CAROLINA FOREST HIGH SCHOOL

PANTHER GUIDE

2025-2026



Carolina Forest High School

700 Gardner Lacy Road Myrtle Beach, SC 29579

(843) 236-7997

Horry County Schools CFHS Counseling Website

CFHS Comprehensive Counseling Resources

Home of the *Panthers*

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High School Graduation Requirements

Students must earn 24 total credits to receive a SC high school diploma.

The 24 credits required for graduation must be earned in the following areas:

- English/Language Arts 4 units
- U.S. History and Constitution 1 unit
- Government and Economics 1 unit
- Additional Social Studies 1 unit
- Math 4 units
- Science 3 units
- Computer Science 1 unit
- Physical Education or JROTC 1 unit
  (& meet comprehensive Health requirement)
- Foreign Language or CTE course 1 unit
- Electives * 7 units*
- *9GR24 (students starting HS in 23-24; class of 2027) & beyond 6.5 electives AND .5 Personal Finance

4-Year College Admissions Criteria

- English/Language Arts 4 units
- Mathematics 4 units
  (Must include Alg. 2 and 1 or more unit beyond Alg.2)
- **Laboratory** Science 3 units
- U.S. History and Constitution 1 unit
- Government and Economics 1 unit
- Social Studies 1 unit
- Foreign Language 2 units
  (Must be in the same language)
- Fine Arts 1 unit
- Computer Science 1 unit
- Physical Education or JROTC 1 unit
  *Meet comprehensive Health requirement
- One additional unit in computer science, English, fine arts, foreign language, social studies, humanities, lab science or math

Class Rank

High schools uniformly determine the official class rankings of students based on the grade point average ("GPAs") of students in grade twelve, i.e., seniors, including students considered to be in grade twelve (see "Acceleration of students in grades nine through twelve"). GPAs are calculated after senior grades are finalized at the end of the school year, i.e., at the conclusion of the fourth nine-weeks grading period or after the first term if the student is a January graduate. January graduates will not be included in the final rank. These final class rankings for seniors are computed to achieve the following three purposes:

1. To determine honor graduates, using the Latin honors system as follows:

- Students with a weighted GPA* of 4.750 or higher on the S.C. uniform grading scale will be recognized as **Summa Cum Laude graduates.**
- Students with a weighted GPA* of 4.250 or higher, but less than 4.750, will be recognized **as Magna Cum Laude graduates.**
- Students with a weighted GPA* of 3.750 or higher, but less than 4.250, will be recognized as **Cum Laude graduates**.

*Weighted GPA calculations are based upon the S.C. Uniform Grading Policy's three decimal-point scale, and computations will not be rounded to a higher number.

Honors graduates will be recognized at each district high school graduation ceremony in the following manner:

1. A notation indicating honor status (i.e., Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude) will be inserted by the graduate's name in the high school's graduation program.
2. The high school will announce the honor graduate's level of recognition (i.e., Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude) when the graduate walks across the stage.
3. District-wide, a uniform color-coding system will be used for the honor cords awarded to honor graduates. The color coding is as follows:
   - Summa Cum Laude school color + gold
   - Magna Cum Laude school color + silver
   - Cum Laude school color + bronze

Academic regalia such as honors cords may be worn by a graduate during the ceremony provided that the student is:

1. Eligible for Latin honors recognition,
2. A member of a chartered honor society, or
3. Entering the military.

Honor cords or other regalia may not be worn by students in graduation ceremonies to signify a student's membership or enrollment in an academy/club/organization/program, a student's completer status, and/or a student's winning a competitive event.

2. To determine students who will speak at district high school graduation ceremonies:

1. The Valedictorian (the senior with the highest rank) will speak at his/her school's graduation ceremony.
2. The Salutatorian (the senior with the second highest rank) will speak at his/her school's graduation ceremony.
3. A third senior, who has earned magna or summa cum laude recognition, will be selected through election by his/her peers in the magna/summa cum laude student group to speak at his/her school's graduation ceremony.

3. To provide final class rank information that seniors may need to report to the post-secondary institution(s) of their choice.

