



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(INTERNAL USE ONLY)

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

SC•WINS is a statewide technical college scholarship program designed to address workforce shortages in South Carolina. The scholarship supplements Lottery Tuition Assistance to help cover any tuition and mandatory fees left after applying all other scholarships or grants.



The System Office reserves the right to update the FAQs as needed.
(Updated: 5/1/2020)

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. Is SC•WINS funding just for one year?**
SC•WINS funds have been renewed for an additional year under the current proviso as part of the Continuing Resolution. The intent remains for these funds to become recurring.
- 2. Are students with a GED eligible for SC•WINS?**
Yes. The same guidelines for awarding LTAP should be followed for SC•WINS. The student must receive LTAP to be eligible for SC•WINS.
- 3. Can a student on financial aid suspension receive SC•WINS?**
Yes, if they receive LTAP.
- 4. Can a student who has maxed out on their Pell entitlement receive SC•WINS?**
Yes. The student must first be a LTAP recipient to be eligible to receive SC•WINS.
- 5. Are mandatory fees defined as charges to all students, or can a mandatory fee be a fee charged to all students in a particular program?**
Mandatory fees are fees charged to all students.

CRITICAL WORKFORCE MAJOR AND COURSES

- 6. What is a considered a critical workforce major?**
A critical workforce major is a program that falls under one of the approved SC•WINS CIP Codes. See approved list of CIP Codes. Please note that in some instances approved programs are classified by their first two or first four digits in the CIP Code. For example, all programs under CIP Code categories 15, 47, and 48 are SC•WINS approved for advanced manufacturing. However, all programs beginning with CIP Codes 52.09 and 12.05 are SC•WINS approved for hospitality and tourism.
- 7. Do students in critical workforce programs have to take 3 credits hours in the critical subject each semester to be eligible?**
No. Students who are majoring in a critical workforce area and taking at least six credit hours will not need to be verified for enrollment in a critical workforce course every semester in order to receive SC•WINS. The overarching intent is to encourage students to major in critical workforce areas. Therefore, for reporting purposes, the System Office will collect the critical workforce major/program areas. We will rely on the colleges to ensure that students are moving as swiftly as possible into critical workforce courses.

8. Can students enrolled in a workforce program but not in a workforce course receive SC•WINS?

Yes. If a student qualifies for SC•WINS by the critical workforce major, they do not have to be enrolled in at least 3 credit hours of a critical workforce course to receive SC•WINS. (See question 7)

9. Can funds be used toward general education and critical workforce academic coursework?

Yes. Funds can be used for any coursework if the student qualifies under the income criteria. Remember, students who are majoring in a critical workforce major do not need to enroll in a critical workforce course every semester in order to receive SC•WINS. (See question 7)

10. Can students who already have a bachelor's degree be eligible for SC•WINS if returning for an eligible critical workforce degree, certificate, or diploma?

Yes, if they meet LTAP eligibility.

BOOK ALLOWANCE

11. Who gets the book allowance?

The book allowance is only allowed for students who are in a critical workforce major. The critical workforce course requirement has been removed from the book allowance. Please keep in mind the book allowance only applies to students who are majoring in a critical workforce area and taking at least six credit hours.

12. If a student qualifies via income and is enrolled in a critical workforce course as an elective, are they eligible for the book allowance?

No. Only students who qualify for SC•WINS under the critical workforce major are eligible for the book allowance.

13. If a student's tuition and fees are 100% covered by Federal Pell or some other source and LTAP, are they eligible for the SC•WINS book allowance if they meet the critical workforce criteria?

A student must first be a recipient of LTAP to receive SC•WINS. If tuition and fees are covered 100% by federal and/or state aid (not including LTAP), then the answer is no. However, if the student's tuition and fees are fully covered by federal and/or state aid including any amount of LTAP, then the answer is yes. In this case, the student can still receive the \$300 book allowance if they are in the critical workforce major.

14. Is the \$300 book allowance to be disbursed \$150 per semester, or can a student use all \$300 in a single semester?

Disbursement of the \$300 book allowance is a local decision.

15. Can refunds for the book allowance be given to a student who decides to purchase their books at an off-campus location?

Yes. The college must ensure appropriate documentation is on file to justify the purchase.

16. Are students eligible to receive a refund from the SC•WINS book allowance if the entire amount is not completely used?

No. Documentation from the college is required for the entire amount awarded.

17. If a school district currently purchases books for students in the dual enrollment program, can the district receive a lump sum disbursement from SC•WINS to purchase books?

No. SC•WINS is an award payable only to the student. Remember, the amount of SC•WINS for each semester is based on the availability of funds. Additionally, only students majoring in the critical workforce areas qualify for books. If your school district pays for books, you are encouraged to continue that relationship.

18. Can the SC•WINS book allowance be used to cover the cost of the inclusive access fee for digital textbooks/eTextbooks?

