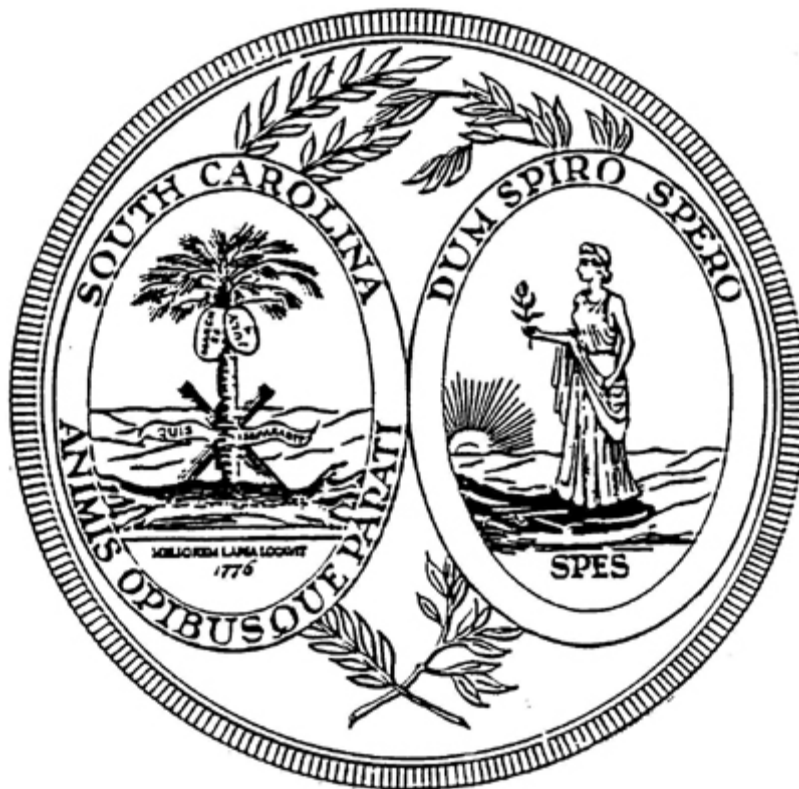


**SOUTH CAROLINA
HIGHER EDUCATION
TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2007-2008**

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION

TO: His Excellency, Governor Marshall Clement Sanford,
Chairman, State Budget and Control Board, and the
Members of the South Carolina General Assembly

The South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission respectfully submits for consideration its annual report. Included in this report is general data concerning the program and specific data covering the 2007-2008 award year.

Respectfully Yours,

Dr. James Epting
Chairman
South Carolina Higher Education
Tuition Grants Commission

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
South Carolina Tuition Grants - Philosophy and Purpose.....	3
Commission Members and Staff.....	4
Statutory Authority for the Commission.....	5
History of the Commission.....	5
Program Administered by the Commission.....	5
Public Service Activities and Resources.....	6
2007-2008 Statistical Summary.....	7

APPENDICES:

Appendix A:	Tuition Grants Awards For 2007-2008	9
Appendix B:	Tuition Grants Recipients by County	10
Appendix C:	Tuition Grants Recipients by Ethnic Group	11
Appendix D:	Grants Awarded by Family Income Range	12
Appendix E:	History – Awards, State Funds and Total Funds	13
Appendix F:	History – Average Grants and Average Tuition & Fees	14
Appendix G:	Analysis of Program Administrative Costs	15
Appendix H:	Total Undergraduate Full-time Students	16
Appendix I:	South Carolina Full-time Students	17
Appendix J:	College Fall Headcount Enrollments (Public & Private)	18
Appendix K:	SC Tuition Grants Commission: Organizational Chart	19

SC HIGHER EDUCATION TUITION GRANTS PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

“Whereas, the General Assembly finds that as a result of the rising school population and the continuously rising cost of providing proper facilities for the higher education of young people, there exists in this State an urgent need to use all available educational resources wisely. A lack of higher education facilities is inimical to the welfare and prosperity of all residents of the State and to the continued financial growth of the State;

Whereas, the General Assembly also finds that within the State there exists several accredited independent institutions of higher learning whose facilities could be used effectively in the public interest by providing additional space for students thereby eliminating the need for substantial increases in capital outlay funds; and

Whereas, it is vital to the growth of the State that all qualified residents be offered the opportunity for furthering their education.

