

MARYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIPS

-- KEY POINTS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS --

(Note – these points are not a substitute for the law, or regulations once developed by MHEC.)

The state of Maryland has created a Community College Promise Scholarship program to help eligible students afford community college. Basic program elements are outlined below. More detailed information will become available when the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) develops the regulations.

1. The Governor will appropriate \$15 million in FY2020, and each year thereafter, for Maryland Community College Promise Scholarships.
2. The program will begin in the 2019-2020 academic year.
3. Student eligibility:
 - Apply annually to MHEC to receive the scholarship
 - Enroll within 2 years of high school graduation, or completion of a GED in Maryland.
 - Have a high school GPA of at least 2.3 on a 4.0 scale.
 - Enroll as a candidate for
 - A vocational certificate (non-credit), or
 - A credit certificate, or
 - An associate degree.
 - 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 applicant is married or resides in a two-parent household.
 - Enroll full-time in 12 credits per semester minimum, or enroll for a vocational certificate
 - May hold the award for 3 years after enrolling
4. This is a “last-dollar” scholarship.
 - All other financial aid is to be calculated before the scholarship is awarded.
 - Students must complete the FAFSA and/or any other applications for state or federal financial aid
 - If ineligible to submit a FAFSA, student must qualify for in-state tuition.
5. Tuition
 - Tuition includes the basic instructional charge for courses, and all other mandatory fees.
 - Tuition is limited to \$5,000 per recipient per year, or actual tuition, whichever is less.
 - Initial tuition awards are to be provided to recipients based on greatest financial need.
6. Award criteria for students continuing in Community College Promise Scholarship program:
 - Priority is granted for awards to recipients who remain eligible in subsequent years.
 - Continuous student enrollment
 - Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
 - Eligible applicants, not awarded a scholarship, shall be placed on a waiting list.
7. Service obligation
 - Students shall maintain employment in Maryland for at least 1 year, for each year of scholarship awarded.
 - Scholarships convert to loans if recipients fail to fulfill the service obligation.