

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION Administration and Finance	POLICY NUMBER FINA 8.04 (formerly FINA 4.04)
POLICY TITLE Tuition Award Program – Undergraduates	
SCOPE OF POLICY USC System	DATE OF REVISION XXX
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER Executive Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Administration and Finance - Bursar

PURPOSE

This policy is established in accordance with Section 59-101-620 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, which authorizes public institutions of higher learning to provide educational fee waivers to no more than four percent (4%) of the undergraduate student body or based on four percent (4%) of the prior year's undergraduate tuition revenue.

For the 2025–2026 fiscal year, Proviso 117.194 of the South Carolina General Appropriations Act authorizes institutions to offer up to an additional four percent (4%) in waivers, provided these are awarded exclusively to in-state undergraduate students. The University will revise this policy as needed to remain in compliance with any such legislative changes.

DEFINITIONS

Tuition Award – For the purposes of this policy, a tuition award refers to an educational fee waiver funded by a USC System unit's Education and General (E&G) funds.

Fee Waiver Allowable – The maximum amount of tuition awards permitted under S.C. Code Ann. § 59-101-620, calculated annually based on undergraduate enrollment or tuition revenue.

Fee Waiver Authorized – The amount of tuition awards approved by the Board of Trustees through the annual budget process. This amount may be less than the Fee Waiver Allowable, based on institutional budget priorities.

POLICY STATEMENT

The University of South Carolina may offer tuition awards to undergraduate students in accordance with the limits established by state law. The University will administer these awards in compliance with S.C. Code Ann. § 59-101-620 and any related Provisos.

The authorized amount of tuition awards is determined annually by the Board of Trustees and may be less than the statutory maximum. Tuition awards are a funding mechanism, not a separate scholarship program.

A. Purpose of Tuition Awards

Tuition awards may be used to:

- Expand access to higher education for all South Carolina residents;
- Enroll academically or artistically talented students;
- Meet demonstrated financial need;
- Recognize contributions to the University community.

B. Scope of Awards

Tuition awards apply only to base tuition charges and academic fees such as program and course fees. They may not be used to cover other educational expenses such as housing, meals, books, and course materials.

C. Non-Resident and Concurrent Enrollment Students at Comprehensive and Palmetto College Campuses

Eligible recipients may include high school concurrent enrollment students and non-resident undergraduate students. These limitations support the University's mission to prioritize access for South Carolina residents.

For each non-resident student:

- The combined value of tuition awards and waived fees must not exceed the difference between non-resident and resident tuition rates.
- Comprehensive and Palmetto College campuses may allocate no more than 50% of their allowable waiver capacity to non-resident students.

D. Awarding Tuition Waivers

The authorized amount of tuition awards (fee waiver authorized) is approved annually by the Board of Trustees as part of the University's budget process. Tuition awards may be used to fund scholarships for any undergraduate student who meets the eligibility criteria established by the awarding unit.

PROCEDURES

Enrollment Management is responsible for general oversight of fee waiver scholarship programs. Operational Procedures for the administration of specific scholarship programs that utilize fee waivers are maintained by the appropriate University unit, including the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships and the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

[SC Code of Laws 59.101.620](#)

[SC Code of Laws 59.112.130](#) (Institutions with law schools)

S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-112-10 through 59-112-100 (residency and tuition classification)

FINA 8.05 Law School Educational Fee Waivers

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
December 15, 2006	Policy creation
April 20, 2015	Policy revised due to departmental reorganization, departmental name changes, and to update policy regarding the OneCarolina Project.
_____, 2025	Format changes, clarifying language and reorganization for ease of use. Recognition of changes of law. Renumbered from FINA 4.04 to FINA 8.04.