

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

MEETING BOOKLET

Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Thursday, September 29, 2022

Place: Video Teleconference
(Google Meet)

Maryland Higher Education Commission

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D., Chair

Charles McDaniels, Jr., Vice Chair

Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.

Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.

Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.

James E. Coleman

Judge Barbara Kerr Howe

Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

James B. Sellinger, Sr.

Ray Serrano, Ph.D.

Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.

Sade Davis, Student Commissioner

James D. Fielder, Ph.D.
Secretary

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph.D.
Secretary

**Maryland Higher Education Commission
Meeting Agenda**

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday
September 29, 2022

PLACE: Google Meet joining info.
Video call link:
<https://meet.google.com/tww-cgei-jsk>
Or dial: (US) +1 601-526-1316
PIN: 860 701 199#

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Call to Order		

Chair’s and Secretary’s Remarks

Public Comments

Commission Minutes Approval.....	1	*
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- August 24, 2022

Commissioner Committee Updates

Department of Finance and Administration – Mr. Geoffrey Newman

- Operation and Capital Budget Presentations
 - 10:15 am – University System of Maryland – Ms. Ellen Herbst, Senior Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, and Dr. Joann Boughman, Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs
 - 10:45 am – St. Mary’s College of Maryland – Dr. Katherine Gantz, Interim Provost and Dean of Faculty
 - 11:05 am – Morgan State University – Dr. David Wilson, President
 - 11:25 am – Maryland Independent College and University Association – Ms. Sara Fidler, President
 - 11:45 am – Maryland Association of Community Colleges – Dr. Brad Phillips, Executive Director
 - 12:05 pm – Baltimore City Community College – Dr. Debra L. McCurdy, President
 - 12:25 pm – Regional Higher Education Centers – Mr. Geoffrey Newman, Assistant Secretary of Finance and Administration, MHEC

Break (12:45-1:15)

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Department of Finance and Administration – Mr. Geoffrey Newman		
Office of Student Financial Assistance – Mr. Al Dorsett		
• Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.01.02 – 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program.....	8	*
• Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.13.03 – Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.....	10	*
• Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.14 – Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program.....	12	*
• Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.20 – Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program.....	15	*
• Approval of Proposed New Regulations for COMAR – Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program.....	20	*

Adjournment

The next Commission meeting is on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Maryland Higher Education Commission
Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2022
1:00 p.m.

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) met on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 via video teleconference (Google Meet).

Commission members present:

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D., Chair	James B. Sellinger, Sr.
Charles McDaniels, Jr., Vice Chair	Ray Serrano, Ph.D.
Vivian S. Boyd, Ph.D.	Craig A. Williams, Ph.D.
James E. Coleman	Sade Davis, Student Commissioner

Commission members absent:

Senchal D. Barrolle, Esq.	Judge Barbara Kerr Howe
Lewis R. Brown, Ed.D.	Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.

Staff members present:

James D. Fielder, Ph.D.	Emily Dow, Ph.D.
Rhonda Wardlaw	Lee Towers
Soma Kedia	Trish Gordon McCown
Shayla Hunter	Geoffrey Newman
Jacqueline Cade	Bryson Barksdale
Glenda Abney	Jennifer Katz
Yuxin Lin, Ph.D.	Tatyana Tate
Aubrey Bascombe	Alexia Van Orden

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by **Chair Seurkamp** at approximately 1:04 p.m. A meeting quorum was established with eight (8) out of twelve (12) members present.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Seurkamp welcomed and thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. She gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda and reminded Commissioners that the next Commission meeting will start at an earlier time (10:00 a.m.) and include annual budget presentations from the higher education segments.

Secretary's Remarks

Secretary Fielder reported that MHEC is currently working on a response to the NCHEMS (National Center for Higher Education Management Systems) report released recently. (The report was one of the requirements that resulted from the HBCU coalition settlement.) MHEC also recently hired Mr. Al Dorsett who will be the Director of the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Commission Minutes Approval

Commissioner Boyd motioned to approve the July 27, 2022 meeting minutes. **Commissioner Coleman** seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Committee Updates

Education Policy Committee: Commissioner Boyd did not have any updates to share.

Outreach, Grants, and Financial Assistance Committee: Commissioner Coleman did not have any updates to share.

Finance and Operations Committee: Mr. Geoffrey Newman (Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration) reported that the agency is currently closing out the previous fiscal year and preparing the budget for FY 2024. Additionally, MHEC continues to fill vacancies in the agency.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee: Vice Chair McDaniels reported that the Committee did not meet in August, but will meet in September. They look forward to inviting DEI staff from some of the institutions to their meetings later this year to learn about their work.

Department of Finance and Administration – Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.07.02.03 – Community Colleges Student Residency Policy – Action Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Mr. Newman who presented this item. On July 27, 2022, the Commission approved for publication in the Maryland Register a proposed regulatory amendment to the computation of State aid to community colleges based on newly enacted § 15-106.11 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, which exempts returned Peace Corps volunteers who are domiciled in the State from paying nonresident tuition at a public institution of higher education in the State and establishes that returned Peace Corps volunteer students shall be included as in-State residents for the computation of State aid to community colleges.

Prior to publication in the Maryland Register, the proposed amendment has been revised to contain language establishing that the returned Peace Corps volunteers must be domiciled in the

State in order to be exempted from paying nonresident tuition at a public institution of higher education in the State and to be included as in-State residents for the computation of State aid to community colleges. These amendments have been approved for legality by MHEC's Assistant Attorneys General as required by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act.

Upon approval, proposed regulations and regulatory amendments are submitted to the legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), after which they are submitted to the Division of State Documents (DSD) for publication in the Maryland Register. After a public comment period, they may be brought back before the Commission for final adoption.

Mr. Newman recommended that the Commission: (1) approves for publication in the Maryland Register the proposed regulatory amendment to the computation of State aid to community colleges; and (2) authorizes its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulation to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD. **Commissioner Serrano** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Coleman** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Department of Academic Affairs – Approval of Proposed COMAR Amendments – Maryland Instructor Certification Review Board Regulations – Action Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Dr. Emily Dow, Assistant Secretary for Academic Affairs, who asked Ms. Alexia Van Orden, Staff Liaison to the Maryland Fire-Rescue Education Training Commission, to present this item. The proposed amendments revise the regulations of the Maryland Instructor Certification Review Board (MICRB) to change certain emergency services instructor certification standards.