To achieve this in the most economical manner, students willing to bear the major cost of their education expenses should be assisted where financial need exists in an effort to make their educational goals more readily attainable.”

-- The Preamble to the Tuition Grants Law

**SOUTH CAROLINA HIGHER EDUCATION
TUITION GRANTS COMMISSION
2007-2008**

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dr. James Epting
Chairman
North Greenville University
Tigerville, SC

Dr. David Spittal
Southern Wesleyan University
Central, SC

Dr. Jairy Hunter
Vice Chairman
Charleston Southern University
Charleston, SC

Dr. Charles Teague
Spartanburg Methodist College
Spartanburg, SC

Dr. Mitchell Zais
Secretary
Newberry College
Newberry, SC

Dr. Benjamin Dunlap
Wofford College
Spartanburg, SC

Dr. Caroline Whitson
Columbia College
Columbia, SC

Dr. Garrison Walters
Commission on Higher
Education
Columbia, SC

Dr. John Griffith
Presbyterian College
Clinton, SC

STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Edward M. Shannon, III.....Executive Director

Mr. Earl L. Mayo, Jr.Deputy Director

Ms. Toni Cave.....Financial Aid Counselor

Ms. Gena Miles.....Financial Officer

STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE COMMISSION

The General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, during the 1970 session, passed Act 1191 creating the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission. This Commission was created as a State agency charged with the responsibility for overseeing the operation of the Tuition Grants Program.

HISTORY OF THE COMMISSION

In 1970, the General Assembly passed a bill that created the Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission, an agency that was charged with the responsibility of administering tuition grants to independent college students. The Governor signed the bill on May 1, 1970. The original appropriation was \$5,000. No awards were made the first year. In 1971-72, the program aided 43 students. In 1972-73, a total of 134 students received awards.

The Tuition Grants Program has assisted many needy students since its inception in 1970. Since the beginning of the program, 301,090 awards have been made.

PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMISSION

The South Carolina Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission has been charged by the General Assembly with the responsibility of administering the Tuition Grants Program. This program allows South Carolina residents who attend participating independent colleges in this state to receive financial assistance from the state if they meet the eligibility requirements of the program.

All grant recipients must be full-time students, of good moral character, must demonstrate financial need, and must meet specified standards of academic merit. Recipients may not be enrolled in a degree program leading to a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education.

Eligible students may apply their grants only toward tuition and fees at a South Carolina independent college that is non-profit and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. The amount of the grant may not exceed the student's financial need or the total of tuition and fees charged by the college. Also, the amount may not exceed the average annual state subsidy for the students who attend the four-year public colleges in the state.

In September and October of each year, the Tuition Grants Commission distributes information brochures to all South Carolina secondary schools and to eligible colleges. The guidance offices at the secondary schools and the financial aid offices at the colleges distribute these materials to students throughout the state.

2007-2008 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Commission received 27,206 complete applications for grants for the 2007-2008 award year.

The Tuition Grants Program has opened the door of educational opportunity to thousands of South Carolinians. A survey of grant recipients has indicated that, if they had not received tuition grant assistance, many of them would not have gone to college or would have enrolled in one of South Carolina's public colleges at a greater cost to the State.

PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITIES

During the 2007-2008 year, Commission staff members participated in six professional programs for parents and students. These financial aid information sessions were conducted throughout the State and were attended by over 800 participants. Additionally, during September, the staff participated in five statewide conferences held for high school guidance counselors. A total of over 770 high school guidance counselors and college admissions officers attended these meetings. During October, the Commission conducted its annual training session for financial aid administrators with almost 50 in attendance. The staff conducted four on-site training workshops for colleges. The executive staff presented Program information at two Board meetings of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, at two state-wide conferences of the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators and at one national conference of the National Association of State Student Grant and Aid Programs.

