

10 Things Academic Advisors Need to Know about Financial Aid

1. The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is available every year on October 1st for the upcoming academic year online at www.fafsa.gov . USC Upstate Title IV School code: 006951
2. Must complete the FAFSA each academic year.
3. March 1st is our FAFSA priority date for students to take advantage of all the aid we offer, pending eligibility.
4. Verification has to be completed before we can award most aid. Always respond to request for information to get this done.
5. State Scholarships Renewals: LIFE – Earn an average of 30 credit hours with a 3.0 cumulative GPA on all hours each Academic year (fall, spring & summer). HOPE – only good for 1 year – can earn LIFE if requirements are met. Palmetto Fellows – Must earn 30 credit hours each academic year and maintain an Upstate cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.
6. *Enhanced majors for LIFE and Palmetto Fellows can receive \$2500 more – if they earned 14 credit hours in math and/or science their initial year of college.
7. Check with Financial Aid before dropping classes or withdrawing – Funds may be owed back as a result of these actions.
8. Loans and Pell Grants have yearly and Lifetime limits.
9. To continue to receive Federal Aid, students must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) each year: Earn 67% of attempted credit hours with a cumulative 2.0 Institutional GPA. SAP is checked annually after the spring semester. Students can successfully appeal no more than 3 times.
10. Always respond in a timely manner to request from the Financial Aid Office to avoid delays in processing or award adjustments.

***Enhanced Majors**

Biology

Chemistry

Computer Information Systems

Computer Science

Engineering Technology Management

Exercise and Sport Science

Health Informatics

Information Management and System

Nursing

Math

Middle Grades Education – Math and Science Emphasis Only

Secondary Education – Emphasis: Biology, Chemistry, & Math