



State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board

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Governor

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WISCONSIN ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP FACT SHEET RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet provides information about the Academic Excellence Scholarship (AES). It details your rights and responsibilities as a recipient of the AES. Reading, understanding, and referencing this sheet as you progress through college will help to ensure that you receive the AES for each semester in which you are eligible. It will also ensure that you are aware of when you are not eligible for your AES, and of when your eligibility ceases permanently.

YOU SHOULD READ THIS SHEET NOW AND KEEP IT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

THE SCHOLARSHIP

The AES provides up to \$2250 to be paid towards tuition each year for up to four years (8 semesters). The State of Wisconsin Higher Educational Aids Board pays one half of the \$2250 and the college or university pays the other half from its own funds. Each semester \$1125 is applied directly to tuition: it is not sent to the student. In rare instances when state, federal and institutional need-based assistance cover most of the cost of education, the AES may not be fully awarded. Upon graduation the scholarship ends. There will be no additional pay out for early graduation.

ENROLLMENT

To receive AES, you must enroll full-time by September 30, 2017 at a participating Wisconsin institution to be eligible (you can select from a list of participating schools on the online acceptance form). Institutions in the University of Wisconsin system, the Wisconsin Technical College system, and the Independent Colleges and Universities Association participate in the AES program. **If you are not enrolled full-time** in an associate degree or a bachelor's degree program at a participating institution by September 30, 2017, **your scholarship is automatically forfeited and will be awarded to the next qualified alternate.** If your intention is to enroll full-time, but circumstances prevent it, please contact us.

Scholars must be enrolled in a two, three, or four-year Associate Degree or Bachelor Degree program. AES may also be used for programs which result in a diploma or certificate through a Wisconsin Technical college. Scholars may receive four years of AES funds when attending bachelor degree granting institutions; three years when attending associate degree granting technical colleges; or four years for attendance at a combination of these institutions.

If you transfer from one participating institution to another, you must notify the Higher Educational Aids Board in a letter or in an e-mail. Please include your name, the name of the institution *from* which you are transferring, the name of the institution *to* which you are transferring, and the semester or term in which the transfer takes effect. The Higher Educational Aids Board will notify the school to which you are transferring that you are receiving the AES. You, too, should notify both financial aid offices so that their files are updated to show your enrollment and AES status.

Eligibility for the AES ceases when you receive a bachelor's degree. You may receive the AES for no more than eight consecutive semesters total, even if you have not graduated by the end of eight semesters.

You may not receive the AES after you receive a bachelor's degree, even if you have not used the AES for the full eight semesters. In order to actually receive the AES funds in a given semester, you must be enrolled full-time in that semester in a degree program. To retain continuing eligibility for the AES, you must enroll full-time each consecutive semester. If you are not enrolled full-time each consecutive semester, you risk losing the AES permanently as well as in the given semester.

If you do not enroll at all in a given semester, or if you enroll but drop courses and go below full-time enrollment, you must contact the Higher Educational Aids Board before doing so. Not enrolling or dropping below full-time could adversely affect your continuing eligibility for the AES.

CONTINUING SCHOLAR ELIGIBILITY

- (1) In July of each year, the Higher Educational Aids Board will notify any scholars who have lost scholarship eligibility for the following academic year, due to insufficient credits or grade point average, or failure to enroll full-time. Students who have met the following requirements may assume they are eligible for the following academic year.
- (2) To receive an AES for a second year, you shall have accumulated at least 24 semester credits, or their quarterly equivalent as determined by the Higher Educational Aids Board, and have achieved a 3.000 cumulative grade point average based on a 4.000 system.
- (3) To receive an AES for a third year, you shall have accumulated at least 48 semester credits, or their quarterly equivalent as determined by the Higher Educational Aids Board, and have achieved a 3.000 cumulative grade point average based on a 4.000 system.
- (4) To receive an AES for a fourth year, you shall have accumulated 72 semester credits, or their quarterly equivalent as determined by the Higher Educational Aids Board, and have achieved a 3.000 cumulative grade point average based on a 4.000 system.
- (5) The Higher Educational Aids Board shall pay to the institution, on your behalf, the award for the first or second semester, or the first, second or third quarter attendance. Awards shall not be made for summer terms or other special terms of attendance.
- (6) You must be enrolled **full-time in consecutive regular semester or quarter academic terms** to maintain continuing eligibility. Exceptions, such as for a medical reason, military service, religious mission, or unique educational opportunity, will be considered by the Higher Educational Aids Board on a case by case basis. You should contact the Higher Educational Aids Board directly if an exception is needed. You shall be able to regain eligibility through consecutive term enrollment, including summer session, which could bring your credits earned up to the minimum required and/or your cumulative grade point average to the cumulative minimum of 3.000.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

For information concerning the Academic Excellence Scholarship in general, or for information about your specific situation, you may contact Nancy Wilkison at the Higher Educational Aids Board at the following addresses and telephone numbers:

Always notify the Higher Educational Aids Board of changes in name, address or institution.

Higher Educational Aides Board
Nancy Wilkison, AES & TES Coordinator
nancy.wilkison@wi.gov
608-267-2213

The Wisconsin Academic Excellence Scholarship program is governed by Section 39.41 of the statutes and Chapter HEA 9 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The statute and rules may be found on our website: www.heab.state.wi.us

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