MICRB is responsible for establishing a process for certifying emergency services instructors in accordance with standards established by the Maryland Higher Education Commission through the Maryland Fire-Rescue Education Training Commission. Certification granted by the Maryland Instructor Certification Review Board provides emergency services personnel throughout the state with competent instructors qualified to provide instruction and training in one or more emergency services disciplines.

Ms. Van Orden recommended that the Maryland Higher Education Commission approves for publication the proposed amendments to the Maryland Instructor Certification Review Board regulations, and authorize MHEC's attorneys to approve non-substantive revisions as necessary to conform the proposed regulations to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and of the Division of State Documents. **Commissioner Boyd** made a motion for approval, and **Commissioner Serrano** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Department of Academic Affairs – Report on Institutions of Higher Education Program Review: Secretary Actions for Quarter 4 (October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021) – Information Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Ms. Trish Gordon McCown, Director of Academic Affairs, who provided an overview of the Secretary’s actions concerning one program objection, new degree programs, new certificate programs, new areas of concentration, substantial modifications, non-substantial modifications, withdrawn proposals, one institutional program partnership/engagement, one online registration institution, and Academic Common Market certifications.

Department of Academic Affairs – Report on Private Career Schools: Secretary Actions for Quarter 4 (October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021) – Information Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Ms. McCown who provided an overview of the Secretary’s actions concerning the approval of a new school, a new program, the approval of changes of location, other business approval, certificate renewals, one school approval withdrawn, Workforce Development Sequence Scholarships, and Training Provider Questionnaires.

Department of Academic Affairs – Report on VA Education Benefits: MD SAA Actions for Quarter 4 (October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021) – Information Item

Chair Seurkamp recognized Ms. McCown who provided an overview of the Secretary’s actions concerning program approval actions, other approval actions, facility visits, technical assistance, and liaison activities.

Review Meeting – Proposals of Frostburg State University for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing – Pre-licensure and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing – LPN to BSN

Chair Seurkamp welcomed guests from Frostburg State University (FSU) and Allegany College of Maryland (ACM). This review meeting concerns proposals by FSU for a new Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing – Pre-licensure program and a new Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing – LPN to BSN program, both of which were approved by the Secretary. ACM who objected to these two programs requested a review of the Secretary’s decisions by the Commission. Both ACM and the Secretary will each have 30 minutes to present their arguments, including time for answering questions and rebuttal, and FSU will have 10 minutes.

Secretary Fielder requested that his decision to approve the two proposed programs be affirmed by the Commission. He presented four (4) primary reasons for his decision, which are supported by COMAR 13B.02.03.09:

1. The degree level offered at ACM is different from the degree level offered at FSU. Although both degrees prepare students for the RN examination, the existing nursing degree at ACM is a 70-credit associate’s degree; the proposed degrees at FSU are 121-credit bachelor’s degrees.
2. Market demand for registered nurses greatly exceeds supply. The State has a substantial nursing shortage and a critical need for registered nurses.
3. The academic content of FSU’s proposed program differs from ACM’s. As a bachelor’s degree, FSU’s proposed programs include many courses that are not included in the ASN.

4. The two institutions have unique and distinct missions. Each has a differing role in public higher education in the State and each attracts a different student population.

Chair Seurkamp recognized President Cynthia Bambara of Allegany College of Maryland who thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present their request. She introduced Dr. Kurt Hoffman, ACM's Senior Vice President of Instructional and Student Affairs, who shared a PowerPoint presentation to outline their concerns. He noted that the Secretary compared an ASN to a BSN, but failed to consider the fact that the proposed FSU program is duplicative of the existing Collaborative Program between ACM and FSU (formalized by an MOU signed in 2016).

The proposed program and the Collaborative Program both involve the same content, competencies, objectives, the same degree, and the same CIP and HEGIS codes. Although market demand does outstrip supply, this cannot be the sole criteria, nor should it override the transition of enrollment from one institution to another and the saturation of experiential learning placement sites.

ACM concedes to Secretary Fielder's rationale in his July 28, 2022 decision to approve the new Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing – LPN to BSN program, as it is online, part-time, largely involves out-of-the-area students, and is not supported by an executed memorandum of understanding (MOU).

In conclusion, ACM contends that FSU's program is duplicative and will result in demonstrable harm. It is duplicative of the Collaborative Program and would functionally end it. The proposed program creates competition for students, faculty and clinical sites. It impacts their enrollment and affects the institution's financial stability. Moreover, the two institutions are only 12 miles apart. In the 2016 MOU for the Collaborative Program, FSU President Ronald Nowaczyk agreed to limit the enrollment to students outside of ACM's service area. He and the previous president of FSU were aware of the impact this would have on ACM. Dr. Hoffman requested the Commission to reverse the Secretary's recommendation to approve Frostburg State University's pre-licensure BSN proposal.

Some clarifying questions were asked by several Commissioners about the programs.

Chair Seurkamp recognized Frostburg State University President Ronald Nowaczyk who asked the Commission to support Secretary Fielder's decisions concerning their two proposed programs. Their programs lead to a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree, not an Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) degree, which is what ACM offers. Western Maryland is the only part of the state that does not offer a 4-year, on-campus, residential BSN program.

Provost Traki Taylor continued FSU's presentation, emphasizing the fact that their programs offer a "seamless pathway" to a BSN degree. Students can enjoy a traditional, 4-year, residential experience at Frostburg. The current Collaborative Program requires students to take their general education requirements at FSU, complete their ASN at ACM, and then finish the program at FSU. Thus, students are dually enrolled and must travel back and forth between both

campuses. As there is no public transportation in that part of the state, this can be problematic for some students.

Commissioner Coleman asked what percentage of their students come from other parts of the state. Dr. Nowaczyk replied that 10% are from out of the state, 30% are from western Maryland, and 60% are from other parts of the state. **Commissioner Coleman** further asked how many are transfers from the community college. Dr. Nowaczyk answered that about one-third of them are transfers. **Commissioner Serrano** asked about the residential requirement. Dr. Nowaczyk responded that students must live on campus for 2 years, or 4 semesters. **Commissioner Boyd** asked about any challenges in hiring faculty. Dr. Nowaczyk answered that both schools may share part-time faculty. Dr. Taylor added that they did not generally have problems hiring faculty. The Chair of the Nursing Department, Dr. Kara Platt, shared that when they hired two new faculty members recently, there was a good pool of applicants from which to choose. There were other clarifying questions asked.

