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GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

You've been a part of the GEAR UP Iowa cohort since 7th grade. You're graduating from high school and you know there's a college scholarship out there for you. Now what?

Here are some FAQ's about receiving your scholarship:

Q1. How do I apply for the scholarship?

A1. **If you are a resident of the state of Iowa:** Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, also known as the FAFSA. You should fill out the FAFSA every year beginning with your senior year of high school. The FAFSA is the application for all kinds of college financial aid, including the GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship. The FAFSA is available each year beginning in January; each college will have a deadline by which they want the FAFSA completed – be **sure to find out about your college's deadline!** Otherwise you might not be considered for all the aid your college offers.

A1. **If you are a GEAR UP Iowa student who now lives in another state:** please visit our [website](#) for instructions.

Q2. How much is the scholarship?

A2. For the 2016-2017 academic year, the scholarship is \$1,300 per semester for full-time students (\$2,600/year). Students enrolled less than full-time can receive a reduced amount. In no circumstance can your scholarship exceed your institution's Cost of Attendance.

Q3. How do you know which college I'm going to and where you should send my scholarship?

A3. We will send your scholarship to the college that you list first on your FAFSA. If you change your mind about what college you will attend, just contact our office at 1-877-272-4456, select option 3, and let us know.

Q4. What if I don't go to the first college on my FAFSA?

A4. Contact our office at 1-877-272-4456, select option 3, and give us the name of the college where you will attend.

Q5. Can I go to a college outside of Iowa?

A5. Yes. As long as the college is an eligible college, you can receive a GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship.

Q6. How do I know if my college is an eligible college?

A6. In order to be eligible for the Scholarship you must attend a Title IV college. A Title IV college/university is one that participates in Federal Student Aid programs. You can search for Title IV institutions on the [Federal Student Aid website](#) by entering information about the college (state, city, and/or name.) If your college appears in the Search Results, then it's a Title IV college and you can receive GEAR UP Scholarship funds while you're enrolled.

Q7. How does the money get to my college?

A7. We automatically send the money directly to your college once they confirm that you are enrolled.

Q8. What can I use the money to pay for?

A8. The money can be used for tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, and personal expenses that are included in your Cost of Attendance. When the college receives the money, they are going to apply it first toward any outstanding balance you have with the college. Once your college bill is paid in full, if there is leftover Scholarship money, then the college can refund it to you.

Q9. What do I have to do to apply for the scholarship again?

A9. Iowa residents just need to fill out the FAFSA each year (or, if you are a resident of another state, see our website)

Q10. What if I don't go to college right away after high school graduation?

A10. You can still use the Scholarship even if you don't go to college right away. The rules of the Scholarship state that you have to be under the age of 22 the first time you receive a Scholarship. So as long as you enroll in college and receive your first GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship before you turn 22, then you can still be eligible.

Q11. What if my parents make a lot of money?

A11. We don't use a family's income to determine who receives a Scholarship.

Q12. What if my high school G.P.A. is bad?

A12. We don't consider high school G.P.A. when awarding the Scholarship.

Q13. Can I use the scholarship for a master's degree/graduate school?

A13. No, the Scholarship is only for undergraduate studies.

Q14. Can I use the scholarship if I'm going in the military right after high school graduation?

A14. The Scholarship can only be used to pay for expenses associated with attending college; we can't award the Scholarship for military service. But you can still use the Scholarship even if you don't go to college right away. The rules of the Scholarship state that you have to be under the age of 22 the first time you receive a Scholarship. So as long as you enroll in college and receive your first GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship before you turn 22, then you can still be eligible.

Q15. What happens if I transfer schools at semester?

A15. You need to contact our office at 1-877-272-4456, select option 3, and give us the name of the college where you will attend.