On January 27, 2008, the Commission's Executive Director participated in a statewide South Carolina Educational Television (SCETV) broadcast. The January broadcast was the annual SCETV program titled *Finding Money for College*. This two-hour SCETV broadcast was a live interactive telecast focusing on financial aid for postsecondary education.

The Commission's web site (www.sctuitiongrants.com) provides students, parents, and the general public important program information, links to South Carolina's independent colleges, links to federal financial aid information, and links to necessary program documents for students and parents. Additionally, the Commission's web site provides a separate section for college financial aid offices for expediting the processing of program reports. Colleges download information via the Internet instead of depending upon hard-copy reports or diskettes to arrive in the mail. This provides the Commission the ability to quickly disburse grant dollars to students.

RESOURCES

The State Appropriation for Tuition Grants in 2007-2008.....	\$21,802,247
State Lottery Funds.....	\$7,766,604
Unclaimed Prizes Lottery Funds Expended in 2007-2008.....	\$3,018,413
Childrens' Education Endowment Funds.....	\$4,404,389
Interest from Undisbursed Funds.....	\$228,604
Matching Funds through the Federal LEAP Program.....	\$325,268
Matching Funds through the Federal SLEAP Program.....	\$378,257
South Carolina Student Legislature.....	<u>\$25,000</u>
Total Grants Program Funding.....	\$37,948,782
**Total Administrative Costs for 2007-2008.....	\$359,600

**** Total administrative costs were only 0.94% of the total agency appropriation.**

2007-2008 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

1. Students at twenty (**21**) independent colleges in South Carolina were eligible to participate in the Tuition Grants Program during 2007-2008. These colleges enrolled a total of **28,520** full-time undergraduate students. Over seventy percent (**19,382**) were South Carolina residents.
2. Almost twenty-three percent (**22.6%**) of the 2007-2008 total award dollars went to South Carolina residents attending the five historically black colleges that participate in the program.
3. In 2007-2008 almost forty-one percent (**40.6%**) of South Carolina Tuition Grants recipients were African-Americans. As a percentage of recipients, the South Carolina Tuition Grants Program serves more African-American students than any other state-funded program.
4. Seventy-eight percent (**78%**) of SCTG recipients were dependent upon their parents/guardians for financial support. Twenty-two percent (**22%**) were totally independent and relied only on their own income or that of a spouse.
5. Over sixty-eight percent (**68%**) of the 2007-2008 SCTG recipients had family incomes of **\$59,999 or less**. The average income for all 2007-2008 Tuition Grant recipients was \$45,998.
6. The average age for all 2007-2008 Tuition Grant recipients was **22.82 years**.
7. The 2007-2008 average private college tuition and fees charge was **\$17,281** per year, not including room, board or books. The average South Carolina Tuition Grant award for 2007-2008 was **\$3,000** or about seventeen percent (**17.36%**) of the average tuition and fees charge.

APPENDICES

	<u>Page</u>
Appendix A: Tuition Grants Awards For 2007-2008	9
Appendix B: Tuition Grants Recipients by County	10
Appendix C: Tuition Grants Recipients by Ethnic Group	11
Appendix D: Grants Awarded by Family Income Range	12
Appendix E: History – Awards, State Funds and Total Funds	13
Appendix F: History – Average Grants & Average Tuition & Fees	14
Appendix G: Analysis of Program Administrative Costs	15
Appendix H: Total Undergraduate Full-time Students	16
Appendix I: South Carolina Full-time Students	17
Appendix J: Fall Headcount Enrollments (Public & Private)	18
Appendix K: Tuition Grants Commission: Organizational Chart	19