Dr. Hoffman with ACM presented their rebuttal. He emphasized their argument that FSU's 4-year program duplicates the Collaborative Program (between ACM and FSU). Allegany also has campus life; there is residential housing on the campus. He would also like to see some hard data regarding the hardships (particularly related to transportation) experienced by students. As to retention rates, it is about 50% for FSU students and 70% for ACM students. In-state tuition at ACM for 2 years is \$12,500, whereas it is \$25,000 for out-of-state students. Dr. Bambara added that for 30 credits, for in-county students, it is \$6,974 at FSU, and \$3,870 at ACM. Dr. Hoffman urged MHEC to follow up later on the impact of FSU's program to ACM's program, as about 40% of their degree-seeking students study Nursing.

Secretary Fielder offered his rebuttal. He asked what ACM's present enrollment was. Dr. Hoffman responded that it was currently 200. **Secretary Fielder** also asked for clarification regarding ACM's statement on FSU's proposed new Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree – LPN to BSN program. Is ACM withdrawing its objection? Dr. Bambara replied that ACM no longer contests the Secretary's approval of this program; ACM understands the Secretary's rationale, as stated in the July 28, 2022 letter. **Secretary Fielder** remarked that it appeared the Collaborative Program was not active at the time that they were considering FSU's proposed program. Dr. Hoffman confirmed that the program is active and that 26% of their students are in it. He also noted that the group who oversees the Collaborative Program still meets. Dr. Platt with FSU reported that, in her experience, fewer students were choosing the Collaborative Program, as they wanted to eliminate the step of enrolling in both institutions.

Commissioner Serrano inquired about the communication between ACM and FSU when the latter's 4-year program was created. Dr. Nowaczyk with FSU informed the Commissioners that ACM's representative serves on FSU's external advisory committee who would have discussed the proposed program.

Adjournment

Chair Seurkamp made a motion to move into a closed session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice regarding the review of the Secretary's decision to approve Frostburg State

University's proposed program. **Commissioner Sellinger** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:32 p.m.



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Al Dorsett, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.01.02 –
2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program

On June 22, 2022, the Commission approved proposed amendments to the regulations for the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance to encourage community college graduates to transfer to four-year institutions of higher education and complete a bachelor's degree program. The purpose of the amendments is to remove the use of the federally calculated expected family contribution (EFC) as a measure of financial need for this scholarship, pursuant to Ch. 23, 2022 Acts of Maryland (HB734), in anticipation of the U.S. Department of Education phasing out the use of the EFC in favor of the student aid index (SAI).

The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on July 29, 2022. The public comment period for the amendments ended on August 29, 2022, and no public comments were received. The regulatory amendments became eligible for final adoption on September 13, 2022.

The enclosed proposed amendments to the regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the enclosed amendments to the regulations for the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program.

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

13B.08.01 2 + 2 Transfer Scholarship Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), and 18-2501—
18-2507, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[22-126-P]

The Maryland Higher Education Commission proposes to amend Regulation .02 under **COMAR 13B.08.01 2 + 2 Transfer Scholarship Program**. This action was considered at an open meeting of the Commission held on June 22, 2022.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to remove the use of the federally calculated expected family contribution (EFC) as a measure of financial need for this scholarship, pursuant to The Maryland Student Investment Act (Ch. 23, Acts of 2022), in anticipation of the U.S. Department of Education phasing out the use of the EFC in favor of the student aid index (SAI).

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Geoff Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, Maryland Higher Education Commission, 6 N. Liberty Street, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-767-3085, or email to geoff.newman@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through August 29, 2022. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.02 Eligibility.

To be eligible for assistance under the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Program, an applicant shall:

A.—I. (text unchanged)

J. Have demonstrated financial need[, defined as a federally calculated expected family contribution (EFC) of \$10,000 or less as reported on the student’s FAFSA].

JAMES D. FIELDER, JR., Ph.D.
Secretary of Higher Education



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Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Al Dorsett, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.13.03 –
Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B.
Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program

On June 22, 2022, the Commission approved proposed amendments to the regulations for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance to certain veterans, first responders, local public safety employees and their families and to the families of school employees who died or were disabled as a result of an act of violence, respectively. The purpose of the amendments is to expand eligibility for the program to students who attend private career schools, pursuant to Ch. 23, 2022 Acts of Maryland (HB734).

The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on August 12, 2022. The public comment period for the amendments ended on September 12, 2022, and no public comments were received. The regulatory amendments became eligible for final adoption on September 27, 2022.

The enclosed proposed amendments to the regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the enclosed amendments to the regulations for the Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program.

Title 13B

MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

13B.08.13 Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), and 18-601, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[22-135-P]

The Maryland Higher Education Commission proposes to amend Regulation .03 under COMAR 13B.08.13 Edward T. and Mary A. Conroy Memorial Scholarship Program and Jean B. Cryor Memorial Scholarship Program. This action was considered at an open meeting of the Commission held on June 22, 2022.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to expand eligibility for the program to include students at private career schools, pursuant to The Maryland Student Investment Act (Ch. 23, Acts of 2022).

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Geoff Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, Maryland Higher Education Commission, 6 N. Liberty Street, 10th Floor, Baltimore, MD 20201, or call 410-767-3085, or email to geoff.newman@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through September 12, 2022. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.03 Eligibility.

To be eligible for a Conroy-Cryor scholarship, an individual shall:

A. (text unchanged)

B. Be accepted for admission or enrolled in [the]:

(1) *The regular undergraduate, graduate, or professional program at a Maryland postsecondary institution[, or in a];*

(2) *A 2-year terminal certificate program in which the course work is acceptable for transfer credit for an accredited baccalaureate program in an eligible institution; or*

(3) *A private career school; and*

C. (text unchanged)

JAMES D. FIELDER, JR., Ph.D.
Secretary of Higher Education



Larry Hogan
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Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Al Dorsett, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Final Adoption of Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.14 –
Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program

On June 22, 2022, the Commission approved proposed amendments to the regulations for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program, which provides financial assistance to students in certain majors who agree to use their degree to obtain employment in fields of critical shortage in the State after graduation. The purpose of the amendments is to provide a specific process for students who obtained their GED, but have not yet enrolled in a college or university, to apply for the scholarship, and to adjust related procedures for administering the scholarship.

