

2018 MHEC Tri-State Annual Fall Conference



Office of Student Financial Assistance
www.mhec.maryland.gov
[410-767-3300](tel:410-767-3300)

MHEC

Agenda

- 2018-2019 Award Year Reminders
- Jill Wrigley Memorial Act
- 2019-2020 Award Year Updates
- MHEC State Aid Independent Audit
- Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship
- Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship
- MD Community College Promise Scholarship
- Questions

REMINDER

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2018-2019 Reminders

Conroy Program

- Fall 2018 semester reporting deadline has now passed

Enrollment Documentation/Billing Rosters

- Fall 2018 semester due now

Certification/Request Payment Process

- Fall 2018 deadline December 15, 2018

EEA Credit Completion Reporting

- Fall 2018 deadline February 1, 2019

Jill Wrigley Memorial Expansion Act

Allow certain individuals to be eligible for financial aid if the individual is eligible for certain in-State tuition under the following programs:

1. Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program
 - Educational Assistance Grant
 - Guaranteed Access Grant
 - Campus Based Educational Assistance Grant
2. Part-Time Grant Program

2019-2020 Updates

Guaranteed Access Grant:

- November 15
- In-state eligibility requirement
- GED eligibility requirement
 - 165 per module and be under the age 26
- Communication
- Outreach Initiatives
 - High School Visits

2019-2020 Updates

- Online forms that show students/parents how to submit complete and accurate forms;
- Fillable forms in MDCAPS;
- Enhancements in MDCAPS for FAOs to see outstanding documents;
- Enhanced training for high school counselors; and
- Increased outreach social media, text messaging, etc.

MHEC State Aid Independent Audit Review

- The 2017-2018 audit on the Howard P. Rawlings Educational Excellence Awards Program is due to MHEC by June 1, 2019.
- A copy of the audit, the management letter, and the institution's response to each item in the management letter is to be included.

Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship Program



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Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship Program

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide financial assistance to students enrolled in Workforce Development Sequences at community colleges in the State.

To be eligible a student must:

- be enrolled at a community college that has entered into a participation agreement with the Office;
- be enrolled in a Workforce Development Sequence; and
- be an eligible student who is a MD resident **or** who has graduated from a MD high school

Workforce Development Sequence Scholarship Program *cont'd*

Workforce Development Sequence is a group of non-credit courses, approved by the Commission, that is offered by a community college and composed of courses related to:

- Job preparation or a registered apprenticeship;
- Licensure or certification; or
- Job skill enhancement

Workforce Development Sequence does not include a sequence of courses leading to an associate or bachelor's degree.

Workforce Development Sequence

Scholarship Program *cont'd*

- Scholarship is available for the 2018-2019 award year
- Annual Appropriation \$1 million
- Scholarship shall not exceed \$2,000 per student annually
- Scholarship shall be used solely for tuition, mandatory fees, costs to participate in a registered apprenticeship program, and other associated costs of attendance that have not been met through another grant or scholarship by the State or employer
- Scholarship may be combined with any other grant or scholarship, provided that the total amount of grants or scholarships does not exceed the student's tuition, mandatory fees, apprenticeship costs, and other associated costs of attendance

Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship

- The Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program is available to applicants who are pursuing an education in programs that have been identified by the Secretary of Higher Education as being directly relevant to cybersecurity.
- Awarding will occur in the 2018-2019 award year.

Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship *cont'd*

To be considered applicants must submit the following required documentation for the 2018-2019 award year only by February 1, 2019:

- Copy of the applicant's official college or university transcript;
- Proof from the eligible institution that the applicant is 2 years from graduation in a cybersecurity program; and
- Certification from the institution that the applicant has not received or applied for a Federal Cybercorps Scholarship for Service.
- Upon receiving the scholarship the student must agree to work in the state of MD after graduation.

Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship *cont'd*

Renewal Requirements:

- Submits an application by July 1;
- Enrolls full-time
- Is within 2 years of graduation in a cybersecurity relevant field
- Maintained a 3.0 GPA

A recipient may receive a scholarship for a maximum of 2 years.

The annual scholarship shall be in the amount prescribed by the Director, which shall not exceed the recipient's education expenses.

...did you say
Free Tuition?



