

CHAPTER 17

GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Overview

The Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) Scholarship is a statewide non need-based scholarship program that assists students in the GEAR UP Iowa cohort with the cost of postsecondary education. Recipients must have been in the official GEAR UP Iowa cohort scheduled to graduate high school in Spring 2014. Awards are prorated for students enrolling on a less than full-time basis.

Date Established: July 2013

Funding:

GEAR UP FUNDING HISTORY	
ACADEMIC YEAR	TOTAL FUNDING
2013-14 through 2018-19	\$17,000,000*

*the total amount of funding for the GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship is anticipated to reach approximately \$17 million. The funding will be spent over consecutive years until depleted.

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. College and University

Colleges and universities must meet the definition of 'institution of higher education' as defined in section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965. Colleges and universities may be located outside of Iowa; out-of-state colleges and universities will be required to complete written enrollment verification prior to disbursement of Scholarship awards.

2. Student

To receive a GEAR UP Scholarship, students must:

- Be United States citizens or nationals, or

- Be U.S. permanent residents or other eligible noncitizens (as stipulated for Federal Student Aid Eligibility).
- Be currently enrolled or planning to enroll at least part-time (3 hours minimum) in a diploma, certificate, associate or undergraduate degree program at an institution of higher education.
- File a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Be under the age of 22 the first time they receive a GEAR UP Scholarship award.
- Students must be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as defined by college or university standards.
- Students can't be in default on Federal Family Education Loans, Federal Direct Student Loans, Perkins/National Direct/National Defense Student Loans or any other federal student loans, or owe repayment on any Title IV assistance.

B. STUDENT APPLICATION PROCESS

For the 2013-14 academic year, students must complete both the Iowa Financial Aid Application and must file Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSAs) as described in Chapter 1.

There is no filing deadline for the GEAR UP Scholarship; awards will be made throughout the 2013-14 academic year as student applications are received.

Students attending an out-of-state college or university must contact Iowa College Aid to request a paper application.

C. SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

Scholarships are awarded by the Commission to applicants who participated in the official GEAR UP cohort and who are attending college during the 2013-14 academic year. The student's participation in the GEAR UP cohort will be verified by GEAR UP Iowa staff located at the Commission.

College and university officials will be notified of GEAR UP Scholarship recipients by e-mail. College and university officials should use the awarding instructions in this chapter, in conjunction with general guidance in Chapters 1 – 3, to award GEAR UP Scholarships.

D. AWARD AMOUNTS AND LIMITS

GEAR UP Scholarship recipients are eligible to receive maximum awards of \$2,600 for academic year 2013-14. The full-time GEAR UP Scholarship award is \$1,300 per semester. For students attending quarter schools, the

maximum full-time award is \$ 867 per quarter. Awards may not exceed cost of attendance. These awards are not subject to the Commission’s gift aid regulations (Chapter 2), as the award can cover a recipient’s EFC.

Payments are credited to student accounts on a per term basis by college or university officials.

Students attending classes during summer periods of enrollment may receive GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship awards. The summer term is treated as a trailer and students may receive summer awards only if they have not exhausted the entire \$2,600 award during the traditional academic year.

The following chart provides the maximum GEAR UP Iowa Scholarship allowed per credit hour of enrollment based on a maximum annual award of **\$2,600**.

Number of Hours Enrolled	Maximum Award Semester School	Maximum Award Quarter School
3	⁽¹⁾ \$325	⁽²⁾ \$217
4	\$433	\$289
5	\$542	\$361
6	\$650	\$433
7	\$758	\$506
8	\$867	\$578
9	\$975	\$650
10	\$1,083	\$722
11	\$1,192	\$794

⁽¹⁾(3 hours ÷ 12 hours) x (Full-time GEAR UP ÷ 2) = (3 ÷ 12) x (\$2,600 ÷ 2) = 0.25 x \$1,300 = \$325

⁽²⁾(3 hours ÷ 12 hours) x (Full-time GEAR UP ÷ 3) = (3 ÷ 12) x (\$2,600 ÷ 3) = 0.25 x \$867 = \$217

E. AWARD NOTIFICATION

Colleges and universities will provide award notices to GEAR UP Scholarship recipients. Award notices will clearly indicate award amounts and will include the following award notification statement:

“In the event that available state funds are insufficient to pay the full amount of each approved grant, the Iowa College Student Aid Commission has the authority to administratively reduce the award.”

F. RENEWAL ELIGIBILITY

The student must file a FAFSA for each year they want to be considered for a GEAR UP Scholarship. During the 2013-14 academic year, the student must also complete an Iowa Financial Aid Application. In future years, it is anticipated that the FAFSA will be the only required application.

Students may renew their GEAR UP Scholarship provided they file the appropriate application(s), meet their college/university Satisfactory Academic Progress policies and GEAR UP Scholarship funding remains available.

G. CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

Any award changes must be provided by college and university staff to the Commission electronically via the State Scholarship and Grant Reporting System (see Chapter 3).

H. VERIFICATION/COMPLIANCE

College officials are responsible for completing required federal verification procedures and for coordinating all aid to ensure compliance with student eligibility and allowable award amounts.

Disbursements of state-funded student financial aid may be made prior to completing the verification process as long as college or university officials have no reason to believe application information is inaccurate. If verification indicates that students are ineligible for aid, refunds must be made to state-funded programs.