

Applying for the Scholarship

The application process will be available on Higher Education Service Corporation (HESC) site on Monday, April 15, 2019. The application must be completed and submitted to HESC by Thursday, August 15, 2019. The Excelsior program application procedures and regulations will be developed and managed by the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC). ***[Sign up to be contacted when applications are open](#)*** or visit www.hesc.ny.gov.

Eligibility Requirements

For the 2019-20 academic year, New York state residents whose family household adjusted gross income does not exceed \$125,000 (as filed on your 2017 federal tax returns) are eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship.

You have to enroll full-time and complete 30 credits per year (including summer and January semesters) to receive the funding. However, the program has built in flexibility. Students facing hardship are able to pause and restart the program, or take fewer credits one semester than another.

As with the TAP grants, students with disabilities will not be required to register full-time to be eligible for the scholarship.

Award Amount

An Excelsior Scholarship is for tuition only, minus any amounts received for TAP and/or Pell.

Income Guidelines

2017-18 Academic Year	\$100,000 Federal household adjusted gross income as filed on your 2015 federal tax returns
2018-19 Academic Year	\$110,000 Federal household adjusted gross income can total up to \$110,000 as filed on your 2016 federal tax returns
2019 and beyond	\$125,000 Federal household adjusted gross income can total up to \$125,000 as filed on your 2017 federal tax returns

The income guidelines are based on household adjusted gross income as follows:

Award Length

Here at MCC, you are eligible to receive the scholarship award up to the length of your program.

***** Applicants cannot receive an excelsior scholarship if they already have a bachelor degree and cannot receive a second associates if they already have an associate degree. *****

Academic Requirements

According to HESC, recipients must earn a passing grade in their coursework to maintain the scholarship. HESC regulations may give more detail regarding the timeframe for certification and what constitutes a passing grade, especially as it relates to programs which require a specified grade (e.g. "C" or better) in a course.

Recipients must complete 30 credits over the course of a year and be enrolled for a minimum of 12 credits in a semester. **Not including remedial courses or other courses not applicable to their degree program.** Recipients may use intercession and summer terms in accumulating 30 credits within the year.

Keep in mind that you may have other awards, which also carry academic standards that differ from those required for the Excelsior Scholarship.

Maintaining Your Scholarship

You can lose the scholarship if you do not continue to meet all eligibility requirements. For example, you must enroll in at least 12 credits per term and complete 30 credits per year to continue to receive the scholarship. Failing to complete the 30 credits may cause you to lose eligibility in your current semester as well as the entire award.

Residency Requirement

You must live in New York State for the number of years equal to awards you received.

For example, if you received two Excelsior Scholarship awards while getting your associate's degree, you must live in New York State for two years after college. In addition, if you are working during those years, you must work in New York State. **Failure to meet these requirements will result in the conversion of your award to a loan.**

No Age Limit

You can enroll at any age and do not have to be a recent high school graduate. However, you cannot be in default on existing federal or state student loans.

Citizenship Requirements

You must be a citizen, permanent resident, or refugee to be eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship.