Financial assistance

University of South Carolina Upstate offers a full range of financial assistance programs designed to aid students and their families with the cost of higher education. Options for students earning degrees include scholarships, grants, loans and employment opportunities. These resources are awarded to students based on financial need, academic strength, leadership potential, special talents, or a combination of these criteria. Specific programs are also offered through USC Upstate's Business Office.

In 2008-2009, more than $47 million in financial aid was awarded to USC Upstate students, with nearly 80 percent of the student body receiving some kind of financial aid. Students receiving state, federal or institutional financial aid must be enrolled in 12 or more USC Upstate credit hours to be considered full-time for financial aid purposes. Part-time students may be eligible for financial assistance. In some instances, students enrolled less than half-time may receive Pell Grant assistance.

Eligibility for assistance based on financial need is determined by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, available at www.uscupstate.edu/enrollment_services/financial_aid or www.fafsa.ed.gov. For more information on financial aid, contact the USC Upstate Financial Aid Office at (864) 503-5345.
The USC Upstate Scholars program honors academically talented new students. The prestigious awards are given to students who have demonstrated the potential for academic excellence. The scholarships are based on full-time enrollment and range in value from $1,500 to full-tuition awards. Scholarships are automatically awarded to eligible students upon admission to USC Upstate. However, the number of awards is limited according to the availability of funding. We strongly encourage early application to the University to ensure the best chance of receiving an award.

Foundation scholarships
The USC Upstate Scholars program offers scholarships for continuing students based on academic merit, institutionally/federally determined financial need, special talents, specific major or career interest, or a combination of these criteria. Funded and endowed scholarships are awarded annually to qualified students. For a complete listing of available Foundation scholarships, consult the current USC Upstate catalog or Web site.

Scholarships for entering freshmen:

Chancellor Scholars
• $7,500 annual scholarship for full-time students; $3,500 annually for commuting students
• minimum SAT score of 1200 or ACT score of 26
• rank in top 10% of high school class
• minimum GPA of 3.70

Voluntarism Scholars
• $1,500 annual scholarship for students demonstrating $3,500 annually for commuting students
• rank in top 25% of high school class
• participate in at least one of the USC Upstate Office of Service-Learning initiatives
• minimum SAT score of 1000 or ACT score of 23

University Scholars
• $2,500 annual scholarship
• minimum SAT score of 1300 or ACT score of 27
• ranks in top 10% of high school class
• minimum GPA of 3.50

Summer Scholars
• $5,000 annual scholarship
• minimum SAT score of 1500 or ACT score of 34
• ranks in top 5% of high school class
• minimum GPA of 4.00

Other types of aid*

Grants - A grant is a form of federal or state financial aid that does not need to be repaid. Grants are typically given to students who demonstrate the greatest financial need. Types of grants include:

• Pell Grant
• Academic Excellence Grant
• Academic Competitiveness Grant

Loans - Loans must be repaid, but most not until after the student completes their studies. Types of loans include:

• Stafford loans - both subsidized and unsubsidized
• Perkins Loan
• Parent PLUS loan
• SMART Grant
• South Carolina Need Based Grant
• Technical Grant

South Carolina Palmetto Fellows Scholarship

This merit-based program is designed for students who graduate with an "A" average while qualifying for federal Pell Grant eligibility. South Carolina residents; and are not eligible for the Palmetto Fellows or LIFE Scholarships. The scholarship is awarded beginning the freshman year of attendance only.

Eligibility Requirements
For specific information on eligibility requirements and recent details regarding state-funded scholarships, please visit www.scche.org. Awards are contingent upon the availability of funds to be appropriated by the South Carolina Legislature. Changes could occur at any time for these programs. Refer to the Commission on Higher Education Web site at www.sche.sc.gov for the latest information available.

Ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top comprehensive universities in the south, the University of South Carolina Upstate is a teaching university, with the faculty’s focus not only on excellence in the classroom, but also in helping students achieve their goals. Likewise, the Office of Admissions, Office of Financial Aid, Business Office and the USC Upstate Foundation work to make USC Upstate more affordable for students and their families through a number of scholarship and financial assistance programs.

Transfer scholarships
For students transferring from other institutions, our students are inspired to achieve a higher education and our faculty and staff to those transferring from other institutions, our students are inspired to achieve a higher education and our faculty and staff

The priority deadline for Financial Aid is March 1 each year. However, funds may be very limited.

*In both instances, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), will determine the amount of assistance and which program is appropriate for you.