

The Guide

Winter 2007

For South Carolina's Guidance Counselors

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Dear Counselors,

Arthur and I have enjoyed getting to know many of you over the last year and look forward to an exciting and successful year as we move into 2007. SC Student Loan is committed to ensuring that money is never the reason that a deserving student does not pursue a post secondary education.

Although loans are a large part of most financial aid packages, we firmly believe they should always be a last resort, and should be used only after all available scholarship and grant money has been exhausted. As a nonprofit organization we make sure that when loans are necessary they are available at the lowest possible cost.

This newsletter is just a small way we hope that we can help you help your students and their parents as they prepare to take the next step in their lives. Please let Arthur or me know if you have any suggestions as to specific articles or subjects you would like to see addressed in future editions.

Most importantly, if there is anything we can do to be of assistance to you, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Mike Fox
Vice President, Public Information

Arthur Pinckney
Public Information Officer

For additional copies of The Guide, please visit www.scstudentloan.org, and click on the "Guidance Counselors" tab in the upper right.



From SC Student Loan

Here are a couple facts your seniors need to remember as they begin the application process for financial aid to fund their freshman year in college. The majority of financial aid is provided by the federal and state government and by schools. The following information will help your students get all of the need-based aid for which they are eligible.

Eligibility for need-based aid is determined by considering the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and the total Cost of Attendance (COA). The COA reflects tuition, fees, room and board, transportation, books, and personal expenses. The student's need is then calculated by subtracting the EFC from the COA. Colleges will offer financial aid packages that meet your students' needs to varying degrees.

The first step in filing for need-based aid requires your student to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available in a paper format or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Filing the FAFSA online has many advantages. First, the online form is processed in two weeks as opposed to four weeks or more for the paper form. Second, the online form will check your student's response and will not let them submit an application with mistakes. If your student has submitted the paper form with an error, it will be returned for corrections and will need to be resubmitted. Finally, the online form automatically generates an estimate of the EFC.

Information from tax forms is necessary in order to complete the FAFSA. But families do not need to worry if their taxes are not completed, they can use estimates. Families should file by the priority deadline established by the school they plan to attend, which can start as early as January. Students should check with the school to determine all deadline dates. (When their taxes are complete, they can file a corrected FAFSA.)

Free Printing

SC Student Loan is currently providing free printing of newsletters, brochures, and flyers for your guidance department. Simply provide us with a PDF version and allow two weeks for us to get the finished product to you. Due to the demand for this service, we must ask that you limit the size of the documents to twenty pages or less. Take advantage of this wonderful service. We want to help you!

Need a Speaker

SC Student Loan's Speakers Bureau is up and running, and has been very well received. This fall, the two most popular topics have been:

- 'Everything a Teacher Cadet Needs to Know', and
- 'Making the Transition; High School to College'.

For a complete list of topics check the Guidance Counselor tab on our Web site, www.scstudentloan.org. Remember, this service is totally free. To book a session simply call Arthur (803-612-5066) or Mike (803-612-5070).

Financial Aid Nights

SC Student Loan will be glad to assist you in your Financial Aid/College Night programs. We can talk with your parents and/or students about loans or we can cover all aspects of financial aid. Please call our office to set up an appointment if we can be of assistance to you.



Making A Decision

For high school seniors, determining where you want to go to school involves a variety of factors. A “pros and cons” chart can help along the way. The chart is easy to use. First, rate each factor—as it relates to the school you’re considering—as positive or negative. Second, add up the columns of pluses and minuses. The schools that have too many negatives should be eliminated from your list. Finally, you can begin researching the school with the most positive attributes.

Checklist

- After visiting each school, list all the negatives and positives.
- Eliminate the schools with too many negatives.
- Investigate the remaining schools in further detail.

SCHOOL NAME				
RATE IMPORTANT FACTORS	+	-	Importance	Notes
Credit Transfer				
Major Available				
Location				
Financial Aid Available				
Public				
Private				
Disability Friendly				
Campus Demographic				
Housing				
Extracurricular Activities				
Cost				
Religious Affiliation				
Transportation				
Student Faculty Ratio				
Other				
Total				

Paying For College

FREE Help with Financial Aid

A team of financial aid experts will help you:

Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Learn about financial aid options

Discuss your eligibility for grants and scholarships

**February 24, 2007
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Mark Your Calendar!**

Locations:

**Aiken Technical College
Coastal Carolina University
Richland County Public Library
Southern Wesleyan University
York Technical College**

**Register to attend
today at
www.scstudentloan.org**

