

Eligibility Requirements:

- Students who are enrolled or plan to enroll at an eligible institution in an undergraduate or graduate program;
- Students seeking to change careers to pursue a course of study or program in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;
- Students must agree to work as public school or public prekindergarten teachers in the State upon completion of their studies at elementary and secondary schools that have at least 50% of the students in the school eligible for free or reduced-price meals (FRPM);
- Be a Maryland resident or have graduated from a Maryland high school;
- Enroll full-time or part-time at an eligible institution pursuing a course of study or program leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;
- Be currently enrolled in high school and have an overall unweighted GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent after completion of the first semester of the senior year;
- Be currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at an eligible institution and have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale and have made satisfactory progress toward a degree in an academic discipline leading to a Maryland professional teacher's certificate;
- Achieved a score of 500 on the reading and math portions of the SAT, with a combined score of at least 1100;
- Achieved a composite ACT score of 25; or
- Achieved a score of 50% on the GRE and have demonstrated an exceptional dedication to or aptitude for teaching.

Note: An individual who has been employed as a teaching assistant, at a public school or public prekindergarten program in Maryland for at least 2 years, may apply and is eligible to hold the scholarship as a full-time or part-time undergraduate or graduate student.

Individuals may not falsify or conceal a material fact in connection with their application. If so, the applicant may be subject to criminal prosecution;

Failure to meet any of these eligibility requirements, will result in the cancellation of the award.

As a condition of receiving a Maryland State scholarship or grant, recipients pledge to remain drug free for the full term of the award. Unlawful use of drugs and alcohol may endanger the recipient's enrollment in a Maryland college, as well as their Maryland financial aid award.

NOTE: If the recipient fails to remain eligible for the award, the recipient must still fulfill the obligation of the promissory note.

The Office of Student Financial Assistance must be notified in writing of any address and/or telephone number changes.

Award Amount: The annual award amount will be prescribed by MHEC and may be used for education expenses defined by MHEC to pay for tuition and mandatory fees as well as room and board.

- o At a Maryland public senior higher education institution, the scholarship award is equivalent to 100% of the annual tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate.
- o At a Maryland private nonprofit institution, the scholarship award is equal to the lesser of:
 - 100% of the annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the University of Maryland College Park (UMPC) and 100% of the room and board of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the institution; or
 - 50% of the annual tuition and mandatory fees of a resident undergraduate or graduate student, as appropriate, at the institution and 100% of the room and board of a resident undergraduate student or graduate student, as appropriate, at the institution.

Note: A private nonprofit institution must provide a matching scholarship award in an amount equal to the State award provided for tuition & fees only. Private nonprofit institutions are not required to match State funds awarded for room and board.

The award will be cancelled if the recipient fails to meet and maintain each eligibility requirement. A recipient who is academically ineligible will forfeit the award, and must reapply as an initial applicant in a subsequent award year and meet and maintain each eligibility requirement. A student transferring from one institution to another may continue to receive the award as long as the student meets all of the scholarship eligibility requirements.

Note: Awards are subject to the availability of funds.

Payment to Your Institution:

At the beginning of each semester, the recipient's institution will be asked to certify that the student meets the requirements of the award. When the institution completes the certification and returns it to OSFA, the award will be processed for payment. Payment to the institution will be made approximately four weeks after the institution completes the certification. The student must contact their institution's financial aid office for questions about the payment status of their award.

Service Obligation:

- o The recipient of the Teaching Fellows Scholarship is required to begin employment within the State of MD one year after degree completion and is required to verify their employment history on an annual basis until they have successfully fulfilled their service obligation.
- o On an annual basis, the recipient will report their employment history to MHEC by submitting an Annual Service Questionnaire provided to the student by the Office of Student Financial Assistance.
- o After the recipient completes and submits the Annual Service Questionnaire, the Office of Student Financial Assistance is required to verify the recipient's employment history with their respective employer(s). It is the responsibility of the employing or contracting agency to certify annually that the recipient is performing the service requirement in the manner prescribed.
- o Recipients must sign and return a promissory note agreeing to begin fulfillment of the service obligation to teach at a public school or public prekindergarten program that has at least 50% of its students eligible for FRPM for the periods specified below:

- For a recipient who receives a scholarship as an undergraduate student, the service obligation is 1 year for each year that the recipient receives a scholarship. If the student only completed one semester during the academic year, the student will be responsible for 1 year of service.
 - For a student who receives a scholarship as a graduate student, the service obligation is 2 years for each year that the recipient receives a scholarship. If the student only completed one semester during the academic year, the student will be responsible for 2 years of service.
 - The student must become professionally certified to teach in the State of Maryland within 2 years after completing their degree program.
- o The service obligation begins after completion of the recipient's degree program, and cannot be fulfilled prior to completion. If the recipient does not complete their degree, the recipient will be obligated to repay the scholarship with interest.
 - o If the recipient holds this scholarship with any other award requiring a service obligation, the recipient must perform their service in consecutive years.

Note: Students are responsible for verifying their institution has at least 50% of its students eligible for FRPM for the period specified.