**24:40:13:05.  Credit hour threshold requirements for continuing eligibility.** To maintain eligibility, each student in the scholarship program must meet the following credit hour thresholds for the respective term of enrollment: 30 credit hours before the start of the third semester, 60 credit hours before the start of the fifth semester, and 90 credit hours before the start of the seventh semester.

Failure to complete the required number of credit hours before the start of the specific semester disqualifies the student from further participation in the program, effective at the start of the semester in which the student fails to meet the established credit hour threshold. In calculating the student's credit hour total, the participating institution shall factor in all credit hours completed and transcripted whether or not the receiving institution otherwise accepts the credit hours and counts them towards satisfaction of its degree requirements. However, credit granted for remedial coursework will not be counted. Disqualification is subject to the following exceptions:

(1)  A student who fails to meet the credit hour threshold requirement because the student must report for active military service does not thereby lose his or her eligibility. In such situations a persistence waiver may be granted by the executive director;

(2)  The executive director may grant a waiver of the credit hour threshold requirement for good cause shown and may place such conditions upon the waiver as may be necessary and prudent to achieve the objectives of the scholarship program.

**Source:** 30 SDR 211, effective July 7, 2004; 35 SDR 187, effective February 12, 2009; 37 SDR 54, effective September 28, 2010.

**General Authority:** SDCL 13-55-36.

**Law Implemented:** SDCL 13-55-34.