Yes, the SC•WINS book allowance can be used to cover the fee associated with access to digital or online textbooks.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

19. Is there guidance on how colleges should verify free/reduced lunch?

The verification process of free/reduced lunch is a local process, and colleges should follow their standard procedures. For dual enrollment students, this procedure may include established processes where partnering districts/schools provide verification.

20. Can dual enrolled students in private schools receive SC•WINS?

Yes, private and home-schooled students are also eligible for SC•WINS.

21. If an entire school or district has been designated as free/reduced lunch eligible (i.e. community-wide status), may the college use that designation as verification of income eligibility for students attending or graduating from these schools?

Yes, for dual enrollment. Dual enrollment students from a school/district with community-wide status for free/reduced meals are eligible for SC•WINS. Community-wide status does not apply to graduates. Incoming students who are graduates from these schools/districts must be verified using the college's standard income verification procedure.

22. If a private school or home-schooled student is in a district with community-wide status where all students within the district receive free/reduced meals, are they eligible under the income criteria?

Income eligibility should be verified using the college's standard procedures (see questions 19 – 21).

23. Does the book allowance have to be awarded to dual enrolled students?

Awarding the book allowance to dual enrollment students who qualify is a local decision. Only students who qualify for SC•WINS under the critical workforce major are eligible for the book allowance.

24. Can a high school student qualify for SC•WINS if they only complete the FAFSA Waiver Form and are receiving lottery?

Yes. A high school student can qualify for SC•WINS without completing the FAFSA. The same rules as LTAP should be followed.

25. When a college has a standard practice for enrolling all dual enrollment students in a general program such as a General Studies Certificate or Associate of Arts, can these dual enrollment students still qualify under the critical workforce major if they are enrolled in at least 6 credits?

No. Dual enrollment students must meet the same critical workforce major criteria as other students to qualify under the major (see questions 6 – 10). This means colleges may need to revise local processes for determining a dual enrollment student's major. Remember, students who qualify under income may enroll in any major.

26. If a dual enrollment student is not in an eligible critical workforce major and is not receiving free/reduced lunch, they are not eligible for SC•WINS, even if they are taking 6 credit hours. Is this correct?

Yes. In this case, the student does not meet either eligible criteria of major or income.

INCOME

27. Currently prior year income is used to determine eligibility for a student on the FAFSA. Will this be the same for SC•WINS?

Colleges should use the current academic year's USDA income guidelines. Remember, the verification of income is a local decision using the college's standard processes.

28. When using the Income Eligibility guidelines chart, are colleges required to use Adjusted Gross Income from the student and/or parent's Federal income tax return?

Yes. Adjusted gross income should be used to determine income eligibility. This should follow standard financial aid processes.

29. When using the Income Eligibility guidelines chart and a tax return was filed, what documents should be used to determine income?

This is a local decision and should follow local financial aid processes.

30. Will students enrolled in 12 credit hours still be eligible if they drop all their general education credits? In other words, do they lose the award?

Colleges should follow the local rules for dropping/adding classes and awarding aid (specifically LTAP guidelines).

OTHER QUESTIONS

31. Is SC•WINS a last dollar award for tuition after all federal, state, institutional and outside aid or only after federal and state aid?

SC•WINS is a last dollar scholarship that should be applied after all federal and state aid.

32. Is there a limit to the amount of funds a student can receive in a given semester/term?

The current SC•WINS award of \$100 per credit hour will be maintained for both the Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 semesters. Proviso 3.5 limits a student's award in a single academic year to \$2,500 for tuition/fees. There is no credit hour maximum per term/semester for SC•WINS.

33. Are students enrolled in the General Technology program eligible for SC•WINS?

Yes. Students enrolled in the AAS in General Technology are eligible for SC•WINS if their primary specialty falls under one of the critical workforce areas. These students are also eligible for the book allowance. Students who qualify under the income guidelines can enroll in any major.

34. What reports will be required by the System Office?

Information that will be submitted in the SC•WINS CERS data file will be used to compile reports for the State Legislature. Since SC•WINS was approved as a proviso, the initial year will serve as a predictor of information needed for future reporting. The System Office will communicate with relevant college officials in a timely manner if reporting requirements need to be updated.

35. When a student who uses SC•WINS graduates from a program of study, are they eligible to immediately use SC•WINS in subsequent terms/semesters or do they have to wait five years?

Students are not eligible to receive SC•WINS for more than one certificate, diploma, or degree earned within any five-year period unless the additional certificate, diploma, or degree constitutes progress in the same field of study. Currently, the System interprets the "same field of study" to mean progression from certificate to diploma to degree in the same CIP code area. For example, a Surgical Technology diploma graduate pursuing an Associate Degree in Nursing within a five-year period would not be eligible to receive SC•WINS; however, a Nursing Assistant Certificate graduate pursuing a Diploma or Associate Degree in Nursing within a five-year period would be eligible.

36. Is there a GPA requirement for SC•WINS?

Remember, a student must first be a recipient of LTAP to receive SC•WINS. After attempting twenty-four credit hours at the college, a student must have earned a 2.00 grade point average at the college on a 4.00 scale by the end of each academic year in order to remain eligible for SC•WINS.