Official vs. Unofficial Class Rank

Official Class Rank will be determined for tenth, eleventh, and twelfth graders on the 180th day of school. Students and parents may request an official transcript, which will include an official rank after the 180th day of school following the students' tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade. Horry County Schools does not rank ninth graders.

Unofficial Class Rank may be determined at any time during the school year for tenth, eleventh, or twelfth graders. Unofficial class ranking is only a snapshot of where the student is ranked at the time the transcript is printed. It does not consider any dual enrollment courses for which the student is currently enrolled, new students who have moved into the school, but do not have historical grades, or students who may enroll or leave the school before the end of the school year. All transcripts that are printed with an unofficial class rank will be labeled "Unofficial Transcript."

The rank in class for high school students will be computed according to the guidelines included in the S.C. Uniform Grading Policy. The district reserves the right to make changes in its policy concerning the structure for determining class rankings and grade point averages.

Preliminary class ranking of seniors for college admissions and/or scholarships:

Preliminary class rank will be uniformly determined on the 135th day of school for twelfth graders based on the students' weighted GPAs for the following two purposes:

1. To provide preliminary class rank information that seniors need for scholarships and other awards.
2. To provide preliminary class rank information that seniors need for admission to postsecondary programs.

Note: Preliminary class ranking of seniors may not include all courses in which the student is currently enrolled in, such as dual enrollment courses.

Note: January graduates will not be ranked with the graduating class and will NOT have a final official rank.

Preliminary class ranking of juniors for selection of Junior Marshals:

For the sole purpose of district high school graduation ceremonies, high schools will calculate the class rankings of eleventh graders, based upon their GPAs, on the 135th day of school, to identify junior class marshals. This 135th day ranking of eleventh graders is used only for the purpose of identifying junior class marshals.
Note: Preliminary class ranking of juniors may not include all courses in which the student is currently enrolled, such as dual enrollment courses.

Ranking of tenth and eleventh graders for South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship eligibility:

For students in grades ten and eleven to be considered for initial eligibility for South Carolina's Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, calculation of GPAs and determination of class ranking for tenth and eleventh graders will occur after the 180th day of school when all grades have been finalized.

School Counselors at CFHS continue to service students with caseloads determined by student last names.

(A-Bur)	Martin (Trey) Sasser	(A House)	msasser002@horrycountyschools.net
(Bus-Dil)	Pamela Colvard	(G House)	pcolvard@horrycountyschools.net
(Dim-Gre)	TBD	(Main)	knapolitano@horrycountyschools.net
(Grf-Kem)	Laurie Praefke	(F House)	lpraefke@horrycountyschools.net
(Ken-Mea)	Johnna Botse	(C House)	jbotsebaidoo@horrycountyschools.net
(Meb-Pa)	Samantha Wood	(D House)	swood001@horrycountyschools.net
(Pb-Sca)	Lisa Landon	(D House)	llandon@horrycountyschools.net
(Scb-Tr)	Kim McCray	(E House)	kmccray@horrycountyschools.net
(Ts-Z)	Erika Tobrocke	(B House)	etobrocke@horrycountyschools.net

Community based & Credential Students:

Kim Napolitano (Main Building) knapolitano@horrycountyschools.net

Testing Coordinator & Program School Students:

Christine Dauphinais (Main Building) cdauphinais@horrycountyschools.net

Registrar

Melissa Cannon (Main Building) mcannon@horrycountyschools.net

Counseling Admin. Assistant

Amy Meehan (Main Building) ameehan@horrycountyschools.net

Data Quality Clerk

Kelly Lee (Main Building) klee001@horrycountyschools.net

Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services Counselors

Ashley Saylor, LMSW asaylor@horrycountyschools.net
Brandyn Raber braber@horrycountyschools.net
Takashi Gowans tgowans001@horrycountyschools.net

Mental Health Counseling

If you or a family member are looking for help with mental health or substance use, Care Solace can help you quickly find treatment options matched to your needs regardless of the circumstance. Care Solace is a complimentary and confidential service provided to students, staff, and their families by Horry County Schools. Care Solace's team is available 24/7/365 and can support you in any language. If you would like to use Care Solace to help find a provider: Call 888-515-0595 24/7/365 or Visit www.caresolace.com/horrycounty and either search on your own OR click "Book Appointment" for assistance by video chat, email, or phone. You may also email your student's assigned counselor to request a referral aka "warm handoff" for them.