The proposed amendments were published in the Maryland Register on August 12, 2022. The public comment period for the amendments ended on September 12, 2022, and no public comments were received. The regulatory amendments became eligible for final adoption on September 27, 2022.

The enclosed proposed amendments to the regulations are ready for the Commission's final adoption. The amendments will become effective 10 days after notice of the final adoption is published in the Maryland Register.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission approves for final adoption the enclosed amendments to the regulations for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program.

Subtitle 08 FINANCIAL AID

13B.08.14 Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204 (c), and 18-708, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[22-136-P]

The Maryland Higher Education Commission proposes to amend Regulations .02, .06, and .07 under **COMAR 13B.08.14 Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program**. This action was considered at an open meeting of the Commission held on June 22, 2022.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to update the application and selection processes for this grant to provide for applicants who have obtained their GED, but have not yet enrolled in a college or university. Currently, students are required to submit a high school or college transcript and applicants are selected primarily based on GPA; financial need is a secondary factor or, for students who do not submit the FAFSA, not taken into account at all. The proposed amendments make two primary changes. First, they provide for the submission of GED examination scores in lieu of a transcript. Second, because students in this category are unable to submit a transcript, and, therefore, cannot be ranked for selection based on GPA, a FAFSA filing requirement has been added and all students who meet a minimum GPA or GED examination threshold are selected based on greatest financial need.

Additionally, the proposed amendments make some minor changes in language and organization to enhance clarity.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Geoff Newman, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, Maryland Higher Education Commission, 6 N. Liberty Street, 6th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-767-3085, or email to geoff.newman@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through September 12, 2022. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

.02 Eligibility.

A. A recipient of assistance under this program shall:

(1) (text unchanged)

(2) *Have achieved:*

(a) *If the applicant has completed 12 or more college credits, a cumulative college GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; or*

(b) *If the applicant has completed less than 12 college credits:*

(i) *A cumulative, unweighted high school GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; or*

(ii) *A GED with a passing score of at least 165 per module.*

[(2)] (3)—[(3)] (4) (text unchanged)

[(4)] (5) Sign a letter of intent to enroll in at least 6 credits per semester at [a 2-year or 4-year Maryland college or university] *an institution of higher education in Maryland as a:] degree-seeking undergraduate or graduate student.*

[(a)] Full-time (12 or more credits per semester) degree-seeking undergraduate student;

[(b)] Part-time (6—11 credits per semester) degree-seeking undergraduate student;

[(c)] Full-time (9 or more credits per semester) degree-seeking graduate student; or

[(d)] Part-time (6—8 credits per semester) degree seeking graduate student.]

B. Audited courses may not be used to reach the minimum credit hours for full-time or part-time status under [§A(4)] §A(5) of this regulation.

[C. A student shall satisfy the criteria in §A(4) of this regulation if the student is:

(1) An undergraduate student enrolled for less than part-time credits during a semester if the student earns at least 12 undergraduate in each academic year in which the student receives assistance, including summer sessions; or

(2) A graduate student enrolled for less than part-time credits during a semester if the student earns at least 9 graduate credit hours in each academic year in which the student receives assistance, including summer sessions.]

.06 Application Procedures.

A. To be considered for the Workforce Shortage Student Assistance Grant Program, an applicant shall [submit], *no later than July 1:*

(1) *Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);*

[(1)] (2) [A] *Submit a completed application;*

[(2)] (3) [An] *If the applicant has completed 12 or more college credits, submit an official transcript from [each] the current or more recent institution of postsecondary education the applicant is attending or has attended;*

[(3)] (4) *If the applicant has earned less than 12 college level credits, submit:*

(a) [an] *An official high school transcript; or*

(b) *A copy of their GED examination;*

[(4)] (5) *If applying as a nursing major, submit proof of acceptance into a nursing program at the institution; and*

[5)] (6) [Any] *Submit any additional documentation that may be required by the Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) based on the applicant's major.*

[B. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is not required, but applicants are strongly encouraged to complete the FAFSA.

C. An applicant shall complete and submit all required documents by July 1.]

[D.] B. (text unchanged)

.07 Selection of Recipients.

A. [Grant awards shall be issued using both merit- and need-based criteria] *Priority for awards shall be given to prior year recipients who remain eligible for the award under Regulation .10 of this chapter.*

B. [Applicants] *Initial applicants* shall be [ranked by grade point average (GPA) and then ranked by need within each occupational field. Students with the] *selected for awards based on greatest financial need* [within each GPA range shall receive awards first], *as demonstrated on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).*

[C. The following GPA ranges shall be used:

- (1) GPA 3.8 to GPA 4.0;
- (2) GPA 3.6 to GPA 3.79;
- (3) GPA 3.4 to GPA 3.59;
- (4) GPA 3.0 to GPA 3.39; and
- (5) GPA 2.9 and below.

D. Merit Ranking.

(1) Transcripts shall be required to determine a student's merit ranking.

(2) A minimum GPA will not be required to determine a student's eligibility because the appropriate GPA level could vary by major.

(3) The GPA ranking of students shall be based on each student's cumulative, unweighted GPA on a standardized 4.0 scale.

(4) High school transcripts shall be used to calculate the GPA for entering freshman and students that have completed less than 12 college credits. Undergraduate level college transcripts shall be used for students who have completed more than 12 college credits as an undergraduate student and less than 12 college credits as a graduate student. Graduate level transcripts shall be used for students who have completed more than 12 graduate level credits.

E. Need Ranking.

(1) In determining the award order, students within each GPA range with the greatest need shall be given the highest priority.

(2) A student's need ranking shall be based on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

(3) Except for the William Donald Schaefer Scholarship, it is not mandatory that students complete a FAFSA to be eligible to receive an award.

If a student chooses not to file a FAFSA, it will be assumed that the student has no need and will be placed at the bottom of each GPA range to be considered for an award.]

