

North Dakota Academic/CTE Scholarship Program Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible for scholarship application?

1. Students earning a GED are not eligible for scholarship application.
2. Home educated students are eligible for scholarship application with verified documentation of all eligibility requirements.
3. Students receiving a diploma from the ND Center for Distance Education are eligible for scholarship application with verified documentation of all eligibility requirements.

Instructions to Schools Regarding GPA Calculations ND Academic and ND Career and Technical Education Scholarships

In what courses does the student have to earn a “C” or better?

The student must earn a “C” or better in all courses required for the 22-credit diploma, including the specific courses identified in the scholarship requirements. The grade must be no lower than a “C” REGARDLESS of the grading system used in the school. Weighted grading systems assign a different point value to letter grades in the calculation of GPA, but the weighted systems do not change the grade. **A “B” is a “B” and a “D” is a “D” regardless of whether the school is using a weighted or non-weighted grading system. If a student has a grade lower than a “C” in any course required for the scholarship, regardless of the weighting system used in calculating GPA, the student is ineligible for the scholarship.**

If a student earns a C- in a class, is the student eligible?

What point value is assigned to the C- when calculating GPA?

If a C- has a point value of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, this would satisfy the scholarship criteria.

If a C- has a point value below 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, this would NOT satisfy the scholarship criteria.

May a school use a weighted grading system?

Yes, a school may use a weighted grading system (assigning a point value higher than 4.0 to specific course work). **However, for scholarship eligibility, the GPA must be recalculated using a non-weighted, 4.0 grading scale.**

How is the GPA calculated for scholarship eligibility in schools with non-weighted or weighted grading systems?

When calculating GPA for scholarship eligibility, grades must be converted to point values based on a non-weighted 4.0 scale.

For schools using non-weighted grading, the point conversions would be:

- A = 4 points
- B = 3 points
- C = 2 points
- D = 1 point
- F = 0 points

For schools using a weighted 5.0 grading scale for example, the point conversions would be:

- A = 4 points
- B = 3 points
- C = 2 points
- D = 1 point
- F = 0 points

May a school use +’s and –’s when reporting grades? How are these considered when calculating GPA?

A school may use +’s and –’s when reporting grades. A grade point value must be assigned to every gradient of grade with the maximum point value of 4.0 assigned to an A or A+.

What are the procedures for verifying GPA eligibility for the scholarship program?

Automatic Grade and GPA Eligibility:

Students with an 8th semester cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher with no grades lower than a C in any course, *regardless of the number of credits earned*, satisfy the grade and GPA requirements.

Appeal of Grade and GPA Eligibility:

A student with an 8th semester cumulative GPA lower than 3.0 or with some grades lower than a C, may file a scholarship appeal showing that 22 credits of high school work qualify the student. Considering only the 22 credits required by the State, which include specific course scholarship required courses, the student has no grades lower than a C and a recalculated GPA of 3.0 or higher.

1. If a student earns a grade lower than a “C” in any course required by the State and for scholarship eligibility, the student may retake the course for a higher grade. If the student earns a “C” or better after retaking the course, the student will be eligible for scholarship application under these criteria. The GPA will be recalculated using the higher grade. A grade of “C” has a grade point value of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale.
2. A “Pass/Fail” grade does not meet application requirements. Any “Pass” grade must be converted to a letter grade and this grade must be documented on the official transcript.
3. **GPA's must be calculated on a 4.00 scale. Weighted grading is not permitted for application purposes.**
4. A cumulative GPA of at least a “B” requires a calculated cumulative GPA to be 3.00 or higher based on a 4.00 grading scale. GPA must be rounded to the nearest hundredth for eligibility purposes. For example, a grade point average of 3.56825 is rounded to 3.57. However, an average of 3.599875 is rounded to 3.6.

Does the student taking an AP course have to score a “3” or higher on the AP exam?

Students must take an AP exam but they do NOT have to score a “3” or higher on the exam.

If a school does not offer AP classes, where may a student get these classes?

Advanced Placement courses are available through the North Dakota Center for Distance Education. ND CDE has an extensive offering of AP courses available for all North Dakota students. With the ability to enroll in these courses year round, ND CDE can provide an option for these students and schools at anytime. If you have any questions about ND CDE's AP course offerings, please contact: Brian Becker, Academic Advisor – North Dakota Center for Distance Education – 701-231-6060 – www.ndcde.org.

