

WV Invests Grant & Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars

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West Virginia
Higher Education
Policy Commission



WEST VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL
COLLEGE SYSTEM



West Virginia
INVESTS
GRANT PROGRAM

What it is



- “Last-dollar-in” financial aid program
- Pays tuition and mandatory fees
- Applicable toward eligible certificate and associate degree programs
- Participating WV public two- and four-year institutions



Application



- Must complete both
 - WV Invests Grant application at wvinvests.org
 - Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.gov
- Became available October 1, 2019, for 2020-21
 - Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021 terms
 - Priority deadline of April 15, 2020
- Will become available October 1, 2020, for 2021-22
 - Summer 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022 terms

Eligibility Criteria



- Must be a WV resident at least 12 months prior to applying
- High school diploma or equivalent
- Not in default on a federal student loan
- U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Cannot have a prior degree of associates or higher or have attempted 90 or more credit hours
- Be enrolled in an eligible major at a participating institution
- Must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Eligibility Criteria



- No age limit
- Current college students without a college degree and less than 90 attempted hours may apply
- No income limit, not based upon need

Requirements



- Must pass a drug screen 60 days prior to each term in which funding is received
- Complete 2 hours of community service during term in which funding is received as approved by the college
- Must reside in WV 2 years, which begins once a student is no longer enrolled half-time, or else pay the funds back
- Requires student to complete promissory note annually

Award Amount



- Last-dollar-in program that pays toward tuition and mandatory fees
- Does not cover other fees, program fees, special fees, lab fees, books, supplies, etc.
- Tuition and mandatory fees minus any federal grants, state financial aid (ex: PROMISE, WV Higher Education Grant and HEAPS), and tuition waivers

Eligible Institutions



- Blue Ridge CTC
- BridgeValley CTC
- Eastern West Virginia CTC
- Mountwest CTC
- New River CTC
- Pierpont CTC
- Potomac State College of WVU
- Southern West Virginia CTC
- West Virginia Northern CTC
- WVU at Parkersburg

All eligible programs listed online at wvinvests.org under Find a Program.

Process



- Student applies online
- College certifies eligibility
- Eligible students will receive email notification of award or denial
- Student completes the drug screen requirement. Instructions will be in the award notice.
- Students who pass the drug screen will receive an email from Heartland ECSI to sign promissory note
- After promissory note signed, funds sent directly to the college

Drug Screen



- Participate in Program mobile app or web site used by student to create an account using WV Invests ID assigned in the award notice
- App/site used to pay for the drug screen, find closest location, make an appointment or walk-ins are accepted
- Credit or debit card only
- Must have a valid drivers license or government-issued photo ID
- 10-panel drug screen
- Cost currently \$34 per test

Drug Screen



- Results are sent directly to the WV Invests Grant program
- If applicant fails drug screen:
 - Sample can be tested again
 - Costs \$175 for a retest
 - There is an appeals process
 - Student can try again for the following term during designated window prior to start of term

Remaining Eligible



- Must complete 2 hours of community service during semester
- Take the drug screen again with 60 days of the upcoming term
- Students must reapply every year
 - Applications apply to summer, fall, spring
- Must continue to meet eligibility criteria, including SAP
- Must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 at the end of spring term to be eligible to renew



Obligation



- Must update contact information with WV Invests Grant
- Upon graduation or dropping below half-time enrollment, student must reside in WV for 2 years
- We will attempt to confirm residency with other agencies. If not confirmed:
 - Recipient will need to provide proof of residency, which would defer payment for a year
 - Must provide proof again to defer second year
- After 2-year obligation is fulfilled, WV Invests remains a grant

More Information



- Visit www.wvinvests.org
- Email wvinvests@wvctcs.org
- Call 304-558-4618



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WEST VIRGINIA
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL
COLLEGE SYSTEM

UNDERWOOD-SMITH 

Teaching

SCHOLARS

Program Overview

- West Virginia's newest and most prestigious scholarship.
- Named in honor of West Virginia Governors Cecil H. Underwood and Hulett C. Smith, both of whom were strong advocates for WV teachers and students.
- Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars receive up to \$10,000 per year to pay for eligible college expenses, including tuition and fees, room and board, and textbooks
- Annual cohort of 25 scholars

Eligibility

- High school senior or recent high school graduate with plans to pursue a bachelor's degree at an eligible WV institution. (open nationwide)
- Has never been enrolled as a degree-seeking student at college or university.
- Cumulative high school GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale
- College readiness score:
 - ACT: Math 21 English 18
 - SAT: Math 530 English 480
- Critical Need Fields:
 - Math
 - Science
 - Special Education
 - Elementary Education
- US Citizen

Application Process

- Round 1- Pre-Qualification
 - Complete preliminary application online
 - Collects basic information and authorizes Division of FA to access electronic high school transcripts and standardized test scores
 - Students outside of WV will need to complete a Grade Report Form and submit high school transcripts for evaluation.
 - Priority given to students who complete application before December 31st

Application Process

- Round 2- Formal Application (by invitation)
 - Qualified students from round 1 will be invited to submit a more extensive electronic application.
 - Required to file the FAFSA
 - Required to submit official high school transcripts
 - Required to complete electronic application
 - Academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and a passion for teaching
 - Information collected used to select small group of finalists that move on to final round 3

Application Process

- Round 3- Final Round
 - Finalists will be asked to submit a short 2-3-minute video highlighting why they want to be a great WV teacher
 - Video will be reviewed by an award committee representing higher education, public education and community at large
 - Committee will select 25 scholars

Awards



- Awarding
 - \$10,000 per year for 4 years
 - Up to \$40,000
 - Stackable with other scholarships and grants (PROMISE, WVHEG)
 - Payable directly to institution
 - Annual cohort of 25 scholars
 - Scholars will receive an electronic award notification.
 - Scholars will be required to sign a master promissory note through our servicer, Heartland ECSI.

Awards



- Mentoring
 - Scholars will receive support and guidance from a practicing WV teacher mentor.
 - Scholars spend valuable time in their mentor's classroom- beginning their first semester.
 - Mentoring component gives scholars a greater chance at success in college and the experience they need to graduate as highly prepared teachers.

Maintaining and Renewing Scholarship



- Academic Requirements
 - Must be enrolled full-time in an approved teacher preparation program at an eligible WV college or university.
 - Must maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution.
 - Must maintain a cumulative college grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Additional Requirements
 - Communicate regularly with their assigned teacher mentor
 - Attend the annual Student Success Summit event (held mid-to-late-July each year). Lodging paid by HEPC.
 - Participate in required professional development opportunities; including but not limited to local or regional conferences in jr. and sr. years.

Service Obligation



- After graduation scholars are required to teach at a WV public school in critical need field (math, science, special education, elementary education) under contract with a county board of education for a period of 5 consecutive years
- Must submit an employment verification document each year.

Repayment



- Scholars who do not meet the minimum service obligation will be required to make monetary repayment of scholarship, plus an accrued interest and fees.
- Deferments may be granted for graduates who are still enrolled in a full-time course of study at an accredited institution of higher education; or serving as a member of the armed forces of the US (not to exceed 4 years).

More information



- <http://underwoodsmith.org/>
- Email: underwoodsmith@wvhepc.edu
- Call: 304.558.4618



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