

2018-19 EXCELSIOR SCHOLARSHIP

✓ TUITION-FREE SUNY



For New York State students
whose families make less than

\$110,000/YEAR

(AGI on 2016 tax return)

and pursue an

ASSOCIATE or
BACHELOR'S

degree

and complete

30
CREDITS

each year

and earn a

PASSING
grade

Frequently Asked Questions

If I am interested in the scholarship, what are my next steps?

1. File your FAFSA at fafsa.gov.
2. Continue to the NYS TAP application and complete.
3. Apply for the Excelsior Scholarship at www.hesc.ny.gov.

What about other forms of scholarships and financial aid?

If you receive a need-based federal Pell Grant, a New York Tuition Assistance grant (TAP) or scholarships for tuition, you must use those first. After those forms of aid are applied, the Excelsior Scholarship will cover the remaining cost of tuition.

What about other expenses such as books, etc.?

The Excelsior Scholarship covers tuition only. You would be responsible for college fees and other costs such as room and board.

What about credits earned in high school?

Credits earned in high school may count toward the combined annual thirty credits if they are accepted toward the incoming student's program of study.

What if I don't pass 30 credit hours?

Eligibility will be reviewed every semester. If you do not pass 30 credit hours each year you will lose the Excelsior Scholarship and may not be able to reinstate it.

Do I need a certain grade point average to get or keep the award?

You need to earn a passing grade to maintain your Excelsior Scholarship.

What if I decide to move out of New York State after I graduate?

After graduation, you must live and be employed (if working) in New York State for at least as many years as you received the scholarship. If you do not meet the residency requirement, it becomes a no-interest loan which you will then be required to pay back.

Is this a scholarship or a loan?

This is a scholarship. However, the scholarship converts to a loan when a student does not fulfill the residency requirement. The scholarship does not revert to a loan if the student becomes ineligible and loses the scholarship during their undergraduate work prior to graduation. If the scholarship reverts to a loan, that loan will not incur interest.

If I complete my associate degree, can I receive this award to get my bachelor's degree?

Yes, provided the college that you attend accepts all of the credits you earned in completing your associate degree, and you meet all other requirements for the Excelsior Scholarship. You must also be continuously enrolled from the associate degree program to the bachelor's degree program, unless you have an approved interruption in enrollment.

Find more answers at www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior