study Program (FWSP)** - Jobs on campus for students with financial need.

**Need more info? Check out...**

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTAL/SWebApp/students/english/loanGrantFactsheets.jsp>



### Contents

Types of Financial Aid	1
FAFSA	2
Testing dates	2
For future teachers	3
At your fingertips	4

**CERRA – South Carolina**  
**Stewart House at Winthrop University**  
 Rock Hill, SC 29733  
 800.476.2387 / 803.323.4032  
[www.cerra.org](http://www.cerra.org)



**Eligibility for Federal Financial Aid**

Be a **U.S. citizen, a U.S. national or permanent resident.** (*Eligible noncitizens may also receive federal student aid.*)

Be **registered with the Selective Service** if you are a male over 18

Have a **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 **Social Security number**

Meet the **school's standard** for academic progress

**FAFSA**

Federal law requires the U.S. Department of Education to provide students with the opportunity to apply for federal aid *without paying a fee.* To be considered for student aid, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form must be completed and submitted. Forms are available in high school guidance offices or by calling 800-4-FED-AID (800.433.3243).

To apply for FAFSA, you will need the following:

- An application
- Social Security number
- The most recent student and parent income tax information
- All W-2 statements of earnings
- Current bank statements
- Any stocks, bonds or other investment statements

Students may not file the FAFSA before 01/01 or after 06/30 of the year in which they will receive the aid. There are *NO* exceptions.

Electronic FAFSA form: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
After applying, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) noting eligibility for aid.



**Other Sources for Financial Aid**

**Private College Information**

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program provides undergraduate grant assistance to eligible SC residents who attend SC independent, non-profit (private) colleges on a full-time basis.

Visit [www.sctuitiongrants.com](http://www.sctuitiongrants.com)

**Think creatively about financial aid options!**

**Consider community agencies, civic groups, corporations, cultural organizations, foundations, fraternal groups, religious organizations and the military.**

Ask your guidance counselor and check the guidance office's bulletin boards *OFTEN* for local information.



**College Admissions Testing in 2010**

**ACT/Registration Deadline:**

January 5, 2010  
March 5, 2010  
May 7, 2010

**Test Date:**

**February 6, 2010**  
**April 10, 2010**  
**June 12, 2010**

**SAT/Registration Deadline:**

February 10, 2010  
March 31, 2010  
May 5, 2010

**Test Date:**

**March 13, 2010**  
**May 1, 2010**  
**June 5, 2010**

## Interested in becoming a teacher?

The **South Carolina Teacher Loan Program** was established to help talented students become teachers in South Carolina's classrooms. These loans are forgiven by teaching in a South Carolina public school in a critical subject area and/or critical geographic school. Current critical subject areas include the following:

Math, Science, Media Specialist, Special Education, Speech Language Therapist, Industrial Technology, Spanish, French, Latin, German, Family/Consumer Science, Art, Music, Business Education, English, Speech and Drama/ Theater, Agriculture, All Middle Level Areas, and Physical Education

### Do you qualify? You must:

- rank in the top 40% of your high school class
- have an SAT or ACT score equal to or greater than the SC average for the year of graduation from high school

### The loan is renewable. To renew the loan:

- Students must re-apply each year
- Undergraduates must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4.0 scale

To be eligible for the loan after the freshman year, a student must take and pass the Praxis I examination. For information on the Praxis, visit the ETS Web site at [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) or call 609.771.7395

Freshmen and sophomores may borrow up to \$2,500 per year. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students may borrow up to \$5,000 per year. If a borrower decides not to teach, the loan must be repaid.

Loans are forgiven at the rate of 20% or \$3,000, whichever is greater, for each year of full-time teaching in a SC public school, in a critical subject area, or in a critical geographic area. The loan is cancelled at a rate of 33.3% or \$5,000, whichever is greater, for each year of full-time teaching in both a critical subject area and a critical geographic school.

**Priority filing deadline is April 15, 2010.**



For more information, contact South Carolina's Student Loan Corporation ([www.scstudentloan.org](http://www.scstudentloan.org)) by calling 803.798.0916 or 800.347.2752.

## Ken Bower Teacher Cadet Scholarship

The Ken Bower Teacher Cadet Scholarship, named in memory of [Dr. Ken Bower](#), an architect of the original Teacher Cadet course and curriculum, is awarded each year to as many as four senior Teacher Cadets who intend to become a classroom teacher in one of South Carolina's many public schools. Teacher Cadet instructors receive notification of the call for applications early each calendar year.

Applications must be postmarked before March 31, 2010. All applicants, even those who are not selected, will be notified by mid-April. Thanks to the generosity of silent auction "shoppers" at the CERRA Winter Workshop, 2009-2010 recipients will receive a one-time award of \$500. The award is mailed directly to the recipient's college before August 1st and is applied to his or her account. Awards are determined based on the merits of scholarship, teacher recommendation, 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.



**Scholarship recipients will be announced  
by May 14, 2010!**

## Need some good advice?

Be careful when searching for information on student financial aid. Don't fall prey to fraud.

The College Scholarship Fraud Prevention Act helps protect against fraud in student financial assistance.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) cautions students to look for tell-tale lines such as these:

**"I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."**

**"You can't get this information anywhere else."**

**"The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."**



For more information or to report a suspected scam: [www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams](http://www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams)

Source: [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)

## Call Me MISTER

This program seeks to recruit, train, certify, and secure employment for 200 Black males as elementary teachers in South Carolina's public schools. Call Me MISTER (which stands for *Men Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models*) combines the special strengths of [Clemson University](http://www.clemson.edu) with individualized instructional programs offered at, [Anderson University](http://www.anderson.edu), [Benedict College](http://www.benedict.edu), [Morris College](http://www.morris.edu), [Claflin University](http://www.claflin.edu), [South Carolina State University](http://www.sc.edu), [College of Charleston](http://www.charleston.edu), [Coastal Carolina University](http://www.coastal.edu), [University of SC-Beaufort](http://www.beaufort.edu), as well as four two-year institutions, [Greenville Technical College](http://www.greenville.edu), [Midlands Technical College](http://www.midlands.edu), [Tri-County Technical College](http://www.tricounty.edu) and [Trident Technical College](http://www.trident.edu). Contact: 800.640.2657, [www.callmemister.clemson.edu](http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu), or e-mail [MISTER@clemson.edu](mailto:MISTER@clemson.edu).

## TEACH Grant

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) grant program provides grants of up to \$4000 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, you must teach for at least four academic years within eight calendar years of completing the program of study for which you received a TEACH Grant. If you fail to complete this service obligation, all amounts of the TEACH Grants that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan. <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORALSWebApp/students/english/TEACH.jsp>

## Information at Your Fingertips

ACT	<a href="http://www.act.org">www.act.org</a>
ACT Fee Waivers (need-based)	319.337.1270
Call Me MISTER	<a href="http://www.callmemister.clemson.edu">www.callmemister.clemson.edu</a>
CERRA	<a href="http://www.cerra.org">www.cerra.org</a>
College Board	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
CollegeNET	<a href="http://www.collegenet.com">www.collegenet.com</a>
FAFSA (English & Espanol)	<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> / 800.433.3243
Federal Information	<a href="http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html">www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html</a>
Gates Millennium	<a href="http://www.gmsp.org">www.gmsp.org</a>
Links for SC financial aid	<a href="http://www.SCcollegeaid.org">www.SCcollegeaid.org</a>
SC scholarships & colleges	<a href="http://www.che.sc.gov">www.che.sc.gov</a>
NABSE	<a href="http://www.nabse.org">www.nabse.org</a>
Private Sector Scholarships	<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>
SAT	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">www.collegeboard.com</a>
SAT Fee Waivers (need-based)	866.756.7436
SCABSE	<a href="http://www.scabse.com">www.scabse.com</a>
SC Student Loan Corporation	<a href="http://www.scstudentloan.org">www.scstudentloan.org</a> or 800.347.2752
SC Teacher Loan	<a href="http://www.scstudentloan.org/wp154.aspx">http://www.scstudentloan.org/wp154.aspx</a>
SC Tuition Grants	<a href="http://www.sctuitiongrants.com">www.sctuitiongrants.com</a>
Student Aid InfoCenter	<a href="http://www.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml?src=rt">http://www.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml?src=rt</a>
The SmartStudent™ Guide to Financial Aid	<a href="http://www.finaid.org">www.finaid.org</a>
Think College (Q&A on Funding College)	<a href="http://www.ed.gov/thinkcollege">www.ed.gov/thinkcollege</a>
US Dept. of Education	<a href="http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html?src=mr">www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html?src=mr</a>
Veterans' Affairs	<a href="http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/benefits.htm">http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/benefits.htm</a>