JAMES D. FIELDER, JR., Ph.D.
Secretary of Higher Education



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Al Dorsett, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed Amendments to COMAR 13B.08.20 –
Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program

Under § 18-3501 et seq., of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program supports students who are pursuing an education in programs that are directly relevant to cybersecurity. The awarding of the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program is governed by COMAR 13B.08.20.

In 2021, the State amended the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program to allow part-time students to be eligible for support from the Program, in addition to changes regarding eligible employers for the mandatory service obligation.

Enclosed for your review and approval are proposed regulatory amendments that reflect the changes to the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program to allow for part-time students, as described above, along with amendments designed to streamline the renewal process and to limit the bases for deferment of the service obligation. The amendments also include stylistic and basic formatting changes. These amendments have been approved for legality by MHEC's Assistant Attorneys General as required by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act. They are now enclosed for your review and approval.

Upon your approval, proposed regulations and regulatory amendments are submitted to the legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), after which they are submitted to the Division of State Documents (DSD) for publication in the Maryland Register. After a public comment period, they may be brought back before the Commission for final adoption.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission:

(1) Approves for publication in the Maryland Register the enclosed proposed regulatory amendments to the Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program; and

(2) Authorizes its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD.

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

SUBTITLE 08 FINANCIAL AID

Chapter 20 Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), 18-3503, and 18-3506, Annotated Code of Maryland

.02 Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

(1) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.

(2) “Cybersecurity program” means a credit-bearing degree or certificate program that:

(a) Is approved by the Commission under Education Article, §11-206, Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(b) Has been identified by the Secretary as directly relevant to cybersecurity and published on the Commission website.

(3) “Director” means the Executive Director of the Office.

(4) “Education expenses” mean:

(a) Tuition ~~and mandatory fees~~;

~~(b) Mandatory fees~~; and

~~(c) Costs of room and board.~~

(5) “Eligible institution” means: ~~a public or private nonprofit institution of higher education that operates in the State under Education Article, §§11-201 and 11-201.1, Annotated Code of Maryland.~~

~~(a) A community college in the State;~~

~~(b) A public senior higher education institution in the State; or~~

~~(c) A private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State that:~~

~~(i) Is approved to operate by the Commission under Education Article, §11-202, Annotated Code of Maryland; or~~

~~(ii) May operate without a Certificate of Approval from the Commission under §11-202.1(a), Annotated Code of Maryland.~~

(6) “Extenuating circumstances” mean a documented disability, including pregnancy, or a documented extended illness, that prevents a recipient from fulfilling a scholarship requirement.

(7) “Full-time” means enrollment at an eligible institution in:

(a) At least 12 credits per semester in a certificate or undergraduate degree program at the time of certification of the Scholarship; or

(b) At least 9 credits per semester in a graduate certificate, graduate degree, or doctoral degree program at the time of certification of the Scholarship.

~~(8) “Local Educational Agency” has the meaning stated in 20 U.S.C. §1401(19).~~

~~(89) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Maryland Higher Education Commission.~~

~~(10) “Part-time” means enrollment at an eligible institution in:~~

~~(a) At least 6 credits, but fewer than 12 credits, per semester in an undergraduate certificate or degree program at the time of certification of the Scholarship; or~~

~~(b) At least 6 credits, but fewer than 9 credits, per semester in a graduate certificate or degree program at the time of certification of the Scholarship.~~

~~(911) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Higher Education.~~

~~(4012) “Scholarship” means a Cybersecurity Public Service Scholarship under this chapter.~~

.03 Student Eligibility.

A. Subject to the State budget, the Office annually shall determine a student’s eligibility to receive a scholarship.

B. An applicant is eligible for a scholarship if the applicant:

(1) Is enrolled full-time or part-time at an eligible institution in a cybersecurity program;

(2) Is:

(a) If enrolled full-time, within 23 years of graduation from the cybersecurity program; or

(b) If enrolled part-time, within 6 years of graduation from the cybersecurity program;

(3) Has maintained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;

(4) Has not received a federal CyberCorps Scholarship for Service, regardless of whether the applicant has applied for a federal CyberCorps Scholarship for Service;

(5) Either:

(a) Attends a public eligible institution, and has been determined eligible for in-State tuition by the institution; or

(b) Attends a private nonprofit eligible institution, and would qualify for in-State tuition under the provisions of Education Article, Title 15, Annotated Code of Maryland; and

(6) Timely files an application and any required supporting documentation with the Office.

.04 Application Process.

A. A student shall apply annually to the Office to be eligible for a scholarship in the form prescribed by the Office.

B. Time of ~~Submission. An~~ Submission. An application and required documentation received by the Office after July 1 is untimely and shall not be considered.

C. An applicant shall submit the following required documentation:

(1) Copy of the applicant's official college or university transcript;

(2) Proof from the eligible institution that the applicant is enrolled full-time and is within 32 years from graduation in a cybersecurity program, or is enrolled part-time and is within 6 years from graduation in a cybersecurity program; and

(3) Certification from the institution that the applicant has not received or applied for a Federal CyberCorps Scholarship for Service.

~~D. For the 2018—2019 award year only, applicants shall apply and submit all required documentation to the Office by February 1, 2019.~~

.05 Scholarship Renewal.

A. Subject to Regulation .06 of this chapter, ~~an applicant shall be eligible to renew a scholarship shall be renewed~~ for a subsequent year if the applicant continues to meet the requirements of Regulation .03 of this chapter.

~~(1) Timely submits an application under Regulation .04 of this chapter; and~~

~~(2) Continues to meet the requirements of Regulation .03 of this chapter.~~

B. A recipient enrolled full-time may receive a scholarship for a maximum of 23 years.

C. A recipient enrolled part-time may receive a scholarship for a maximum of 6 years.

.06 Amount of Scholarship.

A. An annual scholarship for a full-time student shall be in the amount prescribed by the Director, ~~which may not exceed the recipient's education expenses, and shall be appropriately prorated by the Director for the part-time status of a recipient.~~

B. The amount of an annual scholarship may not exceed the recipient's education expenses.

~~B. Priority of Scholarship Awards. Priority for scholarships shall be given to prior year recipients who remain eligible under this chapter.~~

.07 Selection and Notification of Recipients.

A. Renewal Awards. Priority for scholarships shall be given to prior year recipients who remain eligible under Regulation .05 of this chapter.