National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline- Dial or text: 988

South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy

When the LIFE Scholarship (Legislative Incentive for Future Excellence) was created, the General Assembly directed the State Board of Education to develop and adopt a uniform grading scale to be implemented in all public schools of the state no later than the 2000–01 school year. In 1999, the State Board of Education adopted the first uniform grading policy to be applied to all students who first enrolled in the ninth-grade class for the 2000–01 school year. This policy was in effect until the end of the 2006–07 school year.

In January 2007, the State Board of Education approved the revised uniform grading policy to ensure its alignment with recommendations in the Report of the South Carolina High School Redesign Commission (March 2006) and the Education and Economic Development Act (2005). The revised policy was effective for all students in the 2007–08 school year.

In April 2016, a revised 10-point grading scale was approved for the 2016-2017 school year. This grading scale will be used for all high school students regardless of grade level. Additional Information can be found online at: South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale

10 Point Grading Scale

South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale Conversions				
Numerical Average	Letter Grade	College Prep Weighting	Honors Weighting	AP/IB/Dual Credit Weighting
100	A	5.000	5.500	6.000
99	A	4.900	5.400	5.900
98	A	4.800	5.300	5.800
97	A	4.700	5.200	5.700
96	A	4.600	5.100	5.600
95	A	4.500	5.000	5.500
94	A	4.400	4.900	5.400
93	A	4.300	4.800	5.300
92	A	4.200	4.700	5.200
91	A	4.100	4.600	5.100
90	A	4.000	4.500	5.000
89	B	3.900	4.400	4.900
88	B	3.800	4.300	4.800
87	B	3.700	4.200	4.700
86	B	3.600	4.100	4.600
85	B	3.500	4.000	4.500
84	B	3.400	3.900	4.400
83	B	3.300	3.800	4.300
82	B	3.200	3.700	4.200
81	B	3.100	3.600	4.100
80	B	3.000	3.500	4.000
79	C	2.900	3.400	3.900
78	C	2.800	3.300	3.800
77	C	2.700	3.200	3.700
76	C	2.600	3.100	3.600
75	C	2.500	3.000	3.500
74	C	2.400	2.900	3.400
73	C	2.300	2.800	3.300
72	C	2.200	2.700	3.200
71	C	2.100	2.600	3.100
70	C	2.000	2.500	3.000
69	D	1.900	2.400	2.900
68	D	1.800	2.300	2.800
67	D	1.700	2.200	2.700
66	D	1.600	2.100	2.600
65	D	1.500	2.000	2.500
64	D	1.400	1.900	2.400
63	D	1.300	1.800	2.300
62	D	1.200	1.700	2.200
61	D	1.100	1.600	2.100
60	D	1.000	1.500	2.000
59	F	0.900	1.400	1.900
58	F	0.800	1.300	1.800
57	F	0.700	1.200	1.700
56	F	0.600	1.100	1.600
55	F	0.500	1.000	1.500
54	F	0.400	0.900	1.400
53	F	0.300	0.800	1.300
52	F	0.200	0.700	1.200
51	F	0.100	0.600	1.100

SAT/ACT Testing

Why take the ACT / SAT?

If you are planning to go to a four-year college, you may need to take the ACT and/or SAT *. Colleges often use ACT and/or SAT scores during the application process to help them decide whether to offer admission. ACT and/or SAT scores also play a role in determining whether a student qualifies for state and institutional scholarships.

	ACT	SAT
Test Fees	Detailed Fees: https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/fees.html	Detailed Fees: https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/registration/feesrefunds/test-fees

When Should I Take the ACT or SAT?

Advantages to testing in your junior year:

- You have probably completed most of the coursework that corresponds to the test material.
- You will have your test scores and other information in time to help you plan your senior year. (For example, you may decide to take an additional class in an area in which your test score was lower.)
- Colleges will know of your interests and have your scores in time to contact you during the summer before your senior year, when many of them are sending information about admissions, course placement, scholarships, and special programs to prospective students.
- You will have information about yourself and the schools you're considering prior to your campus visits, making your visits more focused.
- You will have the opportunity to retest if you feel your scores don't accurately reflect your abilities in the areas tested.

Typically, the December administration is the last test date to have scores in time to be considered for college entrance purposes

How do I register?

Counselors cannot register students for these exams, students must visit the websites below to create an account, view testing dates and register (if you already have a College Board account from the PSAT, AP testing, etc. you will use the same login to register for the SAT, do not create 2 accounts!):

Online registration for the SAT is available at **www.collegeboard.com**

Online registration for the ACT is available at **www.act.org**

What is Carolina Forest High School's CEEB code? 411468

College Board and ACT are private companies; therefore, school counselors or other school officials cannot access your account information.

If you need assistance, you must contact the company directly.

Customer Service by Phone: SAT: 866-630-9305 ACT: 319-337-1270

FREE SAT/ACT Prep at CFHS

English Thursdays 3:30-4:30p in H104

Math: Tuesdays 3:30-4:30p in F110

For additional SAT/ACT Resources and Prep Contact:
English: Ms. Liverpool LLiverpool@horrycountyschools.net
Math: Mr. Smith Jsmith014@Horrycountyschools.net

How do I obtain a fee waiver?

Now that ALL students are receiving Free lunch this school year, families will no longer complete the online application through the nutrition website. If a family/student wants to qualify for reduced fee/fee waivers for things such as testing (SAT/ACT/PSAT), College Applications, and/or Driver's Ed, they will need to submit the 2025-26 Request for Fee Reduction or Waiver Form have a parent/guardian fill it out and email it to Jennifer Scott (jscott@horrycountyschools.net). A new form must be completed each year, as the status DOES NOT roll over. Hard copy forms can be picked up in the main office. Once you have applied **AND** been approved, email the approval letter to Mrs. Dauphinais at cdauphinais@horrycountyschools.net to obtain a testing waiver. Email the approval letter to your school counselor for college application fee waiver requests. Students who have used a College Board testing fee waiver for PSAT or SAT have college application fee waivers automatically applied to their College Board account. Click the following link to learn more about SAT/ACT Fee Waiver Benefits.

Placement at HGTC

Students attending a two-year college such as Horry Georgetown Technical College generally do not need to take the ACT or SAT for admission. Instead, The Admissions Office will use Multiple Measures as a means for admission and placement during the enrollment process. High school transcripts and/or GED Scores will be reviewed by admissions/advising staff to admit students and place students into college-level courses when qualifying SAT or ACT scores are not available.

Note: Students who plan to apply for selective programs in the medical field at HGTC may be required to submit SAT, ACT, or other test scores such as the TEAS test for health science majors to be admitted into the program. Check with HGTC for requirements for specific majors. For more information visit HGTC Testing Center

ASVAB

As the nation's largest employer, the military offers qualified applicants a good salary, benefits, and free job training. The military also provides discipline and structure, as well as opportunities for career advancement and travel. The four major branches of the military are the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. There are also military opportunities in the Coast Guard, Space Force, National Guard, and the Reserves.

Individuals who are interested in joining the military should become familiar with the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery). The ASVAB is a timed multi-aptitude test, which is given at Military Entrance Processing Stations (MEPS) nationwide and is developed and maintained by the Dept. of Defense. Scores in four critical areas – Arithmetic Reasoning, Word Knowledge, Paragraph Comprehension and Mathematics Knowledge – count towards the Armed Forces Qualifying Test (AFQT) score. The AFQT score determines whether an individual is qualified to enlist in the U.S. military.

Scores in the other areas of the ASVAB will determine how qualified an individual is for certain military occupational specialties and Enlistment Bonuses. A high score will improve chances of getting specialty/jobs and signing bonuses. For information on how to sign up to take the ASVAB, take practice tests, or to learn more about the ASVAB, visit: ASVAB Resources.

