



2023-2024 Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship Program

Eligibility Guidelines and Student Application

The Golden LEAF Foundation makes scholarships available to students from qualifying counties who demonstrate financial need to help them attend a North Carolina community college. Golden LEAF's goal is for scholarship recipients to gain talent, knowledge, and the skills to help their communities thrive.

The Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship provides scholarships of up to \$2,250 annually for curriculum students and up to \$1850 annually for workforce continuing education students. The scholarships help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare and other components of the total cost of attendance for the 2023-2024 academic year.

NCCCS Requirements

- Notify the college of their allocation of scholarship funds, including acceptable uses of the funds.
- Market and promote scholarships and provide an annual student application to be used by the colleges.
- Monitor the program for overall compliance including monitoring awards and transmittals made by colleges.
- Provide interim and end of the year reports to Golden LEAF including scholarship awarded and project activities and outcomes.
- Provide professional development and training opportunities to college aid administrators.

College Requirements

- Announce and promote the Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship program to curriculum and workforce continuing education students.
- Determine application procedures including deadlines to apply for the scholarship.
- Comply with scholarship guidelines, including awarding, administration, and reconciliation of award transmittals with other offices and NCCCS.
- Maintain all Golden LEAF scholarship applications.

Student Eligibility Requirements

- Eligible students must (1) be a North Carolina resident, (2) demonstrate financial need and (3) reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (see Qualifying Counties 2023-2024). A scholarship recipient who resides in an eligible county upon initial award will retain eligibility and may be eligible for a renewal award as long as the student's place of residence is within the state of North Carolina. NOTE: the college will be asked to provide proof of the student's county of residency at the time of the initial award.
- Eligible students may receive an award each year. Financial aid offices will determine their application procedures for making awards for subsequent terms. Selected students will be required to disclose all financial aid awards as dictated by college financial aid offices for award packaging. Golden LEAF Scholarships will not displace federal grants, e.g., Pell grants, for which the student may be eligible (may displace loan funds).

Curriculum Student Selection Criteria

Eligible students must:

- (1) Be enrolled at least full-time for fall and spring; Summer school students must be enrolled at least 6 credit hours. Grants for less-than-full-time students should be prorated based on hours of enrollment and pending availability of funds. Colleges should determine reasonable proration award amounts.
- (2) Demonstrate financial need as determined by completion of the FAFSA;
- (3) Be a resident of North Carolina
- (4) Reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (Please check with your financial aid office for Qualifying Counties 2023-2024).

CU Scholarship Awarding Format Sample: THIS AN EXAMPLE.

Colleges may select students to receive up to \$2,250 in awards annually. For example, if a student receives \$2,250, funds will be awarded up to \$1,000 for the fall, \$1,000 for the spring and \$250 in the summer. The scholarship may be renewed for one year, if the student meets eligibility criteria.

If the student fails to enroll, those remaining funds may be awarded to another student. Grants for less-than-full-time students will be prorated based on hours of enrollment and pending availability of funds. For example, if a student is awarded \$2,250 for the fall and spring, but enrolls for only halftime for the spring semester, the award will be prorated for the spring to \$563. The remaining \$562 may be awarded to another student.

Workforce Continuing Education Student Eligibility

Eligible students must:

- (1) Be a resident of North Carolina.
- (2) Reside in a qualifying Golden LEAF County.
- (3) Be enrolled or enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses offered for 96 hours or more and leading to a State or industry-recognized credential.

WCE Scholarship Awarding Format Sample: THIS IS AN EXAMPLE.

Colleges may select students to receive up to \$1,850 and must award according to the curriculum semester(s) as set up in Colleague for fall, spring and summer. For example, a student may be awarded \$925 in the fall, based on CE course/program beginning in August. A student may be awarded \$925 in the spring, based on CE course/program beginning in January. If a course/program begins in December, the scholarship should be awarded under the fall semester.

At least 25% of the college Golden LEAF allocation must be awarded to WCE students.

Application Process

- The System Office will promote and market scholarships among the local community colleges to help the students understand and recognize the mission of Golden LEAF. Colleges should notify students of scholarship award.

- Students will complete the Golden LEAF Community College application for the targeted academic year. Applications will be filed with the college financial aid offices or Workforce Continuing Education departments.
- Timing for the selection process is determined by the award policies and procedures of each college. Financial aid offices will work with Workforce Continuing Education departments to determine the awards periods for those students.
- Applicants bear full responsibility for completing the Golden LEAF application prior to each deadline.
- Financial aid offices will provide a list of selected recipients including name, amount, address, county, email, and program of study to the System Office as requested for reporting purposes.

This program is funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation.