

1. How do I apply and what is the application deadline date?

Applications open from March 15, 2025 through April 1, 2026 for the 2025-2026 academic year. Students may apply on the MHEC One-App through the Maryland College Aid Processing System(MDCAPS). All applications and supporting documents must be submitted by April 1, 2026 for the 2025-2026 academic year.

2. How are awards determined?

Eligible renewal students will be given priority over initial applicants. Eligible VAIC initials will be ranked and awarded according to the submission date of their completed online application form and supporting documentation. **All awards are subject to the availability of funding.**

3. How do I submit my documents to the Maryland Higher Education Commission?

All required documents are submitted to MHEC by [SECURE UPLOAD](#) online through your MDCAPS account. Once logged in, select “**Electronic File Upload**” from the homepage then follow the prompts.

4. Do I have to file for financial aid?

No, the FAFSA or Maryland State Aid application through the MHEC One-App is not required to determine eligibility. If the FAFSA or MHEC One-App is completed by the applicant, it must be submitted by the March 1st deadline or students will become ineligible for the scholarship.

5. How do I find out the status of my application?

To find out the status of your application, log into MDCAPS and select Check Your Application Status for more details.

6. What is the awarding process?

If a student is awarded, they will receive an award notification via email. You must login to the MDCAPS system to accept your award by the established time frame to prevent cancellations.

7. How will the scholarship funds be paid to my institution?

At the beginning of each semester, your institution will need to certify your enrollment. After the institution completes certification, they will need to request for payment. Payment to the institution will be made approximately six (6) to eight (8) weeks after this process has been completed. Contact your institution’s financial aid office if you have questions about the payment status of your award.

8. Can my award be adjusted or canceled?

Yes, an award can be adjusted or canceled. If the total amount of financial assistance that you receive, including State financial aid and Veterans Educational Benefits exceed your cost of attendance at your institution, then your award may be adjusted or canceled. Contact your institution’s financial aid office if you have additional questions.

9. Do I need to apply each year, if so will I need to submit documents each time?

No, renewal students are not required to re-apply. Renewal students are not required to re-submit documentation. Awards may be renewed for up to four years at full-time enrollment (12+ credits per semester) or eight years of part-time enrollment (6-11 credits per semester).

For more information email osfamail.mhec@maryland.gov.