A great deal of information is available for those considering the military as an option. Students and parents can learn more about the military at www.todaysmilitary.com. For information on specific branches, visit these websites:

ARMY www.goarmy.com **AIR FORCE** www.airforce.com **NAVY** www.navy.com
MARINES www.marines.com **COAST GUARD** www.gocoastguard.com **SPACE FORCE** www.spaceforce.mil

Because the career, training, and educational opportunities are different for each military branch, the best way for students to learn about the military is to talk to a recruiter. Students can search for recruiters in their area by going to the above websites. Recruiters also often visit the cafeteria during lunch to speak to students who are interested in the military.

South Carolina Diploma Pathways Seals of Distinction

Beginning with the freshman class of 2018-2019 students enrolled in SC high schools shall have the opportunity to earn graduation Seals of Distinction within each high school diploma pathway that identifies a particular area of focus. The earning of a graduation seal(s) shall be based upon the following criteria:

- A. Students shall meet all requirements set forth in State Board Policy R43-234: State Graduation Requirements related to earning a high school diploma.
- B. Students may earn one or more Seals of Distinction including an Honors Seal, College Seal, Career Seal, Specialization Seal (with focus areas in the following: STEM, World Language, Arts, and Military).
- C. Students are not required to earn a Seal of Distinction to receive a diploma.

More Information: SC Diploma Pathways Seals of Distinction Overview

How Many Schools Should I Apply To?

While there is no hard and fast rule, most students usually apply to approximately 3-6 schools which vary in terms of selectivity, but which have the most important features desired by the student. It is recommended that a student's final list includes schools from each of the categories listed below.

Category I: A student's top choice schools. This group may include a couple of "long shots" or "reach schools." Schools that may be a reach for the student to get into because of difficult admissions criteria.

Category II: Schools that possess the significant features a student desires and at which the probability of admission is pretty good. These are categorized as "realistic" schools. The student has researched the admission requirements and is confident that they have a chance of getting accepted.

Category III: Schools that have most of the features a student desires and at which the probability of admission is "highly likely."

Obviously, those schools that qualify as "long shots," "realistic", or "safety" vary tremendously from student to student. Each student has an individual academic profile and should select schools accordingly. It is EXTREMELY important for students to look at the admissions criteria for each school to see how those requirements match up with their own test scores, cumulative GPA, extracurricular involvement, etc. Admissions criteria can be found on a college's website or by calling the admissions office.

What Are Colleges Looking For?

Colleges take many things into account when determining whether they will offer admission to their institution. Below are many of the factors considered when determining acceptance.

Grade point average (GPA)
Rigor of high school courses
ACT / SAT scores
Class rank
Recommendations
Special Talents, Awards, Recognitions
Extracurricular Activities
Essay (s)
Interview (s)
Demonstrated interest

What Should I Know About College Visits?

- **Making a college visit is one of the best ways to find out if a college is going to be a good fit for you!** If you cannot visit a college, check out www.campustours.com to see if you can take a virtual tour.
- **Seniors are allowed TWO excused absences for college visits.** Be sure to complete a college visit form (this includes obtaining signatures from your parent/guardian, counselor AND an administrator) **prior** to going on your visit! Forms are available outside any counselor's office or download the form here: **CFHS Senior College Visit Form**
- **Many colleges have open houses and visitation days for high school students and their parents.**
- **To set up a college visit, contact the admissions office and let them know when you would like to visit.** The admissions office can then arrange a campus tour. If there is a specific program/major/sport/organization you are interested in, let the admissions counselor know you would like to speak to someone in that department.
- **As you walk around campus, try to visualize yourself as a student there.** Ask your tour guide if you can check out a dorm and/or eat in the dining hall. Also take time to explore the surrounding area to make sure you feel comfortable in the city or town the college is located in.
- **Do not hesitate to ask questions!** What makes the college special? What are their strongest majors? What percent of first-year students return? Do most students stay or leave on the weekends? Which admissions criteria do they consider most important? How safe is the campus? What percentage of first-year students graduate in four years?

College Athletics

Playing a sport in college requires a tremendous amount of talent, dedication, and commitment. College athletes must also meet specific eligibility requirements to participate. Below you will find general information on the governing bodies of college athletics, the **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA),** the **National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)**, and the **National Junior College Athletic Association** (**NJCAA**). Students who are considering playing a sport in college should speak to their high school coach, school counselor, and check out the websites below. It is important to pay close attention to deadlines associated with the eligibility process.