What is considered a “dual credit” course?

A “dual credit” course is defined as a one-semester college course taken through a two- or four-year institution of higher education for which the student earns ½ unit of high school credit. The course must be documented on the student's official high school transcript and the earned grade calculated into the student's cumulative GPA. A student must be earning both high school and college credit for the course.

Note:

- 2-4 semester hour college classes will be awarded ½ unit of high school credit
- 4 credit courses + a 1 credit lab course and 5 semester hour college courses will be awarded 1 unit of high school credit

How will a dual credit course be recorded?

The course will be listed on the high school transcript and will be designated as a dual credit course. This designation must include either printing “DC” prior to the course name or writing the name of the college/university before or after the course name. Principals will verify completion of a dual credit course when they verify eligibility. In addition, students eligible for the Academic Scholarship with a dual credit class must send a college transcript to the Department.

A student takes a dual credit class at their high school and chooses not to pay the course fee in order to receive college credit for the course. Does this count as a dual credit course for the Academic scholarship?

No. The student must receive both high school and college credit for the course.

If a district permits 8th grade students to take Algebra I or the first year of a foreign language, may these classes count toward scholarship eligibility?

This is a local district decision. If a district elects to award credit to Algebra I or foreign language taken in the 8th grade, the 8th grade courses must be identical in content to the same course taught in the high school and be taught by a highly qualified teacher. If this is so, the course must be posted on the high school transcript with the grade earned and credit awarded. This ensures satisfaction of scholarship eligibility.

Does a student have to use the score from the state-administered ACT/WorkKeys assessments for scholarship eligibility?

No. A student may use the score(s) earned on the state-administered assessment but if a student does not score 24 or higher on the ACT or does not earn three "5's" on the WorkKeys assessments during that administration, he or she may use a qualifying score from another testing date.

How does a student apply for a scholarship?

Students may apply online from March 1 – June 6. The web address is: <http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/scholarship>.

This site will open to a page requesting the student enter his or her North Dakota login and password. On the right side of the page, the student clicks on "Register Now" and fills out all of the requested information. Once submitted, the student will receive an email at which time they will activate the login and password by clicking on the link provided. The student will then go back to the website address listed above, enter his or her login and password which takes the student to the application. The student completes and submits the application. Students will print the application prior to submitting the application. This is very important!

Requirements for Scholarship Renewal

1. Student must be enrolled as a full-time student (12 or more credit hours the first two terms and 15 or more hours each term thereafter) in an accredited higher education institution in North Dakota, both public and private. The requirement that a student be enrolled in at least fifteen credits does not apply in the case of a student participating in a clinical, practicum, internship, cooperative program, or similar external experience, provided the external experience is equivalent to at least twelve units, or such similar amount as determined by the state board of higher education.
2. Student must maintain a 2.75 cumulative GPA based on a 4.00 scale, reviewed each semester.
3. If a student's cumulative GPA falls below 2.75, the student will have a one-time, one-term probationary period during which time the GPA must rise to a minimum 2.75. The scholarship will be paid during the term immediately following the term in which the GPA falls below 2.75. If at the end of the probationary term, the GPA is not at 2.75, the scholarship is forfeited. If at the end of the probationary term, the GPA is at 2.75, the scholarship will continue to be paid. If the GPA falls below 2.75 for a second term, the scholarship is forfeited.
4. Scholarship award is \$750 per semester, or \$500 per quarter (Rasmussen College) for a \$1500 academic year allocation. A student does not have to be enrolled in consecutive semesters. However, the payment will be available during the 6 years following high school graduation. The total value of the scholarship is \$6000.
5. The scholarship may not be applied to graduate studies. Determination of undergraduate or graduate programs of study will be based on the program classification at your college.
6. Priority funding will be given in the following order:
 - a) Ongoing Student – a student attending college/university who satisfies the requirements for the continuation of award money;
 - b) New Awardee – a student attending college/university in the fall semester immediately following high school graduation;
 - c) Stop-Gap Student – a student who started attending college/university in the fall semester immediately following high school graduation but did not enroll in consecutive semesters;
 - d) Deferral Student – a student who deferred the scholarship and did not attend college/university immediately following high school graduation.

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