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MD Community College Promise Scholarship

1. A student must apply annually to MHEC to receive the scholarship.
2. MHEC annually shall select eligible applicants and offer a scholarship award to each selected applicant to be used for tuition at a community college of the applicant's choice.
3. The scholarship is to be used for tuition at a community college of the applicant's choice, and must be awarded based upon the individuals demonstrated need.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

- Eligible for in-state tuition, in accordance with Education Article, Title 15, Annotated Code of Maryland ;
- Enroll as a candidate for a credit bearing vocational certificate, a certificate, or an associate degree, 2 years after graduating from a high school or successfully completing a GED in the State by July 31, prior to the start of the Fall semester;
- Earned an overall high school GPA of at least a 2.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent;
- Have an annual adjusted gross income of not more than:
 - *\$100,000 if the applicant is single or resides in a single parent household; or*
 - *\$150,000 if the applicant is married or resides in a two parent household*
- Enrolls in at least 12 credits per semester at the community college; and
- Submits a FAFSA or separate State application by March 1 if eligible for in-state tuition but ineligible to receive federal aid

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

- Developmental courses are not excluded.
- As currently done in the state's other grant and scholarship programs, such as the need-based aid program, developmental coursework is counted in the same manner as other courses.
 - For example: 3 credit hour remedial English would be considered as 3 enrolled hours, as defined by the institution. Therefore developmental courses are considered when determining if the student is enrolled/completes 12 credits per semester.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Renewal Eligibility Requirements:

- Each recipient may hold the award for a total of 3 years if the recipient continues to be eligible for in-state tuition;
- Continues to enroll in and complete at least 12 credits per semester or its equivalent as determined by the Office;
- Maintains a cumulative GPA of at least a 2.5 or its equivalent for the remainder of the award, or failing to so do, provides to the Office satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances;
- Makes satisfactory progress toward a vocational certificate, a certificate, or an associate degree program;
- Continues to meet the income requirements; and
- Continues to timely submit an application.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

An applicant must apply annually to the MHEC as follows:

- Complete a FAFSA or Separate State Application (undocumented students) – annually by March 1;
- Submit Supporting Documentation –
 - June 15th (2019-2020 deadline)
 - May 15: Initial deadline (2020-2021)
 - April 1: Renewal deadline (2020-2021)
- Supporting documentation received after the deadline will **not** be accepted.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Initial applicants will be verified as follows:

- Verify adjusted gross income levels and accuracy of demonstrated need;
 - The Office will review all initial applicants who are not federally selected for the V1 & V5 verification groups; and
 - All applicants who are ineligible to receive federal aid and complete the separate application prescribed by the Office.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

For renewal applicants the MHEC:

- Annually shall verify the accuracy of adjusted gross income for a percentage of renewal recipients, randomly selected, who are not federally selected and who are not eligible to receive federal aid but eligible for in-state tuition.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Institutions must verify the income and demonstrated need for initial and renewal applicants, as follows:

- An institution annually shall perform federal verification for any scholarship recipient federally selected for verification under the V1 and V5 verification groups, as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.
- The Office will identify all scholarship recipients who are federally selected for federal verification under the V1 and V5 verification groups and transmit the information on a roster to the institution.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

The amount of an annual scholarship:

- Shall not exceed \$5,000, or actual tuition, whichever is less.
- An annual scholarship award amount shall not be less than \$200 (\$100 per semester).
- Any student financial aid, other than a loan, shall be credited to the recipient's tuition before the calculation of the scholarship amount.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Award Distribution:

1. Initial awards shall be provided to recipients on a first-come, first-served basis based on greatest demonstrated financial need.
2. Priority for awards in subsequent years shall be given to prior year recipients who remain eligible for the program.
3. Eligible applicants who do not receive an award under this subtitle shall be notified and placed on a waiting list.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Waiting List

MHE shall consider students on the waiting list for late scholarship awards if funds become available after awards have been made, in the following descending order:

- Students whose institution reported the applicant's non-loan aid after the deadline established by MHEC.
- Students who enrolled in the summer semester to maintain the GPA requirement; and
- Students who applied on time and were eligible for an award but were not awarded due to lack of funds.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

If funds become available after commencement of the fall semester and are sufficient to issue late awards, MHEC shall require the institution to verify the eligibility of students before making late awards.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Summer Enrollment:

- A recipient who fails to maintain the cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 at the end of the Spring semester may enroll in the Summer semester to meet the GPA requirement.
- A recipient who enrolls for the summer semester and meets the GPA requirement at the end of the semester may be awarded from the waiting list.
- A recipient who enrolls for the summer semester may not utilize the scholarship award for the summer semester.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Allowable Interruptions of Study:

MHEC may extend the duration of an award for an allowable interruption of study if the recipient provides to the office satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that prevent the recipient from continuous enrollment.