NCAA, Division I & II (large public universities)

NCAA Division III (generally small public or private colleges)

NAIA (generally small private colleges)

NJCAA (community colleges)

The **NCAA** is the governing body for around 1,200 schools. It consists of three divisions (Division I, II, and III) and oversees twenty-three sports. Division I and II both offer either partial or full athletic scholarships. Division III student-athletes can only receive academic or non-athletic scholarships – no athletic scholarships are allowed. To initiate the eligibility process, athletes need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center by visiting NCAA Eligibility Center . More detailed information about the NCAA is available at www.ncaa.org.

The **NAIA** is a smaller association consisting of three hundred schools and 13 sports. It includes two divisions (Division I and II) and Division I in the NAIA is comparable to Division II in the NCAA. Over 90% of schools in the NAIA offer full or partial scholarships. Eligibility requirements for NAIA colleges & universities can be found at www.playnaia.org.

The **NJCAA** is the association that deals with junior and community colleges. Like the NCAA, it is divided into three divisions. Division I can offer full athletic scholarships. Division II can offer athletic scholarships limited to tuition, fees, and books. Division III may not provide athletically related financial assistance.

College/Career Exploration Websites

Naviance Career Exploration (use HCS Clever to login)
ACT- Student College and Career Planning
Career One Stop- Free Career Planning from the US Government



College Bound Senior Timelines Suggestions

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER (Fall)

- Regardless of what you might have heard – your senior year counts! Do not let "Senioritis" take over! This is an exciting time in your lives, and we certainly want you to enjoy it. We also want to encourage you to finish your high school education strong by challenging yourself academically and focusing on your post-secondary plans.
- Schedule an appointment with your counselor to make sure you are on track for graduation and to devise a plan for your senior year. Senior IGPs will begin in September.
- Reduce your preliminary list of colleges to a workable number. Check out the requirements, expenses, and other pertinent information by visiting each college's website. Plan to visit colleges you are interested in or schedule virtual visits.
- If your schools require them, register to take the ACT and/or SAT. Be sure to have your SAT/ACT scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying. Scores must be sent directly from College Board (SAT) or ACT to be considered 'official.'
- Meet with college representatives or plan to attend local college fairs. Military bound students, meet with military recruiters visiting school or schedule a time to speak to a recruiter at their office. Register for the ASVAB if you have not already taken it.
- Create a 'resume' with information about your activities and achievements to use for your applications and recommendations. Be specific when describing your interests, abilities, and achievements.
- The chances are good that you will have to submit at least one essay as part of your application. Start to work on it now! Be sure to have someone proofread your essay(s) to ensure they are well written, grammatically correct, thoughtful, and organized.
- Request letters of recommendation if required for your college application. This does not need to be from your counselor, teachers, coaches, club advisors, etc. may know you best and are great people for this! Provide a resume of your extracurricular activities and achievements. Please allow at least 2 weeks for your letter of recommendation to be completed.
- Register with the NCAA if you plan to participate in college athletics. NCAA Eligibility Center
- Many of the selective colleges have November or December deadlines. Others have later deadlines. Be sure to apply on time to the colleges you have selected. Remember that the School Counseling Office is closed over Thanksgiving and Christmas vacation, so plan ahead if your application requires a counselor or secondary school report. Please check with your counselor to make sure they can access the necessary forms and allow at least 2 weeks to be completed.
- Request official transcripts on www.parchment.com and have them sent to each school you apply to.

DECEMBER – FEBRUARY (Winter)

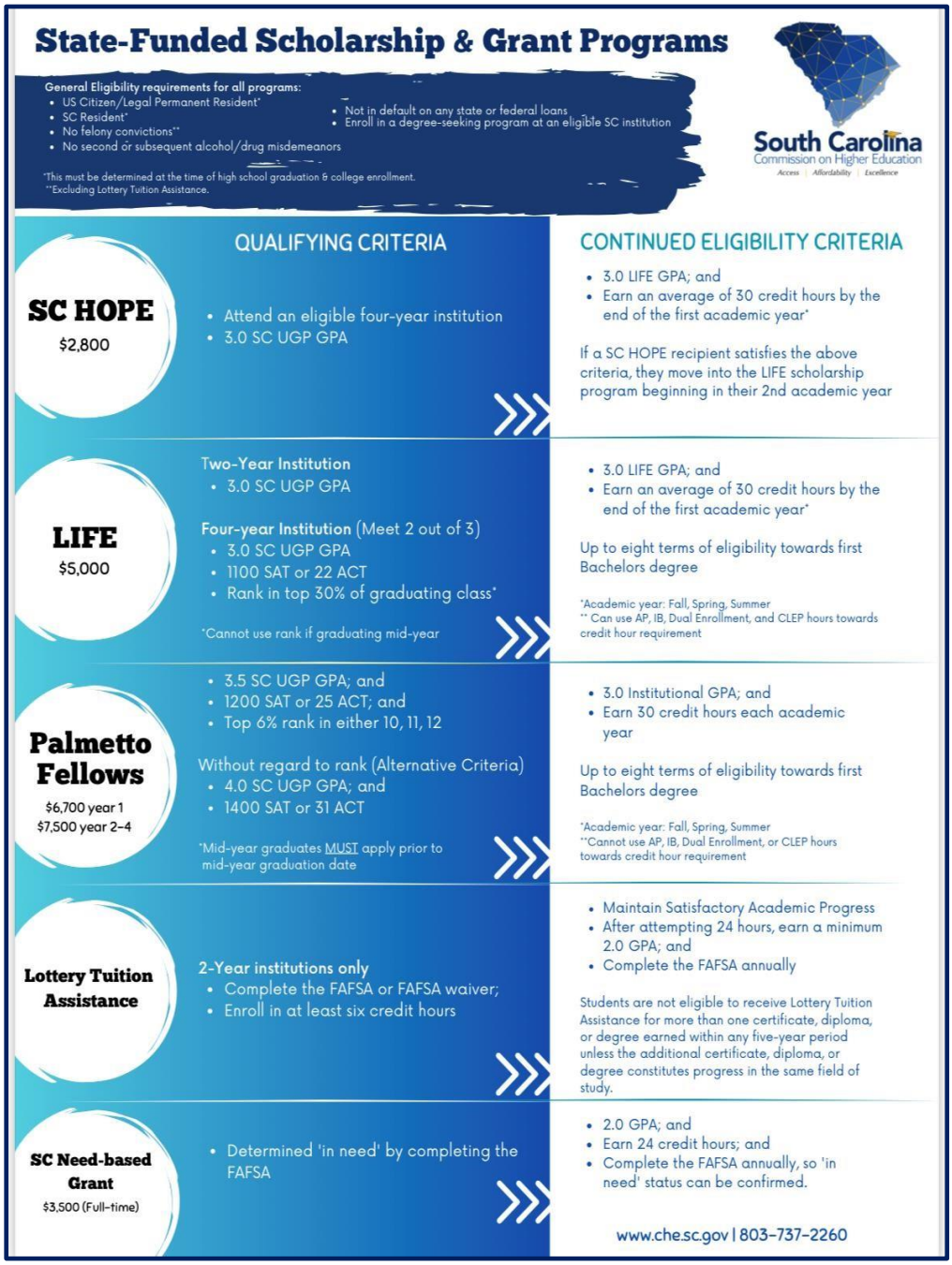
- Students and parents can fill out the FAFSA (Federal Application for Student Aid) **will open October 1st, 2025**. Complete the FAFSA Here! **Make sure you are completing the 2026-2027 FAFSA!**
- Begin researching scholarships that you may be interested in applying for! Visit the CFHS Scholarship Page.
- If you have not already done so, complete the FAFSA so you can get the most possible financial assistance for college. Note: Financial Aid Offices are always willing to help with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the FAFSA! Take advantage of this resource.
- Mid-year transcripts should be requested on www.parchment.com. Contact colleges to confirm they have received all your application materials.

