



Student Bulletin

|Office of Financial Aid • 300 College St. • Campus Box 7386 • Orangeburg SC 29117
Title IV School Code 003446

12 Steps to a Successful Financial Aid Experience

1. File your FAFSA ([Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#)) online at www.fafsa.gov. The deadline for applying for the fall semester is May 1 and the spring semester is November 1.
2. Adhere to all financial aid & university deadlines. Review and use the Financial Aid checklist to ensure that you have completed the Financial Aid process.
3. Be on the lookout for your Student Aid Report (SAR). The U.S. Department of Education emails this to you after your FAFSA has been evaluated and analyzed. Review the SAR as soon as you receive it. Read everything on the first page. If corrections are required, submit the corrections to the federal processor as soon as possible. If you have been admitted into a degree program, you may receive your financial aid tentative eligibility notification or a missing information request approximately one week after SCSU receives your record electronically from the US Department of Education.
4. When you completed the FAFSA, you indicated school codes for each institution to which you wanted your data sent. Each institution receives an electronic version of your SAR. If you are awaiting an admission decision, you will receive your notice letter approximately two (2) weeks after you have been officially admitted into a degree program.
5. Submit copies of all documents requested at your earliest convenience. Income tax returns with signatures, w-2's, document's related to marital status and child support arrangements, military Leave and Earnings Statements, proof of citizenship documents, and Social Security documents are the more frequently required documents. Submit copies of all documents by June 15 in order for aid to be disbursed by the fall tuition deadline.
6. Log-on to Bulldog Connection, review and submit any outstanding requirements. Review the notice and accept or decline the aid. If you wish to make changes to your awards offer, after you have accepted or declined your awards, please send an e-mail to financialaid@scsu.edu. Subject line "award adjustment" or "cancellation." In the body of your email include your student ID. Please note your email must be sent from your SC State account. If email is unavailable, print your award letter from Bulldog Connection, make the desired changes and send the updated letter to our office with your signature.
- What's a tentative award notice?**
This is an estimate of the financial assistance for which you may be eligible at SC State University. The estimate is based on many factors, including your college grade level, your being enrolled full-time both semesters and the results of the FAFSA analysis. Adjustments may be required if corrections are made to the information on your FAFSA, if you will be enrolled at a different level than anticipated or if you receive other aid. Accept terms and conditions and complete the Direct Loan entrance requirement and Master Promissory note if needed.
7. Log-on to Bulldog Connection and review your account detail in advance of fee payment dates to determine if the aid awarded is sufficient to cover your balance. If you have not been awarded financial aid by the tuition deadline, it is your responsibility to make payment arrangements with the Treasurer's Office. If the aid awarded for the semester is less than the amount you owe, you must pay the difference before the "tuition deadline" date. If you don't have enough money to pay the difference by the "tuition deadline, the University offers a [Tuition Payment Plan](#) administered by SallieMae, for which you may apply each semester. Details are available online at www.tuitionpay.com/scs; contact SallieMae at (800) 635-0120 to speak with a TuitionPay Consultant or by calling the [Office of Accounts Receivable](#) at (803)536-8077 or (803)536-8991. Arrangements for the payment plan should be made prior to the tuition payment deadline. If additional financial aid is needed, review any messages you have in the financial aid section of the Bulldog Connection to determine if your parents could be considered for a parent loan.
8. If you receive a scholarship from a civic group, club, church, or other organization, please ensure that the Office financial aid receives a copy of your scholarship award notice. The scholarship check should be forwarded by the agency to the Office of Financial Aid at the address above. To expedite crediting of the scholarship to your account, please ask the agency to write your name and University Identification Number on the check.
9. Study and be committed to academic excellence. SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS (SAP) requirements are a component of financial aid eligibility. Your academic progress will be evaluated at the end of the spring semester and if the GPA or hours completed do not meet minimum requirements, you will be placed on financial aid suspension. If that occurs, you will be notified and an opportunity to appeal will be provided. Review [SAP policies and procedures](#) on-line.
10. Attend all classes beginning the first day of classes regularly. Review your enrollment status and schedule prior to the end of the add/drop period to ensure your enrollment status matches your anticipated status. Your financial aid will be adjusted based on your enrollment status at the end of the add/drop period each term.
11. STAY IN TOUCH. Financial Aid is an ongoing process. Regulations and policies are subject to change on short notice. Check your e-mail for updates frequently. Use the Web and visit Bulldogs Connection regularly for account information.
12. BEGIN NOW to plan for NEXT YEAR. Most students who completed a FAFSA for the previous year will be able to file the APPLICATION for next year. The PRIORITY APPLICATION DEADLINE IS: MAY 1. Apply on-line with [FAFSA on the web](#). If you are interested in SCHOLARSHIPS administered by the university, please note that your record will automatically be considered. However, for certain departmental scholarships, a separate application may be required.