HOWARD P. RAWLINGS

PROGRAM OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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HOW TO APPLY

- Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by **March 1** online at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa.
- You must file the Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA) if eligible for in-state tuition on MDCAPS, but ineligible to receive federal aid.
- If you do not have an MDCAPS account, then create an account at any time. After the username and password have been created, the student will be sent an email explaining how to activate their account.
- Students **may not receive BOTH** the Educational Assistance (EA) grant and the Guaranteed Access (GA) grant but may receive either award with other State awards, such as the Legislative Scholarship. If you are offered and accept certain State scholarship awards, your EA or GA Grant may be recalculated.
- All undergraduate majors are eligible.

CREDIT COMPLETION REQUIREMENT

In order to receive the maximum award amount for your third year of receiving the award and thereafter, you must:

- Continue to meet the eligibility requirements for either the EA and GA grant;
- Successfully complete 30 credits at the end of your second academic year of receiving the award at a two-year or four-year Maryland college or university; and
- Enroll as a degree-seeking undergraduate student.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANT (EA)
up to $3,000 annually

EA ELIGIBLITY REQUIREMENTS

- Eligible for in-state tuition;
- Have demonstrated need;

- **Enroll for at least 12 credits per semester**; and
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress.

GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT (GA)
up to $19,100 annually

GA ELIGIBLITY REQUIREMENTS

High School Seniors:

- **You must file your FAFSA by March 1;**
- You must file the Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA) in your MDCAPS account if eligible for in-state tuition, but ineligible to receive federal aid;
- **You must demonstrate need and meet certain income requirements;**
- You and your parents (if you are a dependent student) must meet the in-state tuition requirements per your institution;
- You must enroll at a two-year or four-year Maryland college or university as a full-time (12+ credits per semester; audited courses cannot be used to reach the minimum credit hours required for full-time status), degree-seeking, undergraduate student; You must have an unweighted cumulative 2.5 high school grade point average (GPA);
- You must be under the age of 22 at the time of graduating high school; and
- **You must submit all required verification documents no later than April 1.**

General Educational Development Diploma (GED) Recipients:

- **You must file your FAFSA by March 1;**
- You must file the Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA) in your MDCAPS account if eligible for in-state tuition, but ineligible to receive federal aid;
- **You must demonstrate need and meet certain income requirements;**
- You and your parents (if you are a dependent student) must meet in-state requirements per your institution;
- You must enroll at a two-year or four-year Maryland college or university as a full-time (12+ credits per semester; audited courses cannot be used to reach the minimum credit hours required for full-time status), degree-seeking, under-graduate student;
- **You must have scored a minimum of 165 per module on the diploma (GED) examination;**
- You must be under the age of 26 years at the time of receiving the first award; and
- **You must submit all required verification documents no later than April 1.**

Guaranteed Access Partnership Program (GAPP)

The Guaranteed Access Partnership Program (GAPP) provides a matching grant award to eligible Maryland students who receive a GA Grant and enroll at a participating Maryland independent college or university as a new undergraduate student.

For more information about the GAPP program, please contact your institution's financial aid office so that they may assist you in completing the process.