



The Excelsior Scholarship

Attend College Tuition-Free at SUNY and CUNY Schools

The Excelsior Scholarship gives eligible New York State students the opportunity to attend college tuition-free at SUNY and CUNY schools — making college possible for hundreds of thousands of students across the state.

Students currently attending college who are on track to complete their degrees on time and first-year college students are eligible.

Who Is Eligible?

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a NYS resident
- Meet family income limits:
 - For 2018-19, \$110,000 or less on the 2016 tax return
 - Beginning in 2019-20, \$125,000 or less on the 2017 tax return
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits each year successively
- Have earned at least 30 credits each year, successively, applicable towards degree program prior to applying for an Excelsior Scholarship, if attended college prior to 2018-19 academic year
- After completing your degree, you must live in New York State for the number of years equal to the awards you received

Visit hesc.ny.gov/excelsior for complete eligibility requirements.

What is the Excelsior Scholarship Amount?

Recipients may receive up to \$5,500 each year. Amounts are awarded for two years for students pursuing an associate's degree program and four years for a bachelor's degree program.

To determine the award amount, the resident tuition rate charged by SUNY (currently \$6,470) or CUNY (currently \$6,330) is reduced by the amount of certain other student financial aid awards received for the year, including a NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) award and/or Federal Pell Grant. The Excelsior Scholarship covers any remaining tuition liability up to \$5,500, and a tuition credit covers any remaining tuition expenses.

How to Apply

- First, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and NYS's Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).
- Then, visit hesc.ny.gov/excelsior to find the Excelsior Scholarship application and deadline information.



Higher Education
Services Corporation

Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor
Dr. Guillermo Linares, Acting President

Visit hesc.ny.gov for more information about student financial aid and other NYS awards and scholarships.