



# SC Higher Education Tuition Grants Commission

*Providing Opportunity. Promoting Choice.*

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## **Review of South Carolina Tuition Grants Program**

The South Carolina Tuition Grants Program has proven to be a valuable tool in supporting students toward college completion. Based on the data collected from the twenty-two participating institutions, the following points highlight the success and value of the Program:

- **Graduation Rates Among Recipients:**

Across the three academic years reviewed (2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24), **approximately one in four (25%) of all students who received SCTG graduated each year.** Specifically:

- 26.12% of recipients graduated in 2021-22,
- 24.39% in 2022-23,
- 25.04% in 2023-24.

These figures demonstrate consistent graduation outcomes, especially notable given that recipients face additional financial barriers that could otherwise hinder their persistence.

- **Extended Support Leads to Greater Success:**

Notably, **nearly half (48.78%) of the graduates received the grant for four years.** Longer-term participation in the Program is associated with greater success, indicating that sustained financial support has a direct, positive impact on completion.

- **Program Flexibility Helps More Students Finish:**

The introduction of 5th-year funding (for approved circumstances) has assisted a small but meaningful portion of students (1.38%) in completing their degrees. This flexibility strengthens the program's ability to adapt to student needs. The most common program of study students with approved 5<sup>th</sup>-Year Grant Appeals are enrolled in are Nursing programs.

- **Wide Institutional Impact:**

All participating colleges report strong outcomes, with some, such as Coker University and Southern Wesleyan University, seeing over 30% of their total grant recipients graduate annually. Spartanburg Methodist College, a two-year institution, also shows impressive gains, with **graduation rates for recipients increasing from 23% in 2021-22 to 36% in 2023-24.**

- **Addressing Student Need and Achievement:**

Given that Program recipients qualify based on financial need rather than academic merit alone, these graduation figures affirm the Program's role in leveling the playing field. Financial assistance is clearly helping students with economic challenges to stay enrolled, persist, and complete their degrees.

### **Factors important to note:**

Need-based financial aid programs operate much differently from merit-based scholarship programs. Most merit-based scholarship programs do not require an annual application and is automatically renewable for up to the maximum timeframe offered so long as the student continues to make progress toward degree completion and remains academically meritorious. Whereas eligibility for

need-based grant programs can vary greatly, regardless of the student's academic progress or merit. A student could qualify for a Tuition Grant in one academic year based on their family's financial circumstances, have no change in their academic performance but lose eligibility because they no longer demonstrate financial need. Additionally, because eligibility requires financial need, students must reapply annually by the Program's application deadline (August 1).

### **Requested Data:**

All students who graduated during the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, or 2023-2024 academic years, and who received South Carolina Tuition Grants during at least one semester of enrollment. This data was compared against internal disbursement records to comprise the following record sets.

**Table 1: Count of Students by College and Number of Years Received**

College	Rec'd SCTG 1 Year	Rec'd SCTG 2 Years	Rec'd SCTG 3 Years	Rec'd SCTG 4 Years	Rec'd SCTG 5 Years*	Total Students
<i>Four-year institutions</i>						
Allen University	13	22	38	58	2	133
Anderson University	64	118	215	634	8	1039
Benedict College	13	28	48	186	5	280
Bob Jones University	56	70	100	214	3	443
Charleston Southern University	140	117	236	393	29	915
Claflin University	62	67	121	441	10	701
Clinton College*	7	7	0	0	0	14
Coker University	30	80	80	179	3	372
Columbia College	54	77	52	75	4	262
Columbia International University	15	30	42	65	0	152
Converse University	27	50	81	154	2	314
Erskine College	7	25	57	94	6	189
Furman University	46	44	50	212	0	352
Limestone University	193	175	109	154	3	634
Morris College	32	45	40	61	11	189
Newberry College	37	63	89	254	17	460
North Greenville University	44	65	131	320	10	570
Presbyterian College	20	28	54	232	4	338
Southern Wesleyan University	78	57	63	163	2	363
Voorhees University	23	19	24	24	1	91
Wofford College	52	40	72	403	2	569
<i>Two-year institution</i>						
Spartanburg Methodist College	97	330	117	75	2	621
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1110</b>	<b>1557</b>	<b>1819</b>	<b>4391</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>9001</b>
	12.33%	17.30%	20.21%	48.78%	1.38%	100.00%

\*Clinton College Began Participation in the Program in 2022-2023 Award Year

\*\*Students enrolled in approved 5-year programs for Merit-Based Scholarships are also eligible to receive a 5th year of Tuition Grants; Tuition Grants Commission approved the allowance of 5th-Year Grant Appeals for Students within 2 semesters of graduation effective with the 2022-2023 Award Year

**Table 2: Number of Graduates Compared to Total Recipients by College and Award Year**

College	# of Graduates 2021-2022	Total Recipients 2021-2022	%Grad vs.Tot. 2021-22	# of Graduates 2022-2023	Total Recipients 2022-2023	%Grad vs.Tot. 2022-23	# of Graduates 2023-2024	Total Recipients 2023-2024	%Grad vs.Tot. 2023-24
Allen University	39	173	22.54%	45	227	19.82%	49	144	34.03%
Anderson University	329	1,562	21.06%	333	1,552	21.46%	377	1,562	24.14%
Benedict College	99	417	23.74%	90	498	18.07%	91	548	16.61%
Bob Jones University	130	503	25.84%	163	518	31.47%	150	463	32.40%
Charleston Southern University	323	1,216	26.56%	278	1,208	23.01%	314	1,280	24.53%
Claflin University	273	869	31.42%	204	927	22.01%	224	1,106	20.25%
Clinton College*	-	-	-	6	32	18.75%	8	85	9.41%
Coker University	124	440	28.18%	123	383	32.11%	125	367	34.06%
Columbia College	80	395	20.25%	82	412	19.90%	100	538	18.59%
Columbia International University	56	222	25.23%	56	258	21.71%	40	248	16.13%
Converse University	111	412	26.94%	95	433	21.94%	108	445	24.27%
Erskine College	45	298	15.10%	54	413	13.08%	90	423	21.28%
Furman University	137	377	36.34%	110	421	26.13%	105	462	22.73%
Limestone University	195	535	36.45%	214	634	33.75%	225	600	37.50%
Morris College	63	170	37.06%	67	198	33.84%	59	183	32.24%
Newberry College	168	613	27.41%	134	719	18.64%	158	841	18.79%
North Greenville University	177	843	21.00%	195	927	21.04%	198	927	21.36%
Presbyterian College	103	438	23.52%	124	420	29.52%	111	391	28.39%
Southern Wesleyan University	143	379	37.73%	117	352	33.24%	103	328	31.40%
Spartanburg Methodist College	143	609	23.48%	216	693	31.17%	262	724	36.19%
Voorhees University	21	94	22.34%	39	140	27.86%	31	122	25.41%
Wofford College	183	697	26.26%	191	671	28.46%	195	686	28.43%
	2942	11,262	26.12%	2936	12,036	24.39%	3123	12,473	25.04%
*Clinton College began participation in 2022-2023									