



PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
1333 MAIN STREET, SUITE 200
COLUMBIA, SC 29201

2009-10 APPLICATION FORM

FINAL AWARDS DEADLINE: JUNE 15, 2009

INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The purpose of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program is to recognize the most academically talented high school seniors in South Carolina and to encourage them to attend college in the State.

Eligibility Criteria of the Program:

- ◆ **For final awards**, students must submit applications to the Commission on Higher Education for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship by **June 15, 2009**. Students must meet one of the following sets of academic criteria in order to be eligible to apply for the final awards:

1. Score at least 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT through the June national test administration of the senior year*. In order to determine the highest combined score, the score on the SAT must be calculated by using the highest Math score combined with the highest Critical Reading score (formerly known as the Verbal score). Students cannot use the Writing subsection score to meet the minimum 1200 SAT score. The ACT composite score must be at one test sitting;
2. Earn a cumulative 3.50 GPA on the UGS at the end of the senior year. Grade point averages must be reported with at least two decimal places and may not be rounded; and
3. Rank in the top six percent of the class at the end of the senior year based on the UGS. The number eligible may be rounded up to a whole number if the top six percent does not yield a whole number of students.

- OR -

1. Score at least 1400 on the SAT or 32 on the ACT through the June national test administration of the senior year*. In order to determine the highest combined score, the score on the SAT must be calculated by using the highest Math score combined with the highest Verbal score. Students cannot use the Writing subsection score to meet the minimum 1200 SAT score. The ACT composite score must be at one test sitting, and
2. Earn a cumulative 4.00 GPA on the UGS at the end of the senior year. Grade point averages must be reported with at least two decimal places and may not be rounded.

* You have until the June test administration of the SAT or ACT in order to qualify for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. You may apply even though you have not met the minimum score requirement if you are registered to take the SAT or ACT in June 2009. Score reports must be submitted directly to the Commission on Higher Education by indicating our assigned code on the registration materials. Our assigned codes are: **SAT - 4313** and **ACT - 6326**. Your application will be contingent upon your meeting the minimum score requirement on the June test administration. Your application will be withdrawn if the score report does not indicate that you earned at least 1200 on the SAT or 27 on the ACT.

- ◆ **In order to be eligible to apply for a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, a high school senior must also meet all of the following general eligibility requirements:**

1. Be enrolled in a public or private high school or an approved home school program of study;
2. Be a legal resident of South Carolina as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes;
3. Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder);
4. Be seriously considering attending, have applied to, or have been accepted for admission by an eligible four-year institution in South Carolina the fall semester immediately following high school graduation; and
5. Have not been convicted of any felonies or been convicted of any alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year by submitting a signed affidavit to the Financial Aid Office at the institution at which the student is enrolled.

Policies and Procedures for Awarding and Renewing Palmetto Fellows Scholarships:

- ◆ If you are selected as a Palmetto Fellow, you must notify the Commission on Higher Education of your acceptance of the scholarship and designate the eligible four-year institution at which you plan to enroll by the date established by the Commission on Higher Education or forfeit the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship. A listing of eligible institutions can be found at the following Website: www.che.sc.gov.
- ◆ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship awards are to be used only for payment toward cost-of-attendance as established by Title IV regulations with the following modifications for the academic year for which the scholarship award is made at the designated institution:
 - (1) Room charges shall not exceed the average cost of on-campus residential housing; and,
 - (2) Board charges shall not exceed the cost of the least expensive campus meal plan, which includes 21 meals per week.
- ◆ Under the current Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Regulation, the award cannot exceed \$6,700 per academic year (disbursed half in the fall semester and half in the spring or its equivalent) for up to eight terms of full-time study leading to the first bachelor's degree. In order to determine the exact award amount, all other sources of gift aid must be applied toward the cost-of-attendance before calculating the scholarship amount. Renewal decisions will be made annually.
- ◆ Palmetto Fellows Scholarship recipients are not eligible to receive a LIFE Scholarship, SC HOPE Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance.
- ◆ **In order to retain eligibility for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship after the initial year, a student must:**
 1. Earn at least a cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA) for graduation purposes each academic year (fall, spring and summer terms);
 2. Take and earn a minimum of 30 credit hours for graduation purposes at the end of each academic year (fall, spring and summer terms). Any exempted credits (i.e., AP, CLEP), credit hours earned before high school graduation (i.e., dual enrollment credit hours), and credit hours earned the summer term immediately following high school graduation cannot be used toward the required annual credit hours;

