



South Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities 2012 Legislative Priorities and Quick Facts

Legislative Priorities

1.0 South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Program

- 1.1 Support the FY 2012-13 budget request of the South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission for an additional \$3,551,563. This figure represents increased funding commensurate with the .9% increase in the Higher Education Price Index for 2010. If funded, the maximum award will increase from \$2600 to \$2630.
- 1.2 If new state revenues are not sufficient to increase the Commission's budget for FY 2012-13 to the requested level, advocate for funding at levels no less than those established in the FY 2012, FY 2011, FY 2010 and FY 2009 budgets.
- 1.3 Resist all efforts to reduce or cap appropriations allocated to higher education need-based grants and merit scholarships from the levels established in the previous year's budget.
- 1.4 Resist all efforts to amend the statute that exempts tuition grants and other scholarships from mid-year budget cuts.

2.0 Merit-based Scholarships

- 2.1 Advocate for full funding of Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, HOPE, and Lottery Tuition Assistance scholarships to all eligible students to include both lottery and general fund appropriations.

3.0 Need-based Scholarships

- 3.1 Support the budget request of the Commission on Higher Education to maintain funding for need-based scholarships at least at the current FY 2011-12 funding level. The Tuition Grants Commission receives approximately 16% of the need-based appropriation to CHE to be used for tuition grants. The 16% relates to the proportion of students attending independent colleges and universities compared to the number attending public higher education institutions.

4.0 PASCAL (Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries)

- 4.1 Support CHE's \$2.0 million budget request to restore core funding to PASCAL.
- 4.2 If new state revenues are not sufficient to restore core funding to PASCAL, advocate for funding at the current level of \$164,289 in general appropriations and up to \$1.5 million as a first priority in surplus unclaimed lottery prize funds.

Talking Points

- Thank you for continued support; explain why grants/scholarships are important
- Independent institutions provide opportunities that may not be available from public institutions. (i.e. size, location, major, financial assistance, religious affiliation, cultural preference, values-based education)
- Independent institutions are a significant contributor to the state's economy in terms of existing industry, education of citizenry, economic development, and workforce preparation. (\$692 million payroll and expenses; 7000 employees)
- If South Carolina did not have independent higher education opportunities, many of the 22,000 in-state undergraduate students would either: (a) leave South Carolina for college, (b) not attend college, or (c) attend one of our public colleges. Independent colleges help to raise the state's per capita income and attract investment by providing sufficient in-state educational opportunities to be able to retain the best and brightest students without the capital costs of building more public dormitories and classrooms and hiring additional state employees.

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Quick Facts

SCICU Member Institution

20 non-profit, liberal arts institutions domiciled in SC and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

Fall 2010 Enrollment

Total Undergraduate	30,699
Total Graduate	3,065
South Carolina Residents-Undergraduate	21,954
Undergraduates receiving state financial aid:	21,665
Percent of all students receiving financial aid:	97%

Average Tuition and Required Fees for Full-Time, Undergraduate Students

	<u>2007-08</u>	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>% Change Over 5 yrs</u>
SCICU Members	\$17,281	\$20,506	15.7%
Public (in-state) – All 4-Year, excluding MUSC	\$ 8,375	\$10,421	19.6%

South Carolina Tuition Grants Program

This need-based grant program was created in 1971 to help offset the difference in tuition between public and private institutions. While the award is invaluable to students, the relative value has declined over time. Overall funding for the past 4 years has remained flat although the number of participating students has increased. In FY 2008-09, 12,801 South Carolina residents received an average of \$3,006 to attend an in-state independent college. An estimated 14,840 students will receive grants in FY 2012 driving down average award to around \$2,348. The average state general fund per student appropriation to attend a public college in FY 2010-11 was \$3,767—almost 40% greater than a need-based tuition grant during the same period.

	<u>2008-09</u>	<u>2011-12 (est.)</u>
Total Available Tuition Grants Funding (excl. Admin.)	\$35,604,262	\$34,523,994
Number of Students Served	12,801	14,840
Average Tuition Grant Award	\$ 3,006	\$ 2,348
% Tuition Covered by Tuition Grant	16%	11%

The independent colleges and universities are doing their part to keep the cost of college affordable. In FY 2009-10, thirty-six percent (\$211,324,035) of student financial assistance from all sources was awarded directly by the institutions.

Merit-based Scholarships (Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, HOPE, and Lottery Tuition Assistance)

The state's merit-based scholarship programs—Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, HOPE, and Lottery Tuition Assistance—are funded for FY 2011-12 with a combination of lottery proceeds (\$203.3 million) and general fund appropriations (\$74.8 million). Students attending one of the independent colleges and universities receive approximately 21% of the scholarship awards. SCICU supports funding of the merit scholarships at the full statutory levels.

Partnership Among South Carolina's Academic Libraries (PASCAL)

PASCAL is a consortium of South Carolina's public and private academic libraries together with their parent institutions and state agency partners. PASCAL fosters cooperation on a broad range of issues including:

- Electronic Resources – Tens of thousands of core academic journals in electronic form
- PASCAL Delivers – Millions of books available within 3 days
- Digital Libraries and Scholarship – Coordinated access to electronic resources of all types

PASCAL lost over 90% of its budget in FY 2008 and is currently funded at \$164,289. If there is sufficient unclaimed surplus lottery prize funds, PASCAL may receive up to \$1.5 million later in the fiscal year. SCICU supports the state's public and private academic libraries and the Commission of Higher Education in an effort to restore core funding to PASCAL.