

Coastal Carolina University
Financial Aid & Scholarships
Institutional Merit Award Appeal Policy
June 2020

A student may appeal their Merit Award renewal eligibility determination if they experienced mitigating circumstances that prevented them from meeting Coastal Carolina University Merit Award renewal criteria. A scholarship appeal is not necessary if you are currently meeting renewal requirements. A Scholarship Appeal cannot be used for students who did not receive a merit award upon admission to Coastal Carolina University.

Students must follow the process below to appeal a scholarship that has not been renewed. Appeals for the current academic year should be received no later than the end of the 100% refund period for the Fall semester. *Students who wish to submit late appeals may do so by the end of the 100% refund period for the Spring semester, but the appeal will not be reviewed until after Fall grades have finalized & the award will only be applied to Spring. Students who submit a completed appeal by the priority deadline will have a decision by the established payment deadlines for each semester.

Scholarship Appeal Submission Deadlines:

Fall & Spring Appeals: Day after 100% refund period for fall @ 5:00pm

Spring Only Appeals*: Day after 100% refund period for spring @ 5:00pm

Priority Deadlines:

Fall & Spring Appeals: July 15

Spring Only Appeals: December 15

Eligible Awards

This policy relates only to CCU institutional awards: Presidential Scholarship, President's Scholar Award, Provost's Scholar Award, Coastal Scholar Award, Teal Scholar Award, South Carolina Scholar Award, Transfer Scholar Level I, II, & III Awards, PGA Golf Management Trustee Award, PGA Golf Management University Award, PGA Golf Management Wall Award, PGA Golf Management Transfer Award, Visual and Performing Arts Award, Coastal Choice Award, CCU-HGTC Bridge Award, Admissions Scholar Award, Palmetto Boys/Girls State Scholarship, Honor Band Festival Scholarship, Music/Theatre/Visual Arts Performance Awards, Phi-Theta Kappa Award, Bronze Grant, or Chanticleer Grant.

Reasons For Appeal:

Common examples of reasons to appeal include, but are not limited to:

- Student's own medical or physical illness or injury or disability
- Family, including death of a family member
- Missing a Semester Due to Military mobilization/Active Duty/Basic Training
- Other extenuating circumstances that are beyond the control of the student

- Transfer students who need additional semesters of eligibility
- Students in their final semester of enrollment & are less than fulltime

Examples of reasons not typically approved in a scholarship appeal:

- A disagreement between a student and a professor on a graded assignment.
- A student chose not to go to class due to social distractions.
- Involvement in social life preventing the student from meeting requirements.
- Extra semesters of eligibility for non-transfer students.
- Regaining a scholarship for readmitted students (unless a student has a mitigating circumstance that prevented them from being continuously enrolled).

Process for Merit Award Appeal:

Students who wish to appeal may obtain the appeal form by emailing scholar@coastal.edu. Please note that scholarship appeals are not reviewed until semester grades & merit award renewal processes are complete. Coastal Carolina University's Scholarship Appeals Committee will review all complete scholarship appeal submissions and may take up to 3 weeks to review. Committee members include staff from Financial Aid & Scholarships. The Scholarship Appeals Committee's decision is final and cannot be overturned or re-appealed. Students will be notified through their CCU email of appeal decisions and future renewal criteria (if applicable).

Incomplete or missing documentation will delay the appeal process. Any changes to financial aid awards will be contingent on the types of funds available, eligibility policies, and regulations. After initial review, additional documentation may be required. Appeal review may result in required application corrections. Students waiting for an appeal decision should be fully prepared to assume responsibility for all course enrollment and account balance payment, regardless of the appeal decision.

Along with the Appeal Form, students must:

- Attach a personal statement explaining the circumstances of the request and describes how these circumstances have changed or the student's plan for success, which should be no longer than one page in length;
- Attach supporting documentation (e.g., third-party statements, police reports, an obituary or death certificate, court documentation, or a letter from an attorney or other professional, detailing the reasons for the student's inability to meet Scholarship Requirements).
- If appealing for additional semesters of eligibility or for a prorated scholarship due to being less than fulltime in the final semester of enrollment, the student must also submit a copy of his/her Program Evaluation accompanied by an advisor's confirmation (statement, email, etc.) of the student's anticipated graduation date.

The University reserves the right to modify this policy at any time. Submission of an appeal request does not guarantee approval.