



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is The Greenwood Promise?
 - a. The Greenwood Promise is a place-based last-dollar scholarship program designed to reach beyond the boundaries of economic need and academic ability. As such, the Promise awards funds to offset the remaining balance of postsecondary tuition and mandatory fees for every high school graduate whose primary residence is zoned for Districts 50, 51 or 52.

2. What are the three (3) phases of The Greenwood Promise?
 - a. Phase 1: assistance with tuition and mandatory fees for students to obtain a certificate, diploma or associates degree from Piedmont Technical College or one of the other SC technical colleges if a particular program is not offered at Piedmont Tech.
 - b. Phase 2: includes Phase 1 plus the last two years of a postsecondary education at Lander University or another state supported four-year institution if the desired degree is not offered at Lander.
 - c. Phase 3: includes Phase 1 and all four years of a bachelor's degree at Lander University or another state supported four-year institution if the desired degree is not offered at Lander.

3. What is the current Phase of The Greenwood Promise?
 - a. The Greenwood Promise is currently operating in **Phase 1**. Phase 1 provides scholarships to cover the remaining balance of tuition and mandatory fees for eligible students enrolled full-time in an approved program of study at Piedmont Technical College or another SC technical college if a program is not offered at Piedmont Technical College.
 - b. Phases 2 and 3 will be implemented as funding allows.

4. Are the scholarships need based? And if not, why not?
 - a. The Greenwood Promise scholarships are not “need based.” Practically all Promise programs are **place-based**, not need based. The emphasis is on providing all eligible students assistance to ensure they can attain at least an Associate’s Degree during Phase 1. To establish a cut-off for financial assistance is difficult, subjective, and does not allow all students to participate.

5. If provided to every high school graduate whose primary residence is zoned for Districts 50, 51 or 52 regardless of need, what’s to prevent a student from stacking up an assortment of financial scholarships and making money?
 - a. The Greenwood Promise scholarship is a “**last-dollar**” scholarship, meaning this scholarship will pay only the remaining balance for tuition and mandatory fees after all Federal and State scholarships and grants have been awarded. It is for tuition and mandatory fees only and no other costs such as room and board. The money is paid directly to the educational institution and not to the student.

6. The Greenwood Promise only pays tuition and mandatory fees. What are mandatory fees?
 - a. Mandatory fees are those fees required to be paid by **all** students attending a particular two- year educational institution during Phase 1. Not covered are application fees, contact-hour fees, fees which are course specific (such as lab fees for science and computer classes, etc.).

7. Will students who live in other counties and attend public or private schools in Districts 50, 51 or 52 or accredited homeschools be eligible for this award?
 - a. No. The Greenwood Promise is a **place-based** scholarship program. Only students whose primary residence is zoned within Greenwood County School Districts 50, 51, or 52 are eligible. Those who live outside of these Districts but attend school in District 50, 51, and 52 are not eligible.

8. How is attendance calculated if the student’s primary residence is no longer zoned for Districts 50, 51 or 52 and then he or she later returns?
 - a. Attendance is calculated from the date of most recent enrollment.

9. Why is the benefit percentage sliding scale used based on the number of years a student resides in a residence zoned for Districts 50, 51 or 52?
 - a. The Greenwood Promise is a **place-based** program designed to provide maximum benefit to long-term residents.

10. What is the registration process?

- a. Beginning February 2017, students must register during their senior year. Registration is available online at www.GreenwoodPromise.com via the Promise Portal.

11. Do I need to fill out the FAFSA application?

- a. Yes, students must complete the FAFSA application, receive a valid Expected Family Contribution (EFC) number, and complete the financial aid process.
- b. A FAFSA form is not required to be accepted into educational institutions. However, it is required for virtually all scholarship and financial aid opportunities. If a student needs help filling out the form, he/she should contact the financial aid office of the educational institution of planned attendance.
- c. Monies already obtained and promised through scholarships and The Greenwood Promise are not listed on the FAFSA form. The Greenwood Promise will not disqualify a student from other scholarship opportunities. For more information and to apply online a student should visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

12. What are the eligible educational institutions?

- a. During Phase 1, if the major is offered at Piedmont Technical College, then the student must attend Piedmont Technical College. However, if the major is not offered at Piedmont Technical College, then the student may enroll at another eligible SC technical college. The degree or course of work must be at least 12 credit hours to be eligible.
- b. During Phase 2, Phase 1 criteria will apply or a student must enroll as a junior at Lander University. If the major is not offered at Lander, then the student may enroll as a junior at another state supported 4-year institution.
- c. During Phase 3, Phase 1 criteria will apply or a student must enroll at Lander University for all four years of their bachelor degree. If the major is not offered at Lander, then the student may enroll at another state supported 4-year institution.
- d. The Greenwood Promise is currently operating in **Phase 1**.

13. What degree programs or certificates qualify during Phase 1?

- a. All certificate, diploma and associates programs requiring at least 12 credit hours or more at Piedmont Technical College or another SC technical are eligible.
- b. Private apprentice programs are not eligible.
- c. Certificates requiring less than 12 credit hours are not eligible.

14. Will I be eligible to receive The Greenwood Promise if I am required to take developmental/remedial courses?
- a. First-time entering freshmen attending an eligible two-year technical college who enroll in developmental/remedial courses during the first term(s) of enrollment will **not** be eligible for scholarship funds during this period unless the student is enrolled in at least twelve credit hours of non-developmental courses. Credit hours earned during the term(s) of remedial enrollment will not be used to determine remaining scholarship eligibility at the completion of remediation unless the student has completed at least twelve hours of non-remedial coursework each term of enrollment.
15. Are all parts of term covered by the Promise?
- a. Yes, all parts of term will be covered by the Promise. However, eligible students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 non-developmental credit hours for the semester to receive funding.
16. Are summer school classes covered by The Promise?
- a. No, not at this time.
17. Is study abroad covered?
- a. Study abroad is covered only if the program is administered by the educational institution the student is attending. The only costs covered are normal tuition costs and mandatory fees for credits taken abroad. No extraordinary tuition or expenses are covered. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours.
18. Can the scholarship be transferred to a private college or out-of-state vocational training program or college/university?
- a. No.
19. Are there additional requirements that must be met after the initial award?
- a. Yes. After the first semester and all subsequent semesters, students must demonstrate the following:
 - i. Make regular progress toward a degree as defined by satisfactory academic standards of the educational institution.
 - ii. Maintain a 2.0 grade point average at the two-year educational institution.
 - iii. Be enrolled as a full-time student, typically twelve credit hours a semester and complete twenty-four hours each academic year.

20. What happens if the student fails to meet the requirements? Is the scholarship no longer available?
- The first semester that a student fails to meet the academic requirements, he/she is placed on probation and given an additional semester to bring their performance in line with the requirements. If a student on probation fails to meet the requirements in the subsequent semester, his/her scholarship is placed in suspension status. The student would not receive the scholarship the next semester.
 - The scholarship can be reinstated if the student demonstrates that he/she has met all the academic requirements of The Promise. The scholarship would be reinstated based on the student's future enrollment status.
 - The scholarship is only available for three years following the student's graduation from high school, unless interrupted by military service.
21. If the award is not needed due to other Federal and State Scholarships, can the award be applied to room and board fees?
- No. The Promise Scholarship only covers the remaining balance for tuition and mandatory fees.
22. I am eligible to receive veterans' educational benefits. Will my veterans' benefits be applied to my account before or after the Promise award?
- Promise scholarships will be awarded **before** veterans' educational benefits are applied.
23. Are application fees covered?
- No. However, many institutions waive the application fee if requested to do so because of financial hardship.
24. When will scholarship funds be available?
- The Greenwood Promise will begin with the SPRING High School graduating class of 2017 who enroll in an eligible two-year technical college Fall 2017. The intent is for this program to be available in perpetuity, but it may be discontinued if funding is unavailable.
 - The intent is to grow the program phases so it does not have to be discontinued or reduced.
 - Phase 1: assistance with tuition and mandatory fees for students to obtain a certificate, diploma or associates degree from Piedmont Technical College or one of the other SC technical colleges if a particular major is not offered at Piedmont Tech.
 - Phase 2: includes Phase 1 plus the last two years of a postsecondary education at Lander University or another state supported four-year institution if the desired degree is not offered at Lander.

- iii. Phase 3: includes Phase 1 and all four years of a bachelor's degree at Lander University or another state supported four-year institution if the desired degree is not offered at Lander.

25. How long do students have to use The Greenwood Promise?

- a. Students have up to three years from the date of high school graduation to obtain their degree from Piedmont Technical College or another eligible South Carolina state-supported technical college during Phase 1.
- b. Exceptions to the above will be made for an interruption resulting from military service.

26. How long will the Greenwood Promise be available?

- a. The Greenwood Promise is intended to be set up to continue in perpetuity, as funding allows.

27. How is the Greenwood Promise funded?

- a. The Greenwood Promise is a limited liability company managed by the Foundation for a Greater Greenwood County. Therefore, the Promise depends on donations from private and public investors.

The Promise Committee reserves the right to make any changes to the program as it deems necessary.