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FINANCIAL AID TO DO LIST

- ◆ Complete and submit FAFSA by March 1 to be considered for State funding at www.FAFSA.gov.
- ◆ Set up a student account on MDCAPS at <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>.
- ◆ Visit MDgo4it.org for tips and other information to help prepare for college.
- ◆ Ensure that all filing requirements have been met for State aid grant and scholarship programs. See www.mhec.maryland.gov.
- ◆ Contact the financial aid office at the Maryland postsecondary institution that you have been accepted into and ensure all documents are in and complete.

2016 - 2017 SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE HOWARD P. RAWLINGS

PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE



HOWARD P. RAWLINGS GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT

WHO MAY APPLY

Current Maryland high school seniors who will complete a college preparatory program may apply. Students interested in enrolling or are currently enrolled in a two-year technical program at a Maryland community college may also apply. A student who graduated from high school no more than one year ago and has never attended a post-secondary education institution may apply with an appeal for extenuating circumstances.

HOW TO APPLY

First, complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov. Second, complete and submit the Guaranteed Access (GA) Grant Application with all documents at <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>.

At MDCAPS, you will be required to create a user ID and password. You will then be sent an email with an activation link. Your account **MUST** be activated prior to logging into your account. You will then be able to apply online for programs, as well as check the status of your application, and update other information.

WHEN TO APPLY

File the FAFSA between **January 1** and **March 1**, each year.

ELIGIBLE MAJORS

All majors are eligible.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

You and your parents (if you are a dependent student) must be Maryland residents. You must enroll at a two-year or four-year Maryland college or university as a full-time (12+ credits per semester), degree-seeking undergraduate student, and you must demonstrate financial need. Audited courses cannot be used to reach the minimum credit hours required for full-time status. All applicants

must have a minimum unweighted cumulative 2.5 high school grade point average (GPA) and meet certain income requirements, which change yearly and are posted on MHEC's website at www.mhec.maryland.gov.

FINANCIAL NEED

The Guaranteed Access (GA) Grant is determined by a student's financial need. Your need for a GA Grant is determined using the following formula:

College Cost of Attendance

- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- ± Regional Cost of Living Adjustment
- Certain State scholarship awards (if awarded)
- Federal Pell Grant (if eligible)
- = Financial Need

AWARD AMOUNT

The amount¹ of a GA Grant can equal up to 100 percent of the student's financial need. The minimum annual award amount is **\$400** and the maximum award is **\$17,500**. You may receive the GA grant with other State awards, except the Howard P. Rawlings Educational Assistance Grant or the Part-Time Grant. The total dollar amount of all State awards may not exceed your cost of attendance as determined by your school's financial aid office or \$19,000, whichever is less. Funds may not be available to fully award all eligible students.

RENEWING AN AWARD

Your award will be automatically renewed if you maintain satisfactory academic progress at the Maryland postsecondary institution that you attend, continue to meet the income requirements and submit your FAFSA no later than March 1st each year. Eligible students who submit the FAFSA after March 1st may be considered if funds remain available. You may receive a GA Grant for a total of eight semesters of full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate study.

HOWARD P. RAWLINGS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANT

HOW TO APPLY

Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov by March 1 each year.

WHEN TO APPLY

File the FAFSA between **January 1** and **March 1**, each year.

ELIGIBLE MAJORS

All majors are eligible.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

You and your parents (if you are a dependent student) must be Maryland residents. You must enroll at a two-year or four-year Maryland college or university as a full-time (12+ credits per semester), degree-seeking undergraduate student. Audited courses cannot be used to reach the minimum credit hours required for full-time status. You must demonstrate financial need.

EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC)

All applicants are ranked by the Expected Family Contribution index number. Your EFC index is based on the information reported on the FAFSA. Students with the lowest EFC are awarded first.

FINANCIAL NEED

An Educational Assistance Grant (EA) is determined

is determined using the following formula.

College Cost of Attendance

- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- ± Regional Cost of Living Adjustment
- Certain State scholarship awards (if awarded)
- Federal Pell Grant (if eligible)
- = Financial Need

AWARD AMOUNT

The amount of an EA Grant can equal up to 40 percent of financial need for students attending a Maryland four-year college or university. Students enrolled at a Maryland community college may receive EA Grants equal up to 60 percent of need.

The minimum annual award amount is **\$400** and the maximum award is **\$3,000**. If you are offered and accept certain State scholarship awards, your EA Grant may be recalculated.

You may hold the EA Grant with all State awards except the Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access Grant or the Part-Time Grant. The total dollar amount of all State awards may not exceed your cost of attendance. Funds may not be available to award all eligible students.



¹ Awards are subject to change for the 2016-2017 academic year during the 2016 State legislative session for the Guaranteed Access Grant and the Educational Assistance Grant.