

FAQs for VaxU Scholarship Promotion

The VaxU Scholarship Promotion is a statewide drawing that offers vaccinated Marylanders aged 12-17 a chance to win one of twenty scholarship prizes. Winners will receive a scholarship in the form of a [Prepaid College Trust](#) or [College Investment Plan](#) from Maryland 529 that may be used to pay for tuition and fees and other qualified educational expenses at colleges or universities. Individuals aged 12-17 who are Maryland residents and have received the COVID-19 vaccine in Maryland are automatically entered into the promotion.

Q1. What is the VaxU Scholarship prize?

The VaxU Scholarship prize is a \$50,000 investment made by the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) into a Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust or Maryland 529 College Investment Plan, depending on the age of the winner. MHEC will invest the \$50,000 in a four-year Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust Account for winners who are between the ages of 12-14 at the time of the drawing. MHEC will invest \$50,000 in a Maryland 529 College Investment Plan for winners who are between the ages of 15-17 at the time of the drawing.

Q2. Who is eligible for the VaxU Scholarship?

Maryland residents aged 12-17 who are eligible for in-state tuition and received at least one vaccination in Maryland with a valid ImmuNet record, by 11:59 pm EST the day before each drawing.

Q3. How are winners selected?

Individuals are automatically entered into the drawing once, and, unless they win, will remain part of the VaxU Scholarship Promotion for each drawing. Between July 12, 2021 and August 30, 2021, two winners will be selected each Monday. On September 6, 2021, four winners will be selected. Individuals may only win once during the Promotion.

Q4. How will winners be notified?

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) will notify winners through the email address, phone number, or other contact information that was provided at the time they were vaccinated. If the individual's guardian provides consent to MDH, MDH will provide the minor's information to MHEC and MHEC will contact them to claim their award.

Q5. What if I don't want to participate in the Scholarship Promotion?

Individuals who are eligible for the VaxU Scholarship Promotion are automatically entered. See Q2 above. Winners who do not wish to accept the prize may decline when they are contacted by MDH.

Q6. If I had more than one COVID shot, can I win more than once?

No. Each eligible person is entered only once by receiving their first COVID-19 shot.

Q7. Will my personal information be protected?

Yes. On dates of drawing, MDH will determine the total number of entries for that drawing with each vaccinated individual anonymized by number. Each Monday during the VaxU Scholarship Promotion, MDH will conduct the drawings using a random number generator based on the total number of entries on that day. For each drawing from July 12, 2021 - August 30, 2021, the generator will select a total of six numbers, representing two winners and four alternates. For the final drawing on Monday, September 6, 2021, MDH will select a total of twelve (12) randomly generated numbers, four winners and eight alternates.

Q8. Can I remain anonymous if I win?

Yes. The winners of VaxU Scholarship Promotion can remain anonymous. However, the city or county of the winner will be published.

Q9. What if I was vaccinated at a Federal facility or out of state?

With the exception of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities located in Maryland, individuals who were vaccinated at Federal facilities in Maryland or out of state are not eligible. The Federal government will not provide the MDH with a list of Marylanders who were vaccinated at Federal facilities. MDH is also not able to obtain records of Marylanders who were vaccinated in other states.

Q10. Can the scholarship be used at an out-of-state institution?

The proceeds from either the Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust or Maryland 529 College Investment Plan can be used at nearly any federally accredited college or university in the country for undergraduate or graduate education, but may not cover all tuition and fee expenses. Details and conditions for the programs can be found [here](#). The VaxU Scholarship is not a promise or a guarantee that the Beneficiary will be admitted to any post-secondary institution.

Q11. How will 12 - 17 year-old individuals be enrolled in Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust or Maryland 529 College Investment Plan Account when they are chosen?

The parent or legal guardian named on the vaccination record of the VaxU Scholarship Promotion winner must be eligible to open a Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust or a Maryland 529 College Investment Plan Account. They are required within 30 days from the date their name is drawn to complete, execute, and return the Maryland 529 account enrollment form (for new accounts) or the prize will be forfeited. The enrollment form must name the VaxU Scholarship Promotion winner as the beneficiary and provide the beneficiary's age at the time of the drawing to determine which kind of account is opened (a Prepaid College Trust or a College Investment Plan). MHEC will then provide the prize as the initial contribution to the account.

Q12. Can the Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust or the Maryland 529 College Investment Plan be applied to other educational expenses?

Yes.

The Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust:

You can use the Maryland Prepaid College Trust at nearly any four-year college or university nationwide. At a Maryland public college, the Prepaid College Trust will pay the full in-state or in-county Tuition and mandatory fees. At a private or out-of-state college, Maryland Prepaid College Trust will pay either the Weighted Average Tuition or your Minimum Benefit, whichever is greater, and the enrollee must make up any difference.

If your Minimum Benefit is greater than Tuition, or if the Beneficiary receives a scholarship, grant, or tuition remission and has Unused Benefits under the Maryland Prepaid College Trust, you may use the excess benefit to pay for other Qualified Higher Education Expenses such as room and board or books. The Account Holder may also roll the remaining benefits to another 529 program, including the Maryland College Investment Plan, or request a reduced refund.

The Maryland 529 College Investment Plan:

You can use the funds to pay for a variety of qualified education expenses like tuition, room and board, books, course-specific fees, supplies, and eligible trade and technical school expenses.

Q13. Can I use the scholarship at a Maryland public two-year institution and then transfer to a four-year institution?

Yes. The individual can use the scholarship at a Maryland two-year public institution and use the scholarship for the remaining two years at a four-year institution.

For the Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust, the 4 Year University Plan account would need to be converted to another contract type. Prior to using any Benefits, a Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust account holder would complete the appropriate form and pay any required fees. As a result of the conversion, Maryland 529 will revalue the contract, and the enrollee may be required to make additional payments or may receive a refund for any resulting overpayment.

Please be advised that a conversion may have tax consequences.

Q14. What is the difference between the Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust and the Maryland 529 College Investment Plan?

The Maryland 529 Prepaid College Trust is a contract that locks in (pre-purchase) tuition amounts at current contract rates to cover tuition and fees at Maryland public two-year and four-year colleges and universities. Tuition and Mandatory Fee definitions can be found in the Maryland Prepaid College Trust Disclosure Statement at maryland529.com.

The Maryland 529 College Investment Plan provides a tax-deferred investment account, allowing the account holder to choose from a variety of investment options managed by T. Rowe Price. Any earnings are tax-free when used toward Qualified Education Expenses. As with any investment, however, an Maryland College Investment Plan account may lose value,

including principal. Savings in this type of 529 plan can be used for a variety of education expenses including tuition, student fees, room and board, course-specific fees, books, and other supplies.

Q15. What are the tax implications if I win?

The VaxU Scholarship is structured like other Maryland state-funded scholarships that are dedicated for use to cover certain higher education related expenses. Such scholarships are tax free under the [Internal Revenue Code](#), and this scholarship is designed similarly to maximize the funds that will go to paying for the winners' college education. Winners and their parents or legal guardians are encouraged to consult a tax advisor.