

Excelsior Scholarship Program



**STUDENT FINANCIAL AID SERVICES
SUNY SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION**

Excelsior Scholarship



- Excelsior Scholarship is administered by HESC
- SUNY Excelsior Committee established to discuss campus questions/concerns
- SUNY participated in discussions on program implementation and provided input
- Program regulations passed by HESC Board of Trustees on May 25, 2017, enabling official program implementation to begin

Excelsior Scholarship



- **General Award Eligibility Requirements**
 - NYS Resident
 - US Citizen or eligible noncitizen
 - High School diploma, recognized equivalent or ATB
 - Matriculated full-time in an approved program of study
- **Additional Excelsior Requirements**
 - Attend a public institution
 - Meet income requirements
 - Successfully complete (earn) 30 credits each year (minimum enrollment of 12 credits per term)
 - ✦ Prior year credits may be earned in any combination to meet a minimum of 60, 90 credits for incoming juniors and seniors.
- Awards are limited to length of program (2-yr, 4-yr, approved 5-yr)

Excelsior Scholarship



Excelsior calculation (last dollar)

- 2016-17 SUNY resident tuition rate (\$6,470 at 4-yr colleges) will be reduced by the amount of all applicable financial aid awards (excluding FWS or student loans)
- No deduction for an award that is exclusively designated for a non-tuition expense, (e.g. housing, books, computer equipment)
- Excelsior Scholarship covers remaining tuition liability up to \$5,500
- Excelsior tuition credit will cover any remaining tuition liability that exceeds \$5,500 (e.g. $\$6,470 - \$5,500 = \$970$)
 - ✦ Maintenance of Effort – campus reimbursement

Excelsior Scholarship Calculation Examples

	Award amount
Tuition (2016-17)	\$6,470 (State op)
Grants & Scholarships	\$0
Federal Direct Loan	\$2,500
Excelsior Award	\$5,500
Excelsior Credit	\$970
Total G&S Awards	\$6,470

	Award amount
Tuition (2016-17)	\$6,470 (State op)
Pell	\$500
TAP	\$500
FWS	\$750
Excelsior Award	\$5,470
Total G&S Awards	\$6,470

	Award amount
Tuition (2016-17)	\$4,580 (CC)
Pell	\$500
TAP	\$500
FWS	\$750
Excelsior Award	\$3,580
Total G&S Awards	\$4,580

Excelsior Scholarship



- Excelsior Scholarship recipients charged 2016-17 tuition rate for length of attendance provided they remain Excelsior eligible
 - Students who become ineligible for the second payment continue to be charge the 2016-17 rate
 - Students who receive other awards zeroing out Excelsior
 - ✦ Prior to census date, charged 17-18 tuition rate
 - ✦ After census date, charged 16-17 tuition rate for full year
(HESC :for 17-18 only)
- Tuition rate for recipients resets after four years
- Non recipients are charged current tuition rate

Excelsior Scholarship



- Matriculated students must be enrolled in consecutive terms to maintain eligibility
 - 365 days to complete and earn 30 credits (includes summer or winter terms)
 - Interruptions of study for hardship cases, pre approved leave of absence
 - Summer and winter terms can be used to meet credit requirement (no Excelsior funds for these terms)

Excelsior Scholarship



- Student's 'year' is based on their first date of matriculation
- New Students
 - Enroll in 12 credits applicable to program(s) in first term
 - Earn 30 credits each year of enrollment
- Current students
 - Earned 30 credits each year of enrollment* and thereafter
 - Catch-up (make up six credits in 2017-18 without benefit of Excelsior scholarship)
 - ✦ First enrolled in 2015-16
 - ✦ First enrolled in 2016-17
- Transfer students
 - Earned 30 credits each year of enrollment*
 - Credits must be accepted by the new campus
 - Credits must be applicable to the program(s) of study
- *Continuing non-Transfer and Continuing Transfer Students
 - To meet prior year credit eligibility requirements, continuing students who were continuously enrolled for two years prior to the first year of eligibility (junior year) for the Excelsior scholarship, must have earned a minimum of 60 credits toward their program(s) of study in order to be eligible for their first award (e.g. fall 2017). These credits may be earned in any combination (e.g. 27 first year, 33 second year) in order to meet the eligibility requirement for earned credits.
 - To meet prior year credit eligibility requirements, continuing students who were continuously enrolled for three years prior to the first year of eligibility (senior year) for the Excelsior scholarship, must have earned a minimum of 90 credits toward their program(s) of study in order to be eligible for their first award (e.g. fall 2017). These credits may be earned in any combination (e.g. 24 first year, 33 second year, 33 third year) in order to meet the eligibility requirement for earned credits.

Excelsior Scholarship



- Non credit courses don't count toward credit requirement
- EOP student requirement, total 24 credits per year
 - EOP funds are for non-tuition costs and do not need to be applied in the calculation for an Excelsior award.
- ADA student no credit requirement (same as TAP)
- AP/IB courses can be used to meet credit requirement

Excelsior Scholarship



- Excelsior Application
 - *Released on June 7, 2017*
 - *Deadline for submission July 21, 2017*
 - *Deadline for required documents July 31, 2017*
- HESC will process information through general requirements and verify income with NYS Tax and Finance
- Campuses will be sent file to verify completed credits and return to HESC, summer courses remain pending until completed
 - *Summer 2017 courses must be completed by August 31, 2017*
- HESC obtains signed service agreement from student

Excelsior Scholarship



- Campuses will verify credits earned using file layout or and/or alternative methods and data exchange
- HESC will identify eligible students on student status listing after student signs service agreement
- Campuses estimate awards based on financial aid
- Estimated awards will be used by campuses to defer tuition as required by statute
- Final awards upon certification by campus at end of term for first term and for subsequent terms following completion of 30 credits

Excelsior Scholarship



- Reside in NYS post graduation/attendance equal to the number of annual awards received
 - Can meet residency requirement
 - ✦ while in military, regardless of station, as long as they maintain NYS residency
 - ✦ while completing undergrad or grad studies (including medical residency) in state
 - Can defer residency requirement
 - ✦ while completing undergrad or grad studies (including medical residency) out of state
 - ✦ For hardship or other HESC approved circumstance
 - Cannot work outside of NYS during residency period
 - Reverts to an interest free 10 year loan if post-graduation/attendance requirement is not met
 - HESC has responsibility to track students

Excelsior Scholarship Basic Eligibility Requirements

