



Scholarship Manual

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GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship Overview

Description

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federal program designed to provide early intervention services and programs to students in middle school and high school. The mission of GEAR UP is to significantly increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The GEAR UP New Hampshire program has set several goals to achieve this mission. To accomplish this mission GEAR UP New Hampshire will; bridge high schools, businesses and colleges to better prepare students for success, create a college going culture in our communities, and design an academic model that promotes college enrollment and preparedness so that every student embraces the idea that college is possible.

Eligibility

General eligibility requirements include:

- Must have participated in GEAR UP activities as a cohort student of one of GEAR UP New Hampshire designated partner schools: Stewartstown Community School, Colebrook Academy, Pittsburg School (High), Franklin High School, Franklin Middle School, Claremont Middle School, Stevens High School, Berlin Middle School, Berlin Senior High School, Whitefield Elementary School, White Mountains Regional High School, Lisbon Regional School, Laconia High School, and Laconia Middle School.
 - To be considered a cohort student, students must be in the eligible grade level, 7th and 8th grade, starting with the academic year 2017-2018.
- Any additional students who are the same grade level of students in cohort and begin attending the school at which the cohort began to receive GEAR UP services are eligible.
- Possession of a high school diploma or state recognized equivalent.
- Scholarships will only be awarded to students that are pursuing first time undergraduate degrees. This includes certificates that are stackable leading to an associate's degree, associates degrees, and bachelor's degrees.
- Be eligible for Federal Student Aid and have completed the FAFSA
- Be less than 22 years old when first awarded the scholarship.
- Accepted into or enrolled in a program of undergraduate instruction at an institution of higher education located within New Hampshire's borders.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee

Award Amount

The maximum annual GEAR UP award is determined by GEAR UP New Hampshire each year and must be at least equal to the overall minimum Federal Pell Grant award amount for the corresponding award year as determined by the U.S. Department of Education. The GEAR UP award amount may vary from year to year depending on the annual Pell Grant award. Factors that may affect the annual award amounts are: availability of GEAR UP New Hampshire funds, changes in federal or state regulations, and number of eligible applicants. The average total award will be up to \$7,000. Scholarship award amounts after year one of the scholarship will be subject to availability of funding and the number of eligible applicants.

**Note: GEAR UP scholarship, provided under section 404E of the HEA, may not be considered in the determination of a student's eligibility for other grant assistance provided under title IV of the HEA, except that in no case may the total amount of student financial assistance awarded to a student under the title IV of the HEA exceed the student's total cost of attendance.*

Scholarship Guidelines

Maximum Years of Eligibility

Pending funding availability, eligible students may receive up to eight academic terms of GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship funding based on a semester system.

Packaging the Scholarship

When packaging the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship, the scholarship will be applied in the following order:

- Federal Pell Grant
- Other public or private grants, scholarships, or tuition discounts
- GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship
- Other financial assistance, such as loans or work study

Transfer Students

GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship recipients are permitted to transfer from one eligible institution to another and maintain the scholarship. However, it is the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship recipient's responsibility to notify GEAR UP New Hampshire of the intent to transfer to another institution. The award amount may adjust due to the change of institution.

Scholarship Request and Disbursement Process for Students

For GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship funding, eligible students must apply online using the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship Portal located on the Kaleidoscope platform.

Once the application is submitted, GEAR UP New Hampshire will contact the student's institution of higher education to verify enrollment and completion of FAFSA. Pending verification of eligibility GEAR UP New Hampshire will send scholarship funds to the identified institution.

Payment Request Procedure for Institutions of Higher Education

GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship data is compiled and loaded into the Institutional Payment and Data form. Payment and Data forms are then sent to institutions of higher education for verification.

Institutions must verify information submitted by students. Institutions will need to provide the following additional details about each student:

- Institution of Higher Education
- First five digits of Social Security Number
- Enrollment status (full time, $\frac{3}{4}$ time, $\frac{1}{2}$ time, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ time or not enrolled)
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- Pell Grant Eligible (yes or no)
- Institutional aid amount

Institutions must certify the information on the Payment and Data form by providing the phone number, printed name, email address and signature of the certifying official, as well as the date. In addition, the certifying official must confirm electronic funds information for the institution.

The Payment and Data form must be completed for each academic term that GEAR UP students are enrolled at an institution.

Payment disbursement will be processed only after the institution submits the Payment and Data form to GEAR UP New Hampshire. GEAR UP New Hampshire will send payment to the institution in the amount of the academic term award for **all** eligible students enrolled at the institution. GEAR UP New Hampshire will also provide a roster listing the name of each eligible student as well as the academic term amount for each student.

Scholarship Timeline

First GEAR UP New Hampshire Cohort Graduating in 2022

- First scholarships will be awarded in the fall 2022 semester
- Final scholarship will be awarded in the spring 2026 semester

Second GEAR UP New Hampshire Cohort Graduating in 2023

- First scholarships will be awarded in the fall of 2023
- Final scholarships will be awarded in the spring of 2027

Annual Timeline

April	GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship Portal opens. Students may access the portal at TBD.
July	GEAR UP New Hampshire verifies the fall enrollment data of eligible students by sending the Payment and Data form to each higher education institution. If you miss the application deadline, please contact GEAR UP New Hampshire for special consideration at info@gearupnh.org .
August	Each higher education institution that enrolls GEAR UP New Hampshire students completes and submits the Payment and Data form to GEAR UP New Hampshire.
September	GEAR UP New Hampshire will disburse payment to each institution for its enrolled and eligible GEAR UP students (fall academic semester).
December	GEAR UP New Hampshire verifies the spring enrollment of eligible students by sending the Payment and Data form to each institution that is expected to enroll eligible students during the spring term.

