

# A GUIDE TO USC UPSTATE FINANCIAL AID 2009-2010

The 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Renewal FAFSA is the application **you must** complete to apply for financial aid at the University of South Carolina Upstate. The 2009-2010 FAFSA brochure (instructions to file electronically) is enclosed and is required for the following programs:

Federal Pell Grant  
Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)\*  
Academic Competitive Grant  
National Smart Grant  
Federal Work-Study\*  
TEACH Grant  
Subsidized/Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan  
Federal Perkins Loan\*  
South Carolina Need-Based Grant\*  
Some Private Loans, Grants or Scholarship Programs

\*Represents campus-based aid



**You may access FAFSA on the Web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).** Completing the FAFSA on the Web has a number of advantages: it is self-editing (eliminates errors), allows for quicker response time and allows for a Personal Identification Number (PIN) to satisfy signature requirements. PINs for students and parents are accessible at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). You must use your PIN in order to submit your FAFSA application electronically.

The 2009-2010 FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for fall 2009, spring 2010 and summer 2010.

**PRIORITY DEADLINE**

**MARCH 1, 2009**

**Applications received after March 1 will be processed; however, campus-based funds are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Therefore, students applying after March 1 are unlikely to receive these funds.**

To make an appointment with a counselor, contact the Office of Financial Aid at the number below:

**OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

HEALTH EDUCATION COMPLEX, SUITE 2081 • 800 UNIVERSITY WAY, SPARTANBURG, SC 29303

[WWW.USCUPSTATE.EDU](http://WWW.USCUPSTATE.EDU)

PHONE: (864) 503-5340 • FAX: (864) 503-5974

# APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID 2009-2010

## PRIORITY DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 2009

\_\_\_\_ Complete a 2009-2010 FAFSA, Renewal FAFSA or FAFSA on the Web after Jan. 1, 2009.

\_\_\_\_ File the 2009-2010 FAFSA using 2008 federal tax returns by March 1, 2009

- Be sure to list USC Upstate Institutional Code 006951 on the FAFSA
- All filers who are residents of South Carolina are considered for the State Need-Based Grant.
- If you are interested in loans and Work-Study, answer #3 for question 31.
- If you need assistance, contact the Office of Financial Aid at (864) 503-5340 to schedule an appointment.

\_\_\_\_ Keep a copy of the FAFSA/Student Aid Report (SAR) for your records.

If at any point during the application process or school year, you, your spouse, or your parents encounter unusual circumstances that might affect your need for student financial aid, you should contact the Office of Financial Aid at (864) 503-5340 and arrange to speak with a counselor. The counselor can evaluate your circumstances and offer appropriate advice.

Financial aid correspondence is sent to either your local address (during school periods) or your permanent address (during summer) as listed with University records. It is your responsibility to maintain an up-to-date address with the Records Office. The Office of Financial Aid is not responsible for delays that result from an incorrect address.



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# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## **Federal Stafford Loans**

If you requested a Stafford Loan in question 31 of the FAFSA, USC Upstate will send all first-time borrowers instructions on completing the required steps to receive the loan. For repeat borrowers, USC Upstate will certify the loan request with the previous borrower.

Should you choose to change lenders, you may do so by meeting with a financial aid counselor for subsequent loan counseling and providing the office with your request. Complete instructions on Stafford loans and the process can be found on the USC Upstate Web site.

## **Parent Federal PLUS Loan**

Pre-screen applications are available at [www.uscupstate.edu](http://www.uscupstate.edu) or the Office of Financial Aid.

## **USC Upstate Scholars Program**

These awards do not require a separate application. For freshmen and transfers, eligibility will be determined from the complete application for admission. Awards will be made to new freshmen and transfer students as soon as possible after the admissions application is complete. Additional information is available in the University catalog.

## **USC Upstate Foundation Scholarship Program**

Students are required to submit the USC Upstate Foundation Scholarship application by Feb. 2, 2009, to be considered for all Foundation Scholarships. Foundation Scholarships should be awarded in May 2009 for the 2009-2010 academic year. Additional information is available in the University catalog.

## **South Carolina LIFE/HOPE Scholarship Programs\***

These awards do not require a separate application. For freshmen and transfer students, eligibility will be determined from the complete application for admission. For currently enrolled students, eligibility will be based on the college transcript. Additional information is available in the University catalog. The HOPE Scholarship program is for eligible, entering freshmen only and is contingent upon Lottery proceeds.

## **South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Program\***

These awards are made to high school seniors. You should contact your guidance counselor for additional information on how to apply.

## **State Need-Based Grants\***

These awards are made to eligible applicants on a first-come, first-served basis as soon as the financial aid application is complete. Awards range from \$200 to \$1,600 annually at USC Upstate. Additional information is available in the University catalog.

## **Teacher Education Programs**

Visit [www.scstudentloan.org](http://www.scstudentloan.org) regarding information on the Teacher Loan Programs. Visit [www.cerra.org](http://www.cerra.org) for information on the South Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

**\*Disclaimer:** Changes could occur at any time for these programs. You may access the CHE web site at [www.che.sc.gov](http://www.che.sc.gov) for the latest information available. Awards are contingent upon the availability of funds to be appropriated by the South Carolina Legislature.

# FINANCIAL AID CALENDAR

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Phone: (864) 503-5340 Fax: (864) 503-5974

Web site: [www.uscupstate.edu](http://www.uscupstate.edu) USC Upstate School Code: 006951

- January 2, 2009** 2009-2010 FAFSA forms become available. You may complete the FAFSA ON THE WEB ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). **IMPORTANT: Students must apply each year by completing the FAFSA to be eligible for federal financial aid.** For quicker results, applicants and parents may go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) and apply for a PIN, which will substantially decrease your processing time.
- March 1, 2009** **PRIORITY DEADLINE** for USC Upstate to receive the results of your 2009-2010 FAFSA and all other documentation requested in order to be considered for all available financial aid funds. **Note:** Campus-based funds (Federal Work-Study, FSEOG Grant & Perkins Loans) as well as the SC Need-based Grant funds are limited. The FAFSA may be filed from January 2, 2009 through June 30, 2010; however, only the Pell Grant and Stafford Loan funds may be available after this priority deadline.
- March 31, 2009** Summer School 2009 financial aid applications are made available to all currently enrolled and newly admitted students. You may download an application from our web site at [www.uscupstate.edu](http://www.uscupstate.edu), or come by the Office of Financial Aid to pick up an application (requires completion of 2008-2009 FAFSA to determine your eligibility).
- April 7, 2009** **PRIORITY DEADLINE** to apply for financial aid for **ALL** sessions of summer school. Summer school eligibility questions should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid.
- May 15, 2009** Approximate date 2009-2010 Award Letter mailings begin.
- May 15, 2009** Approximate date Satisfactory Academic Progress is checked and notifications mailed to those students not meeting USC Upstate standards of academic progress.
- June 1, 2009** Deadline for submissions of South Carolina Teachers Loan Application to the South Carolina Student Loan Corporation. Visit [www.scstudentloan.org](http://www.scstudentloan.org) for complete information.
- July 15, 2009** Applications must be complete by this date to assure funds are available to pay fall tuition and fees. **Your 2009-2010 FAFSA and all other requested documentation must be received in order to have funds available to pay fall tuition and fees.**
- August 20, 2009** Fall semester classes begin.

