



SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHE)

Mission: SC CHE is committed to promoting quality, efficiency, and affordability in the state system of higher education through coordination, regulation, advocacy and oversight, as directed by the General Assembly.

The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE), established in 1967, serves as the coordinating board for SC's 33 public institutions of higher learning. It acts both as an oversight entity on behalf of the General Assembly and as an advocate for higher education. The Commission is responsible for assuring a balance between student and taxpayer interests and institutional policies, aspirations, and needs.

CHE carries out its mission through statewide planning and approval authority, working with institutions to promote quality, access, and efficiency in the state's higher education enterprise, while balancing stewardship, accountability, and advocacy. The major functions of CHE can be categorized broadly into four major areas: coordination and planning, research and information services, accountability and reporting, and program administration. In performing its responsibilities, CHE works closely with institutions to expand educational opportunities for all state's citizens, to invest in research for economic development and a better quality of life, and to increase cooperation and collaboration for higher levels of efficiency and quality in higher education opportunities throughout the state.

CHE operates pursuant to the SC Code of Laws, as amended, §59-103-5, *et seq.*, and is governed by a board of 15 members who are appointed by the Governor including: one at-large member appointed as chair; three other statewide at-large members; seven members, one from each of the state's Congressional Districts; three members, college and university trustees, representing the public higher learning sectors which include research institutions, four-year comprehensive teaching colleges, and technical colleges; and one member, a president of an independent institution, representing the independent higher learning institutions. Appointees representing Congressional Districts are recommended by a majority of the State Senators and House members comprising the District's legislative delegation; the remaining appointees are recommended and appointed based on the advice and consent of the Senate. Commissioners serve four-year terms with the exception of the institutional representatives who serve two-year terms. All, except the independent institution representative, are voting members.

What does the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) do?

CHE provides statewide policy direction, management, and oversight of the state's higher education enterprise.

- ✓ **Oversees academic program quality** including approval of academic programs at public institutions and licensing of non-public institutions that operate in SC.
- ✓ **Maintains funding system and data/accountability systems** essential for understanding performance and productivity that serve as the source of required national data.
- ✓ **Approves all public higher education capital projects, leases, and land purchases, and collects and reports building data** to help determine state capital priorities and maintenance needs.
- ✓ **Oversees administration of student financial aid** to provide statewide equity of awards and consistency of selection criteria.
- ✓ **Supports increased access to and success in higher education**, improving the transition from K-12 to higher education, ensuring effective transfer and articulation, promoting programs that are responsive to adult learners, veterans, and other non-traditional students.
- ✓ **Supports increased public awareness of the importance of higher education** to help all South Carolinians earn a certificate or diploma that prepares them to be successful, productive citizens in a changing global environment.

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SC HIGHER EDUCATION STATISTICS

■ Higher Education Institutions

33 public (3 research, 10 comprehensive four-year, 4 two-year regional campuses of USC, and 16 technical colleges)

22 independent/private senior institutions

3 independent/private two-year institutions

2 private professional schools (Chiropractic and Law)

27 out-of-state degree-granting institutions licensed by CHE to operate in SC

■ Headcount Enrollment

241,347 (Fall 2015)

202,487 (84%) in public institutions

38,860 (16%) in independent institutions

Of the Total: 78% from SC, 90% Undergraduate, 69% Full-time, 58% Female, 33% Minority

■ Degrees Awarded

50,661 in FY 2014-15 at public and independent institutions. (85% undergraduate)

■ Public College & University Funding

FY 2015-16 state general fund base appropriations (tax \$) for educational and general (E&G) operating for public colleges and universities is \$491 million, a **35% reduction** compared to pre-recession levels of \$758 million FY 2007-08.

- The FY 2015-16 appropriations are approximately the level provided in the late 1980's, not considering inflation or enrollment growth. For SC public institutions, headcount enrollment for students from SC has risen from approximately 95,000 to 163,000 from fall 1986 to fall 2015. Total full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment in public institutions has risen from 86,000 to 162,000 (88%) from fall 1986 to fall 2015.

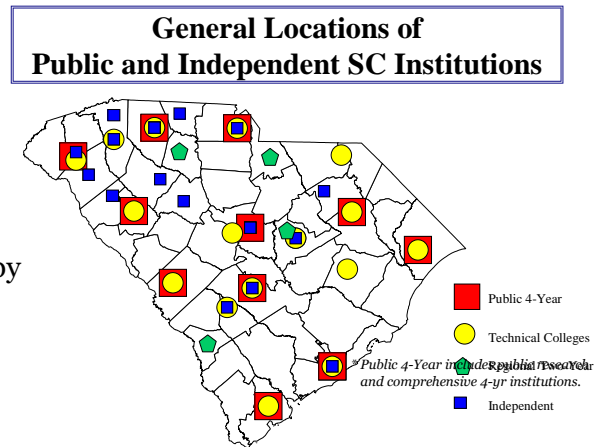
■ Undergraduate Tuition and Required Fees

In FY 2015-16, average annual in-state undergraduate tuition and fees are **\$12,682** at research institutions (excluding Medical Univ. of SC), **\$10,833** at 4-year comprehensives, **\$6,941** at 2-year USC regional campuses, and **\$4,038** at technical colleges. Increases over the prior year are (respectively by sector) 3.1%, 3.1%, 3.8% and 5.2%. For details by institution, [Click Here](#).

■ State Funding for Student Scholarships and Grant Programs

\$388 million in total appropriations in **FY 2015-16** including funds for merit-based undergraduate programs (Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, Hope), Lottery Tuition Assistance for students at 2-year institutions, Need-based Grants at public colleges, and Tuition Grants (a need-based program for students at independent colleges); and other programs including SREB contract programs and SC National Guard College Tuition Assistance. Of the total appropriations, 78% come from SC Education Lottery funds.

As reflected below in the table for student scholarship and grant disbursements in **FY 2014-15** (latest year available), need-based student aid makes up 16% of the total \$361 million in college and university disbursements; merit-based programs comprise 69%. Lottery Tuition Assistance accounts for 14% and the SC National Guard College Assistance Program is 1%.



FY 2014-15	Palmetto Fellows	LIFE	HOPE	Lottery Tuition Assistance (2-Yr)	Need-based (Public)	Tuition Grants (Independent)	SC NG CAP
Number Awarded	7,109	37,236	2,639	41,585	17,200	13,498	768
Dollars Awarded	\$57,026,613	\$183,787,650	\$8,607,908	\$50,664,330	\$22,033,074	\$35,654,741	\$2,965,532
Avg \$ / Award	\$8,022	\$4,936	\$3,262	\$1,218	\$1,281	\$2,641	\$3,861

Source: CHE Annual FY14 Disbursement Report, SC National Guard College Assistance (SCNG CAP) Report, and FY15 SC Tuition Grants Report