3. Certify that he or she has not defaulted and does not owe a refund/repayment on any State or federal financial aid by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or by submitting a signed affidavit attesting to the fact each academic year;
4. Certify that he/she has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted any alcohol or drug-related misdemeanor offenses within the past academic year by submitting a signed affidavit each academic year; and
5. Maintain residency for tuition and fee purposes under residency statutes of South Carolina.

Federal Privacy Act Information:

Public Law 93-579, referred to as the Federal Privacy Act, became effective September 27, 1975. Section 7b of this law requires any Federal, State, or local agency that requests an individual to disclose his/her social security number to inform the individual whether that disclosure is mandatory or voluntary, by which statutory or other authority the number is solicited, and what uses could be made of it. The Commission requests that each applicant for its student aid programs submit a social security number.

This Commission uses a student's social security number for the following purposes:

- ◆ To serve as a unique number for applicant and recipient identification in processing forms used in the application and in collating resulting data;
- ◆ To report awards to educational institutions on enrollment rosters; and
- ◆ To report the number of awards to the comptroller who issues checks.

Description of South Carolina Residency for Tuition and Fee Purposes:

Generally, to be a resident of South Carolina, one must reside in South Carolina with the intention of remaining in the State indefinitely. One cannot be a resident of South Carolina if one resides in the State solely for securing an education or if one recognizes some other state or foreign jurisdiction as one's true home.

The residency official at the college or university you attend will determine your residency for tuition and fee purposes under residency statutes of South Carolina, Chapter 62: Determination of Rates of Tuition and Fees. *If it is determined that you do not qualify for in-state tuition and fees before or during your matriculation at the institution, the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship will be immediately revoked.*

Applicant's Name _____

Applicant's SSN _____

Applicant's High School _____

Certification and Authorization of Applicant:

I attest to the fact that all of the information furnished in this application is true and accurate and that I am a resident for tuition and fee purposes under residency statutes of South Carolina.

As a Palmetto Fellows Scholarship candidate, I authorize the Commission to release my name, ethnicity, gender, social security number, e-mail address, mailing address and high school as an applicant for the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship to the colleges and universities in the State.

If I am selected as a Palmetto Fellow, I authorize the Commission to use my name, ethnicity, gender, social security number (educational institutions only), e-mail address, mailing address, high school and postsecondary institution in any publication (written and/or electronic) about the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program.

I also authorize the college or university to furnish the Commission on Higher Education information about all other financial aid that I am receiving or will receive during all academic years in which I am awarded the Palmetto Fellow Scholarship.

If awarded a scholarship, I also authorize the college that I attend to act as my agent to receive and hold Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program funds until the funds are applied to my educational expenses. The college also has permission to forward official transcripts to the Commission on Higher Education to validate that scholarship renewal criteria have been met or as supporting documentation for an appeal.

I also agree that any information regarding my application and the application process may be shared or discussed with my parents or legal guardians.

I understand that I must provide written documentation of any private scholarships, grants, or monetary awards not funded by the college or university.

I have read the information regarding the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Program and agree to adhere to any policies or regulations as approved by the Commission on Higher Education.

_____ Signature of Applicant	(_____)_____ Home Telephone Number	_____ Date
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I hereby swear (or affirm) that the information pertaining to the applicant provided in this application is true.

_____ Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian if applicant is under 18 or not married.	(_____)_____ Daytime Telephone Number
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**RETURN THIS SIGNATURE PAGE WITH ANY NECESSARY SIGNATURES TO
YOUR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR IMMEDIATELY**