~~AB. If funds remain after awards are made to students under §A of this regulation, E~~ eligible applicants shall be ranked on the basis of cumulative grade point average.

~~BC.~~ Grades for credits earned for an applicant attending a public or private nonprofit institution 2-3 years prior to graduation shall be used to calculate the cumulative grade point average.

~~CD.~~ Awards shall be made to applicants based on cumulative grade point average ranked highest to lowest. Awards shall be issued until the total funds appropriated for the program have been depleted.

~~DE.~~ Recipients shall be notified through the Maryland College Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) of the scholarship awards.

~~EF.~~ A recipient shall accept the award online through MDCAPS by the date specified in the award notice, or the award shall be forfeited.

~~FG.~~ Eligible applicants who do not receive an award shall be notified and placed on a waiting list and considered if funds become available.

.08 Verification and Payment.

A. Verification. The Office shall verify that the applicant:

(1) Meets the grade point average requirement;

(2) Is:

(a) Enrolled full-time and is 2-within 3 years from graduating in a cybersecurity program; or

(b) Enrolled part-time and is within 6 years from graduating in a cybersecurity program; and

(3) Is not a recipient of a Federal CyberCorps Scholarship for Service award.

B. Payment. Eligible institutions shall certify on billing rosters provided by the Office that the recipient is:

(1) Eligible for in-State tuition;

(2) Maintaining a grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;

(3) Enrolled full-time or part-time in a cybersecurity program;

(4) Maintaining satisfactory academic progress toward a degree; and

(5) Maintaining the standards of the institution.

.09 Scholarship Conditions and Service Requirement.

A. Full-Time Employment. For purposes of this regulation, "full-time employment" means employment for at least 35 hours per week.

B. Use of Scholarship. A scholarship shall be used solely for education expenses to attend an eligible institution.

C. As a precondition of receiving a scholarship, a recipient shall provide a promissory note and shall enter into a written agreement with the Commission, in the form and manner prescribed by the Office, requiring the recipient to:

- (1) Earn credit as a full-time ~~or part-time~~ student;
- (2) Complete the cybersecurity program for which the recipient received the scholarship; and
- (3) Perform the service obligation described in §D of this regulation.

D. Service Obligation. ~~Except as provided in subsections (3) and (4) of this section, F~~for each ~~year-semester~~ that the recipient receives a scholarship, the recipient shall:

(1) Maintain full-time employment in the State for at least ~~1-year-6 months in a unit of State government~~ in the cybersecurity field ~~for a:~~

- ~~(a) Local educational agency;~~
- ~~(b) Public high school;~~
- ~~(c) Community college; or~~
- ~~(d) A unit of State government, county government, or city or municipal government; or~~

(2) Teach full-time in the State for at least ~~1-year-1 semester in a public high school in~~ an education program that is directly relevant to cybersecurity ~~in:~~

- ~~(a) A public high school; or~~
- ~~(b) A community college.~~

~~(3) The work obligation for a part-time student shall equal the amount of time needed for an equivalent full-time student to complete the obligation in subsections (1) and (2) of this regulation.~~

~~(4) The work obligation for a part-time student shall not exceed 3 years.~~

.10 Conversion of Scholarship to Loan Failure to Meet Conditions of Scholarship.

A. Except as provided in §C of this regulation, if the recipient breaches the terms or conditions of the agreement or note under Regulation .09 of this chapter, including the failure to perform the service obligation, the scholarship shall convert to a student loan payable to the State.

B. Interest on the loan shall be charged at an interest rate equal to the interest rate established by the United States Department of Education for the Federal Stafford Loan on the first day of July of each year.

C. Interest may not accrue prior to notification to the Office of a recipient's graduation or termination from an institution of higher education.

D. Repayment may be prorated if the recipient partially fulfills the service obligation.

E. Except as otherwise provided in this regulation, repayment shall be made to the State within 6 years after the repayment period begins, and shall follow a repayment schedule established by the Office.

.11 Deferment of the Service Obligation and Repayment.

A. Recipients shall seek eligible employment aggressively within the State.

B. A recipient may request that the service obligation be deferred during the time the recipient is:

(1) Enrolled full-time ~~(12 or more credits per semester) or part-time (6—11 credits per semester) in-in a matriculated program of study as an undergraduate (12 or more credits per semester) or graduate (9 or more credits per semester) student in a course of study that would further their career in cybersecurity,~~ at any ~~post-secondary~~ institution of higher education in the State;

(2) On a temporary leave of absence, approved by the employer in the required employment field, for a period not to exceed 12 months;

(3) Temporarily disabled in a manner that substantially impairs the recipient's ability to perform the service obligation, for a period not to exceed 3 years;

(4) Unable to maintain employment, for a period not to exceed 12 months, because the recipient must care for a spouse or child who is disabled;

(5) Assigned military duty outside of the State, not to exceed ~~3-4~~ years, ~~without filing an appeal;~~ or

(6) Married to a spouse assigned military duty outside of the State, not to exceed ~~3-4~~ years, ~~without filing an appeal.~~

C. A recipient's deferment request shall include satisfactory supporting documentation, consisting of the following, as appropriate:

(1) Certification by the institution that the recipient has returned to a full-time or part-time course of study at an institution of post-secondary education in the State;

(2) Certification by the employer that the recipient is on a temporary approved leave of absence;

(3) A sworn affidavit by a qualified physician that the recipient is temporarily disabled in a manner that substantially impairs the recipient's ability to perform the service obligation;

(4) A sworn affidavit by a qualified physician that the recipient is unable to maintain employment because the recipient must care for a spouse or child who is disabled; or

(5) A copy of military orders.

D. The Office shall review all documentation, determine if the deferment conditions have been met and, if so, determine the deferment period.

E. During the period of an approved deferment, a recipient need not make scholarship repayments and interest does not accrue.

~~F. The Office shall, on a case-by-case basis, review appeals from individuals assigned military duty outside the State, and from spouses of individuals assigned military duty outside the State, that exceed the 3-year deferral limit. Appeals shall be in writing and include a copy of the military orders, and the Director shall determine if an appeal is granted.~~

.12 Waiver of the Service Obligation and Repayment.

