



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. *An example is the S.C. Teaching Fellows program on page 3.*

Student Employment is a job that the college coordinates or assigns for the student to offset the cost of attending school.



Contents

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

South Carolina Scholarship Programs

PALMETTO FELLOWS

- **1200 SAT/27 ACT**
- cumulative **3.5 GPR** based on the Uniform Grading Scale (UGS) at the end of the junior year
- **top 6% of sophomore or junior class**
For college freshmen entering in the fall of 2005, the amount of the scholarship is up to \$6,700 toward the cost of attendance.

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 GPR** based on the UGS upon high

- school graduation
- **top 30% of the graduating class**

Freshmen attending a four-year college or university in the fall of 2007 may receive up to **\$5,000** (including a \$300 book allowance) each academic year toward the cost of attendance.

Students must earn a cumulative **3.0 GPR** based on the UGS upon high school graduation to receive the LIFE Scholarship at a two-year college. The scholarship pays up to the cost of tuition plus a \$300 book allowance each academic year at a

two-year public college. For students attending a two-year private college, the LIFE scholarship pays up to the maximum cost of tuition at the two-year regional campuses (plus a \$300 book allowance) each academic year.

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

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

Freshmen attending an eligible four-year college or university in the fall of 2005 may receive up to **\$2,650** (including a \$150 book allowance) toward the cost of attendance.

http://www.che.sc.gov/New_Web/GoinToCollege/FinAsst.htm

Federal Sources for Financial Aid (07/08)

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 2007 – 2008 academic year is **\$4,310**, depending upon Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and cost 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. No interest is paid nor accumulated while in college. 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 amount varies: **\$3,500** for freshmen, **\$4,500** for sophomores, **\$5,500** for juniors and seniors.

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.

More Info?

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWWebApp/students/english/studentloans.jsp>

**CERRA – South Carolina
Stewart House at Winthrop University**
Rock Hill, SC 29733
800.476.2387 / 803.323.4032
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, by calling 800-4-FED-AID (800.433.3243), or

CERRA
(800.476.2387).

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
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

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 2008

ACT/Registration Deadline

January 4, 2008
March 7, 2008
May 9, 2008

Test Date

February 9, 2008
April 12, 2008
June 14, 2008

SAT/Registration Deadline

January 29, 2008
April 1, 2008
May 6, 2008

Test Date

March 1, 2008
May 3, 2008
June 7, 2008

Interested in becoming a teacher?

The **South Carolina Teacher Loan Program** encourages South Carolina residents to enter the teaching profession. These loans are cancelled 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:

Art, Business Education, Dance, Early Childhood Education, English/Language Arts, Family/Consumer Science, French, German, Latin, Mathematics, Media Specialist, Middle Level (Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics, or Science), Music, Physical Education, Science (all areas), Spanish, Special Education (all areas), Speech Language Therapist, Speech and Drama/Theatre

Do you qualify? You must:

- rank in the top 40% of

his/her 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 at 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 or does not teach in a critical area, the loan must be repaid.

Loans are cancelled at the rate of 20% or \$3,000, whichever is greater, for each year of full-time teaching in a critical subject area or in a critical geographic school. 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.

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



Teacher Cadet Scholarships

Ken Bower Teacher Cadet Scholarship

Awarded each spring to up to four aspiring teachers! See your Teacher Cadet instructor for more information.

Does your college partner offer a scholarship to you for being a Teacher Cadet? Do they offer an application fee waiver?

Find out at www.cerra.org.

South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program- Attention Juniors

In 1999, South Carolina's General Assembly, recognizing the shortage of teachers in our state, funded the Teaching Fellows Program at the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement - SC (CERRA). The mission of the program is to recruit talented high school seniors into the teaching profession and to help them develop leadership qualities. **Each year, the program provides Fellowships for up to 175 high school seniors** (number determined by funding) who have exhibited **high academic achievement, a history of service to the school and community and a desire to teach South Carolina's children.**

Teaching Fellows receive advanced enrichment programs at Teaching Fellows Institutions, professional development opportunities during summer months, involvement with communities and businesses throughout the state, and up to \$6,000 yearly scholarships for four years while they complete a degree leading to teacher certification.

The scholarship provides up to **\$5,700 for tuition and board and \$300 for special enrichment programs** (contingent on funding from the South Carolina General Assembly). A Fellow agrees to teach in South Carolina public schools one year for every year he/she receives the Fellowship.

There are 11 public and private colleges and universities designated as Teaching Fellow Institutions: **Anderson University, Charleston Southern University, College of Charleston, Columbia College, Furman University, Lander University, Newberry College, SC State University, USC Columbia, USC Upstate and Winthrop University.** Applicants invited to a regional interview will be asked to rank order their college choices before their interview session.

***Applications for the 2008-2009 cohort are closed. Current high school juniors should look for information in August 2008 to apply for this program. Contact CERRA for more information**



Teaching
Fellows
SOUTH CAROLINA

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:

“The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back.”

“You can't get this information anywhere else.”

“Give us your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship.”

For more information or to report a suspected scam: www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams



Source: 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 [Benedict College](http://www.benedict.edu), [Morris College](http://www.morris.edu), [Claflin University](http://www.claflin.edu), [South Carolina State University](http://www.southcarolina.edu), as well as five two-year institutions, [Greenville Technical College](http://www.greenville.edu), [Midlands Technical College](http://www.midlands.edu), [Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College](http://www.orangeburg.edu), [Tri-County Technical College](http://www.trident.edu) and [Trident Technical College](http://www.trident.edu). Contact: 800.640.2657, www.callmemister.clemson.edu, or e-mail mister@clemson.edu.

SCABSE

Apply now for the [Alfred T. Butler Junior Scholarship](http://www.scabse.com) offered by SCABSE (South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators). The scholarship provides as many as four scholarships for use during the 2008-2009 school year to outstanding high school seniors who plan to pursue majors in education. For more information, visit their Web site at www.scabse.com.

The National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) also provides scholarships to students interested in pursuing degrees in education. For more information, contact NABSE at 2816 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20001, 800.221.2654 or nabse@nabse.org.

Information at Your Fingertips

ACT	www.act.org
ACT Fee Waivers (need-based)	319.337.1270
Call Me MISTER	www.callmemister.clemson.edu
CERRA	www.cerra.org
College Board	www.collegeboard.com
CollegeNET	www.collegenet.com
FAFSA (English & Espanol)	www.fafsa.ed.gov / 800.433.3243
Federal Information	www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html
Financial Aid Tips / Search	www.petersons.com
Gates Millennium	www.gmsp.org
Links for SC financial aid	www.SCcollegeaid.org
SC scholarships & colleges	www.che.sc.gov
NABSE	www.nabse.org
Private Sector Scholarships	www.fastweb.com
SAT	www.collegeboard.com
SAT Fee Waivers (need-based)	770.908.9737
SCABSE	www.scabse.com
SC Student Loan Corporation	www.scstudentloan.org or 800.347.2752
SC Teaching Fellows	www.cerra.org/fellows
SC Teacher Loan	http://www.scstudentloan.org/wp154.aspx
SC Tuition Grants	www.sctuitiongrants.com
Student Aid InfoCenter	http://www.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml?src=rt
The SmartStudent™ Guide to Financial Aid	www.finaid.org
Think College (Q&A on Funding College)	www.ed.gov/thinkcollege
US Dept. of Education	www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/index.html?src=mr
Veterans' Affairs	http://www.gbill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/benefits.htm