



The Excelsior Scholarship

Attend college tuition-free at SUNY & 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?

An applicant must:

- Meet eligibility requirements as a NYS resident or qualify under the NYS DREAM Act.
- Meet family income limits of \$125,000 or less.
- Pursue an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges.
- 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 2022-23 academic year.
- Be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits each year successively.
- 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 Award 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 \$7,070) or CUNY (currently \$6,930) 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.
- If you qualify under the NYS DREAM Act, apply at hesc.ny.gov/dream.



Higher Education
Services Corporation

99 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12255
hesc.ny.gov