~~The Office shall waive a recipient's service and repayment obligations if it determines:~~

A. ~~The Office shall waive a recipient's service and repayment obligations if it determines~~ On the basis of a sworn affidavit of 2 qualified physicians, that the recipient is permanently unable to fulfill the service obligation, on a full-time or part-time basis, because of a permanent impairment; ~~or,~~

B. ~~The Office shall waive a recipient's service and repayment obligations if it determines~~ On the basis of a death certificate or other evidence of death that is conclusive under State law, that the recipient has died.

.13 Determinations of the Office.

Decisions of the Office under this chapter regarding ~~whether to grant an award~~ eligibility, recipient selection, and deferment or waiver of the service obligation ~~or whether to grant an appeal~~ are final and not subject to additional review.



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph.D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 29, 2022

TO: Maryland Higher Education Commissioners

FROM: Al Dorsett, Director, Office of Student Financial Assistance

SUBJECT: Approval of Proposed New Regulations for COMAR –
Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program

Under § 18-604 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to military service members, veterans, reservists, and their family members. The scholarship is available to individuals enrolled in or accepted to bachelors degree, associates degree, and two-year certificate programs at community colleges, public senior (four-year) higher education institutions, and private nonprofit institutions of higher education. The annual award may cover up to an amount equivalent to 50% of tuition, fees, and room and board of a resident undergraduate at a public four-year institution.

Currently, this program is governed by MHEC guidelines for awarding and scholarship procedures; the enclosed regulations formalize those guidelines. Pursuant to Ch. 23, 2022 Acts of Maryland (HB 734), the regulations also expand eligibility for family members by including stepchildren in addition to children and spouses.

The proposed regulations have been approved for legality by MHEC's Assistant Attorneys General as required by the Maryland Administrative Procedure Act. They are now enclosed for your review and approval.

Upon your approval, proposed regulations and regulatory amendments are submitted to the legislature's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR), after which they are submitted to the Division of State Documents (DSD) for publication in the Maryland Register. After a public comment period, they may be brought back before the Commission for final adoption.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Commission:

- (1) Approves for publication in the Maryland Register the enclosed proposed new regulations for the Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program; and
- (2) Authorizes its Assistant Attorneys General to make non-substantive edits to the proposed regulations to conform to the stylistic and formatting requirements of AELR and DSD.

Title 13B MARYLAND HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

SUBTITLE 08 FINANCIAL AID

Chapter 12 Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program

Authority: Education Article, §§11-105(u), 18-204(c), and 18-604, Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Program Established.

- A. There is a Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program, which is administered by the Office pursuant to Education Article, §18-604, Annotated Code of Maryland.
- B. The Program may be referred to as the Senator Douglas J.J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship Program.
- C. The purpose of the program is to provide financial assistance to attend a Maryland institution of higher education for United States armed forces personnel who served in the Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts and their families.

.02 Definitions

- A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.
- B. Terms Defined.
 - (1) “Commission” means the Maryland Higher Education Commission.
 - (2) “Director” means the director of the Office.
 - (3) “Educational expenses” means:
 - (a) Tuition and mandatory fees; and
 - (b) Costs of room and board.
 - (4) “Eligible institution” means:
 - (1) A community college in the State;
 - (2) A public senior higher education institution in the State; or
 - (3) A private nonprofit institution of higher education in the State that:
 - (a) Is approved to operate by the Commission under Education Article, §11-202, Annotated Code of Maryland; or
 - (b) May operate without a Certificate of Approval from the Commission under §11-202.1(a), Annotated Code of Maryland.
 - (5) Extenuating Circumstances.
 - (a) “Extenuating circumstances means the occurrence of an extraordinary event or condition that prevents a recipient from fulfilling a scholarship requirement.
 - (b) “Extenuating circumstances” may include, but are not limited to:
 - (i) Disability or serious illness or injury of the student;
 - (ii) Pregnancy or adoption of a child;
 - (iii) Fulfillment of military service;
 - (iv) Extreme financial hardship of the student or the student’s immediate family; or
 - (v) Serious illness or injury or death of an immediate family member.
 - (6) “Family member” means son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or spouse.
 - (7) “Full-time” means enrollment at an eligible institution in at least 12 credits per semester in an undergraduate program.
 - (8) “Office” means the Office of Student Financial Assistance within the Maryland Higher Education Commission.
 - (9) “Part-time” means enrollment at an eligible institution in at least 6, but fewer than 12, credits per semester in an undergraduate degree program.

(10) “Scholarship” means a Senator Douglas J.J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts scholarship under this chapter.

(11) “Veteran” has the meaning stated in State Government Article, §9-901, Annotated Code of Maryland.

.03 Use and Amount of Award.

A. A scholarship may be used for educational expenses at any eligible institution.

B. The annual award may not exceed the amount of 50% of the equivalent annual tuition and mandatory fees and room and board of a resident undergraduate at a four-year public institution of higher education within the University System of Maryland, other than the University of Maryland Global Campus and the University of Maryland, Baltimore, with the highest annual expenses for a full-time resident undergraduate.

C. If a recipient of a scholarship receives federal education benefits for which the recipient qualifies as a result of the individual’s military service, status as a dependent of a member of the armed forces, or status as a veteran of the armed forces, the amount of the federal education benefits received for the purposes of educational expenses shall be credited against the recipient’s educational expenses before the calculation of the scholarship award amount.

.04 Initial Awards—Eligibility.

A. Subject to the State budget, the Office annually shall determine individuals’ initial eligibility to receive a scholarship.

B. An applicant is eligible for a scholarship if the applicant is:

(1) A resident of Maryland;

(2) Accepted for admission or enrolled in an eligible institution in:

(a) An undergraduate degree program; or

(b) A 2-year lower division certificate program in which the coursework is acceptable for transfer credit toward a bachelor’s degree program at an eligible institution; and

(3) One of the following:

(a) A veteran or active duty member of the United States armed forces who served in:

(i) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal military regulations, on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

(ii) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal military regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminate date prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense;

(b) A member of a reserve component of the United States armed forces or the Maryland National Guard who was activated as a result of the United States military conflict in:

(i) Afghanistan or contiguous air space, as defined in federal military regulations, on or after October 24, 2001, and before a terminal date prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

(ii) Iraq or contiguous waters or air space, as defined in federal military regulations, on or after March 19, 2003, and before a terminate date prescribed by the United States Secretary of Defense; or

(c) The son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, or spouse of an individual described in §B(3)(a) or

(b) of this regulation.