January	Each higher education institution that enrolls GEAR UP New Hampshire students completes and submits the Payment and Data form to GEAR UP New Hampshire. GEAR UP New Hampshire will disburse payment to each institution for enrolled and eligible students (spring academic semester).
March	Students who plan to enroll over the summer submit a request for scholarship funds to GEAR UP New Hampshire.
May	GEAR UP New Hampshire verifies the summer enrollment of eligible students by sending the Payment and Data form to each institution that is enrolling eligible students during the summer term.
June	Each higher education institution that enrolls GEAR UP New Hampshire students completes and submits the Payment and Data form to GEAR UP New Hampshire. GEAR UP New Hampshire will disburse payments to each institution for its enrolled and eligible students (summer academic term).

Scholarship Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship?

A GEAR Up New Hampshire Scholarship is a type of financial aid to help eligible students pay for post-secondary education. The GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship does not need to be repaid. The funding may be used to pay for college tuition, room and board, books, and other college related expenses.

2. Who is eligible to receive a GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship?

- Must have participated in GEAR UP activities as a cohort student of one of GEAR UP New Hampshire designated partner schools; Stewartstown Community School, Colebrook Academy, Pittsburg School (High), Franklin High School, Franklin Middle School, Claremont Middle School, Stevens High School, Berlin Middle School, Berlin Senior High School, Whitefield Elementary School, White Mountains Regional High School, Lisbon Regional School, Laconia High School, and Laconia Middle School.
- To be considered a cohort student, students must be in the eligible grade level, 7th and 8th grade, starting with the academic year 2017-2018.
- Any additional students who are the same grade level of students in cohort and begin attending the school at which the cohort began to receive GEAR UP services are eligible.
- Possession of a high school diploma or state recognized equivalent.
- Scholarships will only be awarded to students that are pursuing first time undergraduate degrees. This include certificates that are stackable leading to an associate's degree, associates degrees, and bachelor's degrees.
- Be less than 22 years old when first awarded the scholarship.
- Accepted into or enrolled in a program of undergraduate instruction at an institution of higher education located within New Hampshire's borders.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee

3. How do students apply?

Eligible students must apply online using the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship Portal on the Kaleidoscope platform. Once the application is submitted, GEAR UP New Hampshire will contact the application's higher education institution. Pending verification of eligibility, GEAR UP New Hampshire will send funds directly to the student's higher education institution.

4. Who should I contact if I have questions about the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship?

MaeAnna Edwards
GEAR UP New Hampshire
Director of Postsecondary Access and Success
edwards@compactnh.org

5. How much will the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship be for?

The exact amount of the scholarship may vary from year to year, as it depends on the number of GEAR UP students who fill out the FAFSA and go to college. In year 1 (2022-2023), we estimate the amount will be approximately \$7,000.

6. Can I go to college outside of New Hampshire and access the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship?

No. In order to be eligible for the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship you must be enrolled in a program of undergraduate study at an institution of higher education located within New Hampshire's borders.

7. How do I know if my college is eligible?

In order to be eligible for the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship you must attend a Title IV college. A Title IV college is one that participates in Federal Student Aid programs. You can search for Title IV institutions on the Federal Student Aid website - <https://finaid.org/fafsa/tiv/>.

8. Do I have to do anything besides fill out the FAFSA and submit my information in the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship Portal to be eligible?

In addition to your college being eligible, you must also be enrolled in a degree or certificate program that is Title IV eligible. **NOTE: If you have any question about whether the program you are interested in is Title IV eligible, you should consult the higher education institution directly.**

9. How does the money get to my college?

Money is automatically sent to your college once they confirm that you are enrolled.

10. How can I use the scholarship money?

The money can be used for tuition and fees, books, supplies, room and board, and personal expenses that are included in your Cost of Attendance. Money will first be applied toward any outstanding balance you have with the college. The amount you receive cannot exceed the cost of attendance at the college you choose to attend – that means the amount of the scholarship, added to the other grants and scholarship you may receive, cannot exceed the total cost of attendance at your higher education institution. The cost of attendance is determined by the college you attend and includes things like transportation, that go beyond tuition and fees.

11. How do I apply for the scholarship a second time?

You must submit a FAFSA each year and submit your updated information in the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship Portal to be eligible for any additional funds.

12. If I don't go to college right away, am I still eligible for the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship?

You can still use the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship even if you do not go to college right away. The rules of the GEAR UP Scholarship state that you must be under the age of 22 the first time you receive a GEAR UP scholarship. As long as you enroll in college and receive your first GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship before you turn 22, you may still be eligible.

13. How long is the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship available?

The scholarship is open for four years following graduation. For the class of 2022, the last academic year is 2025 – 2026. For the class of 2023, the last academic year is 2026-2027.

14. What if my parents make a lot of money?

A family's income is not used to determine eligibility for the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship.

15. What if my high school G.P.A. is low?

High school G.P.A. is not considered when awarding the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship.

16. Can I use the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship for a master's degree/graduate school?

No. The GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship is only for undergraduate students.

17. Can I use the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship if I am going into the military right after high school?

The GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship can only be used to pay for expenses associated with attending college. We cannot award the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship for military service, but you can still be eligible for the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship as long as you enroll in college and receive your first GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship before you turn 22,

you may still be eligible. Students interested in a career in the military might consider attending college and joining the ROTC program.

18. Am I still eligible for the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship if my college is waiving tuition and fees?

Yes! GEAR UP New Hampshire participants who are accepted at a college that waives tuition and fees can apply the GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship to fees associated with room and board, textbooks, or cost of attendance.

19. What if I go to college part-time?

The GEAR UP New Hampshire Scholarship will be pro-rated to reflect part-time status.