

Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Updated: November 9, 2020

Please review our Frequently Asked Questions for common questions, definitions and clarifications. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Indiana Commission for Higher Education at NextTeacher@che.in.gov. The FAQ includes:

- General Information
- Eligibility Requirements
- Application Procedures
- Selecting Recipients
- Scholarship Utilization & Renewal
- Promissory Note
- Service Requirements

General Information

What is the Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship?

The Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarship provides 200 high-achieving high school and college students interested in pursuing a career in education the opportunity to earn a renewable scholarship up to four academic years of their undergraduate education. In exchange, students agree to teach for five years at an eligible Indiana school or repay the corresponding, prorated amount of the scholarship.

How much is the scholarship?

The initial scholarship is \$7,500 for the academic year. Half of the scholarship amount is awarded in the fall semester and the remaining half is awarded in the spring semester. The scholarship may be renewed up to three additional years for a maximum of \$30,000 while pursuing a baccalaureate degree provided the recipient meets all renewal requirements.

Does the scholarship impact my other financial aid?

It's possible. The Commission strongly encourages you to discuss your financial aid package with your financial aid office or with Commission staff at 1-888-528-4719. If you are a financial aid administrator and have questions about administering the scholarship on your campus, please contact the Commission.



Is this a grant or a loan?

The scholarship is a financial aid grant with a service requirement, and should that requirement not be met, the scholarship will convert to a loan. Some forms of financial aid, such as loans, will require you to repay what you received, while other financial aid, such as grants, do not have to be repaid. It's usually best to maximize the amount of grants you receive before considering this program or a loan. Most of Indiana's state financial aid programs do not have a service requirement.

What can the scholarship be used for? Is it restricted to tuition and fees?

The scholarship can be used for anything associated with college expenses up to the cost of attendance (COA) at the recipient's institution, and can be refunded to the student if applicable (up to the recipient's COA). COA is a variable amount unique to each student, typically dependent on factors such as tuition costs, living/housing expenses, and other associated fees. Funds above COA are not available for future academic years.

Where can I use the scholarship?

The scholarship may be used at eligible Indiana colleges and universities.

Eligibility Requirements

What are the eligibility requirements for the scholarship?

- The applicant:
 - Must be an [Indiana resident](#) and U.S. citizen or [eligible non-citizen](#)
 - Must be a current high school senior or a college student able to utilize the scholarship for at least two full academic years in college—high school seniors will be given priority
 - Must rank in the top 20% of high school graduating class or have a top 20% ACT or SAT score at the time of application
 - Must graduate from an accredited Indiana high school or non-accredited non-public Indiana high school
 - Must currently attend or plan to attend an eligible Indiana college as a full-time student
 - Must pursue a course of study that would enable the student to teach at an eligible Indiana school after college graduation
 - Must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) each year the scholarship is received
 - Must maintain a 3.0/4.0 GPA, complete 30 credit hours per year or their equivalent and meet all other requirements established by their program while in college
 - Must not be in overpayment or default on a federal student loan or grant
 - Must obtain a license to teach in Indiana and serve as a teacher in an eligible Indiana school for five consecutive years after college graduation; if this requirement is not met, the student will have all funds provided converted to a loan that must be repaid

Who can apply?

Applicants must be a current high school senior or college student in Indiana. College students must be able to utilize the scholarship for at least two full academic years (be freshman or sophomore standing at the time of application).



Application Procedures

Where do I apply?

Applicants may access the scholarship application by creating an account on the Commission's self-service tool [ScholarTrack](#), which allows students to apply for state financial aid and review their awards and award history. Students are encouraged to review the complete list of the scholarship application procedures and requirements prior to starting the application.

What information do I need to provide on my application?

- Personal information, including Social Security Number
- High school academic information, including ACT or SAT Examination Score(s), High School Class Rank and Grade Point Average (GPA)
- Extracurricular information for activities completed during high school
- Employment information during high school
- Prepared writing prompt; response is limited to 500 words

My high school does not class rank—can I still apply?

If you do not have a class rank you can still qualify by submitting tests scores.

If your high school does not offer class rank but is willing to verify an unpublished class rank, the school official completing your nomination form may provide the unpublished class rank.

When is the scholarship application due?

The scholarship application opens on October 1 and closes on January 31, 2021 of the year prior to the scholarship award year (apply during the 2020-2021 academic year for the 2021-2022 academic year).

If I was denied the scholarship once, can I apply again?

Yes, denied applicants are welcome to apply for the scholarship again, provided they still meet all eligibility requirements.

Selecting Recipients

How are scholarship recipients determined?

After the application deadline passes, the Commission will review all applications and notify applicants of their scholarship status via email in mid-March.

Scholarship Utilization & Renewal

Can I take a year off from college and defer my scholarship?

No, recipients must enroll in college directly out of high school and complete 30 credits per year to maintain scholarship eligibility. The only circumstances that warrant a recipient defer their scholarship are "once in a lifetime" opportunities (i.e. serve as national FFA officer) or medical emergencies. These rare circumstances are considered on a case-by-case basis and do not count against years of scholarship eligibility (limit of four).



I have too much financial aid this year. How do I receive the scholarship in the future?