.05 Initial Awards—Application Process.

A. To be considered for an initial scholarship award, an individual shall submit to the Office, no later than March 1:

(1) A complete Senator Douglas J.J. Peters Veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq Conflicts Scholarship application form;

(2) All applicable documentation of military service and family relationship described in §§B and C of this regulation; and

(3) Any other documents requested by the Office.

B. Documentation of Military Service in Afghanistan or Iraq Conflicts.

(1) An active duty member of the United States armed forces or a family member of an active duty member of the United States armed forces shall submit a copy of the member's official military orders.

(2) A veteran of the United States armed forces, a family member of a veteran of the United States armed forces, a member of a reserve component of the United States armed services or the Maryland National Guard, or a family member of a member of a reserve component of the United States armed services or the Maryland National Guard shall submit a copy of the veteran's or member's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.

C. Documentation of Family Relationship.

(1) The son or daughter or an individual described in Regulation .04B(3)(a) or (b) of this chapter shall submit a copy of their birth certificate or proof of adoption.

(2) The spouse of an individual described in Regulation .04B(3)(a) or (b) of this chapter shall submit a copy of their marriage certificate.

(3) The stepson or stepdaughter of an individual described in Regulation .04B(3)(a) or (b) of this chapter shall submit:

(a) A copy of the marriage certificate of their parent and stepparent; and

(b) A copy of their birth certificate or proof of adoption.

D. An application form or any required documentation under §§B and C of this regulation that is received after March 1 shall not be considered in the determination of award eligibility.

E. Additional Information or Documentation.

(1) The Office may request additional information or documentation, or a signed authorization for the release of information or documentation from a third party, before determining eligibility for the award.

(2) Any requested information, documentation, or signed authorization submitted after any deadline established by the Office will not be considered in the determination of award eligibility.

.06 Renewal Awards.

A. An initial scholarship award under this chapter may be renewed annually for a maximum of:

(1) Four renewal awards, if the student is enrolled full-time; or

(2) Eight renewal awards, if the student is enrolled part-time.

B. A student shall be eligible for a renewal award if the student:

(1) Continues to meet the requirements in Regulation .04B(1) and (2); and

(2) Except as set forth in §C of this regulation, has achieved and maintained a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

C. Waiver of GPA Requirement Based on Extenuating Circumstances.

(1) A student who has not achieved or maintained the required cumulative GPA shall be eligible to receive a renewal award if the student provides the Office with documentation of extenuating circumstances and the Office determines that the documentation provides sufficient evidence of the extenuating circumstances.

(2) No later than 30 days after receiving notice of ineligibility for a renewal award, a student requesting a waiver of the GPA requirement shall submit to the Office:

(a) A letter explaining the extenuating circumstances and why they prevented the student from achieving the required GPA;

(b) Any documentation of the occurrence of the extenuating circumstances;

(c) Any other relevant supporting information; and

(d) Any other documents requested by the Office.

(3) Waiver determinations made by the Office are final and not subject to additional review or appeal.

.07 Recipient Selection, Notification, and Acceptance.

A. If the number of eligible applicants for awards exceeds the amount of funds available, eligible applicants will be selected pursuant to §§B—D of this regulation.

B. Renewal Awards. Priority shall be given to applicants who are renewing an award under Regulation .06 of this chapter.

C. Veterans, Active Duty Military, and Reserve and National Guard Members.

(a) If funds remain after awards are made to students under §B of this regulation, priority shall be given to initial applicants who are eligible for a scholarship under Regulation .04B(3)(a) or (b) of this chapter.

(b) If the number of applicants under this section exceeds the amount of funds available, applicants shall be ranked by application completion date.

D. Family Members.

(a) If funds remain after awards are made to students under §§B and C of this regulation, awards shall be made to initial applicants who are eligible for a scholarship under Regulation .04B(3)(c) of this chapter.

(b) If the number of applicants under this section exceeds the amount of funds available, applicants shall be ranked by application completion date.

E. An eligible applicant who does not receive an award shall be notified and placed on a waiting list.

F. Notification and Acceptance of Award.

(1) Applicants who are selected for a scholarship shall be notified of an award offer in writing, which may include electronic mail.

(2) A recipient of an award offer who wishes to accept the award shall provide written notification to the Office, in the form prescribed by the Office, by the deadline established by the Office.

.08 Certification and Disbursement.

A. Annual awards shall be disbursed in two installments, one per semester.

B. Before disbursing an award, the Office may require an institution to certify, in the form and manner requested by the Office, that a recipient has met certain eligibility requirements for the award.

C. In addition to any certification required under §B of this regulation, before disbursement of a renewal award, an institution shall certify, in the form and manner requested by the Office, that a recipient maintained a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

D. An award will not be disbursed by the Office until all required certification is received.

E. An institution shall provide certification to the Office and request payment for all recipients on a semester basis, no later than:

(1) December 15, for the fall semester; and

(2) May 15, for the spring semester.

F. An institution that fails to timely certify and request payment for all recipients under §D of this regulation may not certify recipients for the subsequent semester until all prior semester awards have been certified and disbursed.



Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Mary Pat Seurkamp, Ph. D.
Chair

James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph. D.
Secretary

Maryland Higher Education Commission 2022 Meeting Dates

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) is Maryland’s higher education coordinating board responsible for the management of statewide financial aid programs and the establishment of statewide policies for public and private colleges and career schools to support students’ postsecondary pursuits.

Meeting Dates and Locations

January 26, 2022	July 27, 2022 (if needed)
February 23, 2022	August 24, 2022 (if needed)
March 23, 2022	September 29, 2022 10:00am to 4:00pm *Please note date change.*
April 27, 2022	October 26, 2022
May 25, 2022	November 16, 2022 *Please note date change.*
June 22, 2022	December 14, 2022 *Please note date change.*

All Commission meetings will be held on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, with certain exceptions. Meetings in 2022 will be conducted via video teleconference (GoToMeeting), unless otherwise noted.

Dates and times are subject to change.

<http://www.mhec.maryland.gov/About/Pages/Meetings.aspx>