

College Financial Newsletter



Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement

CERRA – South Carolina
www.cerra.org

Volume 35 Issue 1

Fall 2020

CONTENTS

Types of Aid	1
FAFSA	2
Testing Dates	3
SC Teachers Loan	3
For Future Teachers	4
At Your Fingertips	6



CERRA – South Carolina
Stewart House
Winthrop University
Rock Hill, SC 29733
800.476.2387 /
803.323.4032

SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS



- For college freshmen entering in the fall of 2020, the amount of the scholarship is up to \$6,700 towards the cost of attendance. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors may receive up to \$7,500 per year.
- Math and science majors are eligible to receive up to \$2,500 for the Palmetto Fellows Enhancement beginning their sophomore year.



- Freshmen attending an eligible four-year college or university in the fall of 2020 may receive up to \$5,000 (including a \$300 book allowance) each academic year towards the cost of attendance.
- Math and science majors are eligible to receive an enhancement up to \$2,500 beginning sophomore year.
- For students attending an eligible two-year public / private college or technical college in SC, the LIFE scholarship pays up to the maximum cost of tuition at the two-year regional campus (plus a \$300 book allowance) each academic year.



- Students must graduate from high school with at least a cumulative 3.0 based on the SC Uniform Grading Policy.
- Eligible freshmen entering four-year institutions in South Carolina may receive up to \$2,800 (including book allowance) for the first year toward the cost of attendance.

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW?

Grants and Scholarships

DO NOT have to be repaid

Most **loans must be repaid**, under most circumstances. Education loans 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.

FIND OUT MORE!

Additional info for these scholarships may be found online at:

https://www.che.sc.gov/Portals/0/CHE_Docs/student-services/scholarship_brochure_updated.pdf?ver=2019-05-24-144434-653

https://www.che.sc.gov/Portals/0/CHE_Docs/student-services/Palmetto_Fellows_Brochure-e-updated.pdf?ver=2019-05-24-144130-027

<http://www.che.sc.gov/Students/Families/Military/PayingForCollege/FinancialAssistance/Available/ScholarshipsGrantsforSCResidents.a.spd>

http://sccango.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Life_Hope-Brochure-final.pdf

FEDERAL SOURCES FOR FINANCIAL AID

FEDERAL AID AT A GLANCE

<https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/aid-glance-2020-21.pdf>

Federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) – Loans made to parents who are then responsible for repaying the amount borrowed.

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

Federal Pell Grant – Direct aid for students based on need. Maximum amount awarded for 2020-2021 is \$6,345, depending on program funding, financial need, and cost of attendance. **FAFSA** completion automatically targets students who may qualify. (See next page for FAFSA information)

Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) - Grants of \$100 - \$4,000 for students with exceptional financial need

Federal Stafford Loan –

A type of federal loan available to students who are enrolled in college at least half-time. Borrowers who receive a Federal Stafford Loan may be eligible for the US Department of Education's Stafford Loan Forgiveness Program for teaching. Upon meeting specific criteria, including teaching for five consecutive, complete school years in a low income school, recipients may be eligible to forgive up to \$17,500. <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher>.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF FINANCIAL AID



ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL 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.

Think creatively...

- Consider community agencies, civic groups, corporations, cultural organizations, foundations, fraternal groups, religious organizations, and the military for additional financial aid.
- Ask your guidance counselor and check the guidance office's bulletin boards and/or electronic newsletters **OFTEN** for local financial opportunities.
- Check the college/university financial aid website for aid for incoming freshmen.

FIND OUT MORE!

SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission www.sctuitiongrants.com

“College is a part of the American dream. It shouldn't be part of a financial nightmare.”
-Barbara Mikuski

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

Be **registered with the Selective Service**, if you are a male 18 or older.

Have **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 valid **Social Security number**.

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

FIND OUT MORE!

US Department of Education Federal Student Aid <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility>

FAFSA FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
FEDERAL STUDENT AID

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 and online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, or by calling toll-free at 1-800-433-3243.



To **apply for FAFSA**, you will need the following:

- an application or computer access for e-filing
- social security number
- the most recent student and parent income tax information
- all W-2 statements of earnings
- current bank statements
- a FSA ID to sign electronically

Students may not complete the FAFSA application before October 1st or after June 30th of the year in which they will receive the aid. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. After applying, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) noting eligibility for aid.

ACT/SAT REGISTRATION AND TESTING DATES 2020-2021

ACT REGISTRATION & TESTING	
REGISTRATION DEADLINE	TESTING DATE
September 25, 2020	October 25, 2020
November 6, 2020	December 12, 2020
January 8, 2021	February 6, 2021
March 12, 2021	April 17, 2021
May 7, 2021	June 12, 2021
June 18, 2021	July 17, 2021

SAT REGISTRATION & TESTING	
REGISTRATION DEADLINE	TESTING DATE
September 4, 2020	October 3, 2020
October 7, 2020	November 7, 2020
November 5, 2020	December 5, 2020
February 12, 2021	March 13, 2021
April 8, 2021	May 8, 2021
May 6, 2021	June 5, 2021



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEACHER?

The SC Teachers Loan Program

encourages South Carolina residents to enter the teaching profession. These loans are forgiven by teaching in a SC public school in a critical subject and/or critical geographic area.

What are the critical subject and geographical areas?

Critical subject and geographical areas vary. Please visit the website provided (below/right) for the current listings.

How can I calculate the percentage of the loan forgiven?

The loan is forgiven at the rate of 20% or \$3,000, whichever is greater, for each full year of teaching in a SC public school in a critical subject or geographic area. If you teach in a public SC school in both a critical subject and critical geographic area, your loan will be forgiven at the rate of 33 1/3% or \$5,000, whichever is greater, for each year of full-time teaching.



For information on the Praxis, visit the ETS website at www.ets.org/praxis or call 609-771-7395.

Do you qualify?

You must:

- rank in the top 40% of your high school graduating class.
- be a SC resident.
- be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- have a SAT/ACT score equal to or greater than the SC average for the year of graduation from high school. Currently, the average scores are: SAT (ERW and Math) 1058; ACT 18.

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 .
- after the freshman year, a student must take and pass the Praxis Core exam. Students with a SAT score of 1100 or greater, or ACT score of 24 or greater are exempt from the Praxis requirement.

FIND OUT MORE!

SC TEACHERS LOAN INFORMATION:

For more information, contact South Carolina Student Loan Corporation by calling 803.798.0916 or 800.347.2752 or visit online at www.scstudentloan.org.

CRITICAL GEORGRAPHICAL AND SUBJECT AREAS:

<https://scstudentloan.org/school-loans/sc-teacher-loan-programs-forgiveness>

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

TEACHER CADET NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

One TCNHS Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000 is awarded annually. Those eligible for the lottery-styled drawing include a senior member of the TCNHS who is in good standing and has maintained a 3.5 GPA, has completed the TCNHS Service Learning Project, and has paid his/her TCNHS dues.

Call Me MiSTER aims to increase the pool of available teachers from a broader background. Call Me MiSTER combines the special strengths of Clemson University with the individualized instructional programs offered by several colleges and universities in South Carolina. The project also has limited enrollment in the middle school Master of Arts in Teaching Program.

TEACH GRANT

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education grant program provides grants of up to \$4,000 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 in a high need field 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 TEACH Grants that you received will be converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan.

CALL ME MISTER PARTNERING SCHOOLS

Aiken Technical College, Anderson University, Benedict College, Claflin University, Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Greenville Technical College, Horry Georgetown Technical College, Lander University, Limestone College, Midlands Technical College, Morris College, Newberry College, Piedmont Technical College, South Carolina State University, Southern Wesleyan University, Spartanburg Community College, Tri-County Technical College, Trident Technical College, University of South Carolina Aiken, University of South Carolina Beaufort, University of South Carolina Upstate, and Winthrop University

 **FIND OUT MORE!**

For more information about the TEACH grant, visit the Federal Student Aid Website <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach>.

 **FIND OUT MORE!**

For more information about Call Me MiSTER, call 800.640.2657, e-mail MISTER@clemson.edu, or visit <https://www.clemson.edu/education/callmemister/>.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE TEACHERS



Ken Bower Teacher Cadet Scholarship

Teaching Fellows Scholarship



Who Can Apply

High school seniors who participated in the Teacher Cadet Program and plan to attend a South Carolina college or university to become a teacher are encouraged to apply.

Application Window

The Ken Bower application window opens February 1, 2021. The application must be completed and received no later than 11:59 p.m. on March 31, 2021.

Announcement

The selected scholarship recipients will be announced next spring by letter. News of recipients will also be posted online at teachercadets.com.

Disbursement of Funds

The scholarship funds will be disbursed directly to the college/university by August 2021.

Recipients of the Ken Bower Scholarship will receive a one time award of \$1,000. Awards are determined based on the merits of scholarship, school and community involvement, teacher recommendations, 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.

Who Can Apply

Applicants must be a high school senior or junior graduating early, a United States citizen or permanent resident alien legally authorized to be in the United States, and a legal resident of South Carolina.

Application Window

The Teaching Fellows application window opens October 1, 2020. The application and supporting documents must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on December 31, 2020.

Announcement

Award notifications will be made in early spring 2021.

Awards

Teaching Fellows receive up to \$24,000 in fellowship funds (up to \$6,000 a year for four years) while they complete a degree leading to initial teacher certification. The fellowship provides up to \$5,700 for tuition and board and \$300 for specific enrichment programs administered by CERRA. All Teaching Fellows awards are contingent upon funding from the SC General Assembly. A Fellow agrees to teach in a South Carolina public school one year for every year he or she receives the Fellowship.



For more information or to apply for the **Ken Bower Scholarship**, visit <https://www.teachercadets.com/ken-bower-scholarship.html>.

For general information or to apply for **Teaching Fellows**, visit <https://www.cerra.org/teaching-fellows-faq.html>.



AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



ACT	www.act.org
ACT Fee Waivers (need-based)	319-337-1270
Call Me MISTER	www.clemson.edu/education/callmemister/
CERRA	www.cerra.org
College Board	www.collegeboard.com
CollegeNET	www.collegenet.com
FAFSA (English and Español)	www.fafsa.ed.gov/ 1-800-433-3243
Federal Information	http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html
Gates Millennium	www.gmsp.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)	1-866-756-7436
SC Student Loan Corporation	www.scstudentloan.org or 1-800-347-2752
SC Teaching Fellows	https://www.cerra.org/teaching-fellows.html
SC Teacher Loan	https://scstudentloan.org/school-loans/sc-teacher-loan-programs-forgiveness
SC Tuition Grants	http://www.ed.gov/finaid/landing.jhtml?src=rt
Student Aid Info Center	www.finaid.org
The Smart Student TM Guide to Financial Aid	http://www.finaid.org/
US Department of Education Veterans' Affairs	https://www.va.gov/education/

CERRA Mailing Address:
 CERRA – South Carolina
 Stewart House
 Winthrop University
 Rock Hill, SC 29733



CERRA Contact Information:
 800.476.2387 / 803.323.4032
www.teachercadets.com
www.cerra.org