



Guide to Your Financial Aid

We are pleased to offer you financial aid to help you reach your educational goals. Your financial aid award may include various types of financial aid such as scholarships, grants, loans and work. This guide explains the different forms of aid that may be part of your financial aid package. Aid programs that require financial need are based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)). Most programs have a deadline for applying for admission, submitting test scores, or filing the FAFSA annually.

- **Scholarships** – Scholarships are merit-based gift assistance for undergraduate students. Some scholarships also have a need component.
- **Grants** – Grants are need-based gift assistance for undergraduate students. Some grants also have a merit component.
- **Loans** – Loans are assistance that must be repaid. Loans can be need based (subsidized) or non-need based (unsubsidized).
- **Work** – Federal Work-Study is need-based employment. Funds are disbursed by a paycheck rather than as a lump sum.

Scholarships

The **Clemson National Scholars, Clemson Scholars, Clemson Scholars-Independent School, Presidential, Clemson Palmetto Pact, Trustee, Clemson Non-Resident Merit, and other recruiting scholarships** are renewable, four-year scholarships. You must read the Award Messages that accompany these awards to become aware of the conditions for renewal (if applicable), which usually include maintaining a minimum cumulative 3.0 grade point average (GPA) and completing 24 unduplicated credit hours each year. Recruiting scholarships are based on your in-state or out-of-state residency, and will be adjusted if your residency changes. The **Clemson Non-Resident Merit Scholarship** will be reduced or removed if you receive tuition-specific aid such as an ROTC scholarship. The scholarships above (and other individually named scholarships) should equal or exceed the total scholarship offer in your Admissions acceptance letter, but may be split into several awards. Please note that some scholarships are awarded on an annual basis and are not renewable.

The **Freshman STEM Scholarship** is a one-year scholarship for freshmen Palmetto Fellows majoring in a discipline that qualifies for the South Carolina Enhancement. You may be able to replace this scholarship with the Palmetto Fellows Enhancement in your second, third and fourth

year if you are in an eligible major and complete 14 hours of eligible math and science courses in your first year.

The [South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship](#) is a renewable, four-year scholarship from the state of South Carolina. You must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 Clemson GPA and complete 30 credit hours each year to renew. Credit hours from high school cannot be used to meet the 30-hour requirement.

The [South Carolina LIFE Scholarship](#) is a renewable, four-year scholarship from the state of South Carolina. You must maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 all-college LIFE GPA and complete an average of 30 credit hours per year to renew.

The [South Carolina HOPE Scholarship](#) is a non-renewable, one-year scholarship from the state of South Carolina. If you earn a minimum cumulative 3.0 all-college LIFE GPA and complete 30 credit hours, you can earn the **South Carolina LIFE Scholarship** for the next year.

Grants

The **Federal Pell Grant** is awarded to needy students based on the FAFSA.

The **Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant** is awarded to exceptionally needy students based on the FAFSA.

The **South Carolina Need-Based Grant** is awarded to needy students who are residents of South Carolina. You must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA and complete 24 credit hours each year to be eligible for renewal consideration.

The **Clemson Non-Resident Grant** is awarded to out-of-state students with financial need who score a minimum of 1250 on the SAT (math and critical reading) or 28 on the ACT (composite). You must maintain a minimum cumulative 2.5 GPA and complete 24 credit hours each year to renew.

Loans

The **Federal Direct Subsidized Loan** is awarded to needy students based on the FAFSA and the completion of Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note (studentloans.gov). You must repay this loan beginning six months after you leave school or drop below half-time enrollment. The current interest rate during repayment is 4.29%, which may change for loans disbursed after July 1, 2016.

The **Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loan** is awarded to students who complete the FAFSA as well as Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note (studentloans.gov). You must repay

this loan beginning six months after you leave school or drop below half-time enrollment. The current interest rate is 4.29% and begins accruing (or can be paid) after disbursement; this rate may change for loans disbursed after July 1, 2016.

The **Federal Perkins Loan** is awarded to exceptionally needy students based on the FAFSA. You must repay this loan beginning nine months after you leave school or drop below half-time enrollment. The interest rate during repayment is 5%. Please note that the Federal Perkins Loan will not be available after 2017-18.

Work

The **Federal Work Study (FWS)** program is awarded to exceptionally needy students based on the FAFSA. If you are awarded FWS, you will receive a message sent to your Clemson email account in July instructing you on how to apply for a job on campus. You will be paid twice monthly based on the hours you work during the pay period.

Do you need additional aid?

If you need additional aid, your parents may wish to apply for a **Federal Direct Parent PLUS Loan** if you are a dependent student. Graduate students can apply for the **Federal Direct Graduate PLUS Loan**. Private educational loans are also available to credit-worthy borrowers. We encourage you to apply for these types of loans in June each year to facilitate on-time payment. We recommend that you apply for the academic year (fall and spring) to prevent the need for a separate application and credit check for the spring semester. More information can be found at clemson.edu/financial-aid.

The Guide to Financial Aid does not contain all of the terms and conditions related to your aid. Please review Award Messages and Terms and Conditions in the [iROAR](#) portal, your Master Promissory Note for the Direct Loan and the Perkins Loan, the Clemson University and the Office of Student Financial Aid websites, and the State of South Carolina Affidavit (if applicable) for additional information and important disclosures.

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