

GEAR UP Virginia

Scholarship and Achievement Grant Pre-Application Information

Six Required Application Materials

- 2012 GEAR UP Award Application** - This form will be included in your application packet.
- Official High School Transcript** - A GEAR UP transcript request form with instructions will be included in your application packet.
- Copy of Entire Student Aid Report (SAR)** - You will receive your SAR by email or mail shortly after you complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Resume** - Include your name, objective, education, work experience, extracurricular activities, community service, achievements, and skills. Do not include GEAR UP activities on your resume.
- GEAR UP Recommendation Form** - This form will be included in your application packet.
- Essay - Topic:** Tell us how one GEAR UP activity influenced your decision to go to continue your education. Your essay must be at least 250 words, typed or clearly handwritten, double-spaced if typed, and detailed.

2012 Important Dates



FAFSA available online



GEAR UP award
applications available



GEAR UP award application
deadline. All materials must
be postmarked or faxed by
this date.

GEAR UP award application packets will be available through your school-based GEAR UP coordinator or school counselor and online at www.gearupva.com > Students > 2006-2012 > Forms.

Helpful Links

- GEAR UP Virginia** – www.gearupva.com
- State Council of Higher Education for Virginia** – www.schev.edu
- Student Aid on the Web** – www.studentaid.ed.gov
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid** – www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Federal Student Financial Aid PIN** – www.pin.ed.gov



Questions

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

Scholarship and Achievement Grant Requirements

To be eligible for consideration for a GEAR UP Virginia Scholarship or Achievement Grant, a student must:

- Have been a member of the original 7th grade GEAR UP class in 2006-07.
- Have a signed student information release form on file with SCHEV.
- Be an active participant in GEAR UP program activities.
- Graduate with a high school diploma from a participating GEAR UP high school by August 31, 2012.
- Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above by the end of the first semester of their senior year. Must maintain a 2.0 or above through graduation.
- Submit a complete GEAR UP award application and all other required materials to the GEAR UP office by March 31, 2012.
- Be accepted and enrolled at least half-time in an undergraduate degree, diploma, or certificate-seeking program at an eligible institution no later than the second fall semester following high school graduation.
- Successfully complete a FAFSA and be eligible for financial aid.
- Be eligible for and awarded the federal Pell grant.*

* Pell grant eligibility is not required to be considered for the Achievement Grant; however, financial need will be considered when choosing recipients.

Eligible Institutions

An eligible institution is one that:

- Is physically located in the state of Virginia. See exceptions below.
- Participates in federal Title IV student aid programs, including the Pell grant.
- Agrees to participate in the GEAR UP Virginia Scholarship program.

Two Exceptions:

1. Students may be eligible to receive a scholarship or grant at an institution located in a state that borders Virginia: Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee, Washington, DC, or West Virginia. These institutions must otherwise meet the requirements listed above.
2. Students interested in a program not offered at a Virginia institution may be eligible to receive a scholarship or 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. Students must apply and be approved to participate in the ACM program in order to be considered for a scholarship.

GET READY. GET SET.
GO TO COLLEGE.