

GEAR UP VA Scholarship & Achievement Grant

Eligible Institutions



1. What are the requirements?

An eligible institution is one that:

1. Is physically located in the state of Virginia (see exceptions below) << **Updated**
2. Participates in federal Title IV student financial assistance programs (such as the Pell grant)
3. Agrees to participate in the GEAR UP Virginia Scholarship/Achievement Grant program

Two Exceptions:

- Students may be eligible to receive a scholarship/grant at an eligible institution located in a state that borders Virginia: Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, DC, and West Virginia. These institutions must also meet requirements 2 and 3 listed above.
- Students interested in a program not offered at a Virginia institution may be eligible to receive a scholarship/grant at an institution that is not located in Virginia if the school participates in the Academic Common Market (ACM) program and otherwise meets the requirements listed above.
Note: Students must apply and be approved to participate in the ACM program in order to be considered for a GEAR UP Scholarship or Achievement Grant.

A few things to keep in mind:

1. Eligible GEAR UP students must be enrolled in a degree, diploma, or certificate program at an eligible institution.
2. GEAR UP students who are selected to receive a scholarship or grant will be required to submit a copy of their acceptance letter from an eligible institution. Students who are not accepted to an eligible institution will not be eligible to receive a GEAR UP Scholarship or Achievement Grant.

2. How can I find out if an institution participates in Title IV federal financial aid programs?

Institutions that participate in federal Title IV student financial assistance programs will have a current federal school code that must be used when completing your Free Application for Federal Students Aid (FAFSA). For federal school codes, visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/schoolSearch?>. You are also encouraged to contact the institution's financial aid office to verify participation.

3. What if the program I am interested in is not offered at an eligible institution?

Unfortunately, students who are not accepted and enrolled at an eligible institution as defined above will not be eligible to receive the Scholarship or Achievement Grant.

4. What happens if an institution does not agree to participate in the GEAR UP VA Scholarship/Achievement Grant program?

Unfortunately, GEAR UP will not be able to send scholarship or grant payments to institutions that choose not to participate in the program.

5. What are some examples of eligible institutions?*

James Madison University is an in-state institution that participates in federal Title IV student financial assistance programs. **Other examples are ECPI College of Technology, Lynchburg College, and Southwest Virginia Community College.**

Central Michigan University is considered to be an out-of-state institution, but because this institution has several locations in Virginia and its bordering states and participates in federal Title IV student financial assistance programs, eligible GEAR UP students may attend one of CMU's campuses in Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, DC, or West Virginia. **Other examples are Bryant and Stratton College and Devry University.**

Kentucky State University is an out-of-state institution; however, because there is an exception that eligible GEAR UP students may attend an institution located in a state bordering Virginia and this institution participates in federal Title IV student financial assistance programs, students may receive the scholarship or grant at this institution. **Other examples are The Art Institute of Charlotte (North Carolina), Concord University (West Virginia), Howard University (Washington, D.C), Frostburg State University (Maryland), and Nashville State Community College (Tennessee).**

Graham Webb International Beauty Academy is a career educational institution that is located in Virginia and currently participates in federal Title IV student financial assistance programs. **Other examples are Saint Mary's Hospital School of Medical Imaging and Advanced Technology Institute.**

**Institutions must be current participants in federal Title IV student financial assistance programs and must agree to participate in the GEAR UP Virginia Scholarship/Achievement Grant program. Eligibility of the institutions listed above is subject to change without notice.*

Helpful Links:

State Higher Education Agencies

Virginia - State Council of Higher Education - www.schev.edu

Kentucky - Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education - <http://cpe.ky.gov/>

Maryland - Maryland Higher Education Commission - www.mhec.state.md.us/

North Carolina - University of North Carolina General Admin. - www.northcarolina.edu

Tennessee - Tennessee Higher Education Commission - www.state.tn.us/thecc/

West Virginia - West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission - <http://wvhepcnew.wvnet.edu/>

Academic Common Market - www.schev.edu/students/AcademicCommonMkt.asp

College Navigator - <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

Questions?

If you have questions about eligible institutions, please contact your school-based GEAR UP coordinator or the GEAR UP Scholarship Administrator via email at GEARUPscholarship@schev.edu or phone at (804)225-2600.