- The regulations define extenuating circumstances as:
- may include, but are not limited to, the following events or conditions, to the extent that the event or condition prevents the recipient from fulfilling a scholarship requirement:
 - Disability;
 - Serious illness of the student;
 - Pregnancy or adoption;
 - Extreme financial hardship of the students or student's immediate family;
 - Fulfillment of military service; or
 - Serious illness or death of an immediate family member

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

- The Office may extend the duration of an award for an allowable interruption of study of 1 year or less, if the recipient provides to the Office documentation of extenuating circumstances that prevent the recipient from maintaining continuous enrollment at the community college.
- The student's documentation of extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the and a decision shall be rendered within 30 days of receipt.
- All documentation shall be submitted to the Office by the established deadline, or the extension shall be denied.
- A recipient approved by the Office for an extension shall, after the extension expires, resume full-time enrollment, complete at least 12 credits per semester, and meet the GPA requirements under this chapter.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

GPA Appeal Criteria:

- A recipient must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent for the remainder of the award or, failing to do so, provide to the office satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

- A recipient who fails to maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 may appeal to the Office.
- A recipient must provide documentation to the Office of the extenuating circumstances that prevented the recipient from meeting the GPA requirement.
- A recipient may appeal on the grounds of not maintaining the required GPA only **once**.
- The Office shall review the student's documentation of extenuating circumstances and render a decision within 30 days of receipt.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Service Obligation Requirements:

- If the recipient does not perform the service obligation as required, the scholarship award shall be converted into a student loan.
- The office may waive or defer repayment of the student loan if the recipient provides satisfactory evidence of extenuating circumstances that prevent the recipient from fulfilling the service obligation.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Service Obligation Requirements :

An award may be made only if a recipient signs an agreement at the time of the initial award to:

- Reside exclusively in the state use an address in the state on the recipient's state income tax return and commence full-time employment in the state within 1 year after completion of the vocational certificate, certificate, or associate's degree;
- Maintain residency and continue to use an address in the state on the recipient's state income tax return and maintain employment in the state for at least 1 year for each year that the scholarship was awarded; and
- Have the scholarship award converted into a student loan payable to the state if the recipient fails to fulfill the service obligation required as described above.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Service Obligation Requirements

As a precondition of accepting the scholarship award, a recipient shall provide a promissory note and shall enter into a written agreement with the Commission, requiring the recipient to:

- Complete the associate degree, certificate, or vocational certificate for which the recipient is receiving the scholarship;
- Use an address in the State on the recipient's State income tax return;
- Commence full-time employment in the State within 1 year after completion of the vocational certificate, certificate, or associate degree;
- Continue to use an address in the State on the recipient's State income tax return for at least 1 year for each year that the scholarship was awarded; and
- Maintain full-time employment in the State for at least 1 year for each year that the scholarship was awarded.

MD Community College Promise Scholarship *cont'd*

Deferment of Service Obligation:

A recipient may request that the service obligation be deferred during the time the recipient is:

- Enrolled full-time (12 or more credits per semester) or part-time (6-11 credits per semester) in a credit-bearing course of study at any post-secondary institution;
- On a temporary leave of absence, approved by the employer in the required employment field, for a period not to exceed 12 months;
- Temporarily disabled, as determined by a licensed physician, in a manner that substantially impairs the recipient's ability to perform the service obligation, for a period not to exceed 3 years;
- Unable to maintain employment, for a period not to exceed 12 months, because the recipient must care for a spouse or child who is disabled;
- Assigned military duty outside of the State, not to exceed 3 years without filing an appeal; or
- Married to a spouse assigned military duty outside of the State, not to exceed 3 years without filing an appeal.



Questions

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