October/November 2007 • Financial Aid  

Financial aid and scholarships are important for students in choosing which college to attend; retaining that aid is vital in helping them stay in college. Here’s a glimpse at financial aid at the University of South Carolina, as well as information to share with your students on a few resources offered by Student Affairs and Academic Support.

Students say financial aid is important when choosing which college to attend

*Kiplinger’s Personal Finance* recently ranked the University of South Carolina 51st among public colleges and universities that offer an excellent education at a reasonable rate. Even though the University is considered a good value, most students say financial aid was important when they considered whether to attend.

**Number of financial aid awards continues to increase**

![Graph showing the increase in number of financial aid awards from 2002-03 to 2006-07](chart)

Eighty-five percent of undergraduates receive financial aid, and 39 percent receive need-based aid.

**More students receive aid that doesn’t have to be repaid**

Comprising about 60 percent of the total financial aid awarded, work-study, scholarships and grants don’t have to be repaid by students. In 2006-07, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships administered more than $138 million of these types of aid.

Source: PACS 2007

**State scholarship retention rates are best in South Carolina**

Nearly 99 percent of freshmen who are South Carolina residents receive a state lottery scholarship or need-based grant. A little more than half—52.86 percent—of the University’s total undergraduate population receives the state’s Palmetto Fellows, LIFE or HOPE scholarships.

**Many academically talented students receive state scholarships**

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Unless otherwise noted, information is from the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships.
Resources to help make our students better students.

Gamecock Guarantee
www.sc.edu/guarantee

The new Gamecock Guarantee is a need-based financial- and academic-support program that will help make attendance at the University more affordable for South Carolina residents. The program promises that eligible students’ tuition and technology fee will be covered for up to four years if they meet criteria including the following:

• they enroll as first-time, full-time undergraduates in a fall semester
• their families’ adjusted gross incomes (AGI) are no more than $25,000
• they participate in the array of programs and services the University offers to ensure their success

About 200 students will be eligible for the Gamecock Guarantee when it goes into effect in fall 2008.

Save Your LIFE
www.sa.sc.edu/ssc

The Student Success Center is organizing the Save Your LIFE Campaign to help LIFE Scholarship recipients retain their awards.

The campaign’s aim is to help students understand:

• the importance of academic success
• the scholarship and financial aid process
• the programs and opportunities available

Last year, more than 6,000 undergraduates received a LIFE scholarship.

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships
www.sc.edu/financialaid

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships offers resources to help students find ways to pay for their education. Information is available for students seeking employment and various types of aid.

Types of aid include:

• state, federal, institutional and private
• grants, scholarships, need-based employment and loans
• aid for summer courses and study abroad

Last year the office administered about $287 million of aid to nearly 23,000 students.

Career Center
www.sc.edu/career

The Career Center provides programs and services to enhance the career development of University students.

Services include:

• counseling and testing to assist students in career goal clarification
• resources to help students develop marketable skills and make contact with potential employers
• online resources such as JobMate, a job search resource center, and InterviewStream and Perfect Interview, software that allows students to practice interviewing and enhance their skills

Last year, more than 1,700 students found part-time jobs through the center’s resources.