MARCH-JUNE (Spring)

- Make sure to notify your counselor of all colleges that you have been accepted to and any financial aid/scholarship money you have been awarded!
- If you are accepted to more than one college, rank your preference by location, academic program, and other characteristics that are important to you. Once you have received all your responses from colleges, make your final decision!
- Start working on your scholarship applications! Spring is the height of scholarship season!
- Keep studying and working hard!! Acceptance is contingent upon successful completion of the whole year's work.
- Carefully review financial aid award notices from colleges. Do not just look at how much aid you are offered; look also at how much of your need the award will cover. If you do not get enough (or any) aid, seek out other resources that are available to you. You may want to contact the financial aid office at the college again.
- Follow the checklist provided by the college you choose to attend and pay close attention to deadlines. Send in any documents still needed to complete your file & do not forget to send in your deposit!
- If you plan to compete in Division I or Division II college sports, request that your final transcript be sent to the NCAA clearinghouse.

South Carolina Scholarships and Grants

Below is a brief overview of the State Scholarships and Grants programs. The information provided is from the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education and is based on the Commission's interpretation of the South Carolina Education Lottery Act. SCCHE information may be changed or updated without notice. Changes may also occur anytime during the legislative process. Although SCCHE attempts to provide up-to-date information on their website (www.che.sc.gov), please seek confirmation of information from the appropriate SCCHE office prior to any action taken.



Additional Resources: SC CHE- Paying for College Palmetto Fellows FAQs LIFE FAQs HOPE FAQs

*Hope, Life, Palmetto Fellows, Lottery Tuition Assistance scholarships can only be used in South Carolina. The college where you are admitted is responsible for the awards process. LIFE and HOPE scholarships are based on FINAL cumulative GPA at graduation.

Additional Scholarship Information

It takes time to search for scholarships and to submit applications. But hard work has its rewards, and the more money you earn through scholarships, the less you will need to borrow to pay for college!

$$ Use free scholarship search sites to find a wide array of scholarships. Check out the following sites:
www.FastWeb.com www.cappex.com www.FinAid.org Big Future Scholarship Search www.goingmerry.com Scholarship Handout

$$ Do not ignore scholarships with smaller award amounts! There is often less competition for these scholarships, so your chance of success is better.

$$ Many **employers sponsor scholarship programs** for employees and their dependents, so do not hesitate to ask.

$$ Visit **college websites** to see if scholarships are available through the admissions process.

$$ Check out the 'Scholarship' link on the CFHS website. All the scholarships that come through CFHS are posted on this page throughout the school year. Students and parents/guardians are highly encouraged to visit this site weekly to request scholarship applications! CFHS Scholarship Webpage

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

The office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds for college or career school. Completing the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form is the first step toward getting federal aid for college, career school, or graduate school. **Completing and submitting the FAFSA form is free!** In addition to federal aid, many states and colleges use your FAFSA data to determine your eligibility for state and school aid. How to Create an FSA ID Students and Parents each need their own FSA ID

Tips & Helpful Hints

Do It ASAP – The government does not have infinite funds to distribute. Money is awarded on a first come, first-serve basis. To get the best aid package, you should submit your FAFSA application and potential schools as early as possible.

The 2026-2027 FAFSA form will be available October 1, 2025

2026-2027 IS THE CORRECT FORM FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASS OF 2026 DO NOT FILL OUT THE 2025-2026 FORM

1. **Everyone who is getting ready to go to college or career school should fill out the FAFSA form regardless of income, academic performance, age, etc.…**
2. **The FAFSA is 100% FREE!** If you are asked to pay a fee to complete the FAFSA, you are being scammed ☹. Make sure you are on the correct website: **https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa**
3. **There Are Resources That Can Help –** Do not get overwhelmed. Get help. College Financial Aid Offices are excellent **FREE** resources for students and parents! Take advantage of this resource if you have any questions or concerns throughout the process!

CCU Financial Aid Office: (843) 349-2313 **HGTC Financial Aid Office:** (843) 349-5251

4. **Online Resources:**
   - https://www.fastweb.com/content/fafsa
   - https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/how-to-complete-the-fafsa
   - https://studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid
   - https://studentaid.gov/resources

Disclaimer: *Our intent is to share resources that may be helpful to our students and their families. Carolina Forest High School makes no guarantees that the websites or information mentioned in this guide will be error-free, or that they will meet the needs of the student.*