Student must use the scholarship in the fall semester in the year selected unless their total gift aid exceeds the cost of attendance (COA) at their institution. These students can maintain eligibility for the next academic year by meeting all renewal requirements. Their eligibility is reduced by one year for each year in which the scholarship is (or is not) utilized. Funds above COA are not available for future academic years.

I did not use the scholarship this year. Do I have to reapply?

Students that fail to use the scholarship by December 31 of the year selected forfeit eligibility for that award year and will need to reapply for the scholarship in future years.

I received the scholarship last year. How do I renew for next year?

Recipients must submit a renewal application (in addition to meeting all renewal requirements) prior to the start of the new academic year. Recipients are asked to complete the renewal application even if they do not intend to renew/are graduating.

Who will report my credit hours completed and GPA?

GPA and credit completion information is reported to CHE by your institution.

What if I didn't complete the credit completion or any other requirements?

The scholarship requires that students complete 30 credit hours each year. You may use excess credits listed in your 'credit bank' on ScholarTrack to make up the difference for any semesters you are short credits. Should any extraordinary situations occur that prevent a student from meeting any scholarship requirements, students can [file an appeal](#) with documented, supporting information. Each appeal is handled on a case-by-case basis.

I am graduating college a semester early. How does this impact my scholarship?

If you are graduating in the fall semester, your financial aid office will just claim your award for fall and not for spring (since you will not be enrolled).

Can my scholarship be used during the summer?

The scholarship can be used during the summer term as long as the recipient was at some point during the fall or spring term a full-time student and used state financial aid (such as this scholarship). In some cases, degree-seeking students may use the scholarship during the summer while enrolled part-time. Refer to the specific [guidelines](#) for using the scholarship during summer terms.

Can I study abroad while receiving the scholarship?

Out-of-state or overseas study will only be covered by state financial aid when you are enrolled for credit at your state-aid eligible institution and the bills are charged from and paid to the eligible institution. The costs must not to exceed charges made to comparable students taking on-campus courses. During this time you must complete 30 credit hours per year. If you are not earning credit from your study abroad experience, you will need to complete enough credit hours to total 30 per year in the other two semesters. For example, you will need to complete 30 credit hours total during the Fall and Summer semesters, if you were to study abroad in the Spring not-for-credit.



During my last semester I will be student teaching (12 credit hours). How does this impact the 30 credit hour requirement?

The Next Generation scholarship requires that students complete 30 credit hours per academic year to renew for the following year. Since you will be in your final year of college and will not be renewing the scholarship an additional year, the number of credit hours taken your senior year does not impact your eligibility as long as you remain a full-time student.

Promissory Note

Why is a promissory note required for this scholarship?

By accepting the scholarship, you agree to teach in Indiana for five consecutive years after college graduation or repay the corresponding, prorated amount of the scholarship. A promissory note is required to confirm in writing that if the service requirement is not met, you will pay back the scholarship funds with interest.

How do I complete the promissory note?

The Commission's loan servicer Heartland ECSI will administer your promissory note. Recipients will receive an email from Heartland ECSI with a link and a PIN number to complete the promissory note. Any questions about the promissory note may be directed to Heartland ECSI Customer Service at 1-888-549-3274.

Do I need to sign a new promissory note each year?

The promissory note is due two weeks prior to the start of the academic year in which it will be used. You will sign one promissory note for the entirety of your scholarship/loan at the maximum amount of \$30,000. Should you not meet the service requirement, you will only be held responsible for the amount that you borrow plus interest.

What information is contained within the promissory note?

The promissory note collects the following information:

- Contact Information to be provided by you as the borrower
- Individual PIN Number, provided by ECSI
- Entrance counseling, loan terms and requirements
- Rights and responsibilities as the borrower
- Student information, next of kin, two references, provided by you as the borrower, to be used should you enter repayment and/or default on your loan
- Private education loan approval disclosure, self-certification information
- Signed promissory note and confirmation of receipt

When will my scholarship funds be sent to my institution?

The scholarship will not appear on a recipient's financial aid award letter until they have signed the promissory note and completed the [FAFSA](#) for that academic year.



Service Requirements

What happens if I don't teach for the full five years?

The scholarship requires you to teach for five consecutive years after graduation. For every year you don't teach, you must repay 20% of your total scholarship, plus interest. For example, if you received \$7,500 each year in college (\$30,000 total) and teach for three years, you must repay 40%, or \$12,000, plus interest.

If I don't teach for five years, will I have to pay back my other financial aid?

The teaching requirement only applies to the scholarship funds; you will not have to repay other financial aid awarded by the State of Indiana. Most Federal financial aid will not be affected, however, please be sure to carefully read all requirements for all received Federal financial aid programs, as some may also have service requirements.

Do I have to teach in Indiana?

Recipients must teach at an [eligible Indiana school](#) for five consecutive years. You do not have to teach at the same school all five years.

What subjects and grade levels can I teach?

You can teach any subject from kindergarten through 12th Grade. Pre-K or younger grade levels do not count toward your teaching requirements.

Does my Teacher Residency count toward my service requirement?

Some post-Bachelor's degree coursework requires teaching residency. As long as you are serving as a full-time, licensed teacher in an eligible school during the entire year of your residency, this year of service can count toward your five year service requirement.

