

2025-2026

**NC Community College System
Scholarship Guide**



**An Informational Guide for Financial Aid Administrators and
Scholarship Coordinators**

The 2025-2026 North Carolina Community College System Scholarship Guide

Using This Guide

This guide is organized to assist financial aid professionals in navigating the scholarship opportunities available through the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS). Each section includes essential details such as scholarship eligibility criteria, application procedures, deadlines, award amounts, disbursement guidance, and reporting requirements. Where applicable, hyperlinks or references to required forms, templates, and supporting documentation are also included.

The guide is divided into the following sections:

- **State-Funded Scholarships and Grants**
- **Application and Disbursement Procedures**
- **Reporting and Compliance Requirements**
- **Resources and Contacts**

We encourage institutions to refer to this guide regularly and to share it with any personnel involved in financial aid processing, scholarship management, or institutional reporting.

General Responsibilities of Financial Aid Administrators and Scholarship Coordinators

Financial aid administrators and scholarship coordinators play a critical role in the effective stewardship of scholarship funds. Key responsibilities include:

- Ensuring compliance with state and institutional regulations
- Accurately determining and verifying student eligibility
- Coordinating with business offices for timely fund disbursement
- Maintaining clear and consistent communication with students
- Submitting reports to the System Office as required
- Staying informed of updates to funding policies or procedures

All financial aid professionals are encouraged to maintain up-to-date records and internal processes that align with NCCCS policy and guidance. Financial aid professionals are advised to maintain updated processes that align with your institution.

Important Notes

- **Updates:** This guide may be updated as needed throughout the 2025-2026 academic year. Administrators will be notified via System Office communications when updates or new opportunities become available.
- **Flexibility:** Some scholarships may have institution-specific implementation procedures, especially when donor agreements allow for discretion. Please consult your college's scholarship committee or leadership when applicable.
- **Questions:** For any questions regarding the interpretation of this guide or specific scholarship programs, contact State Director of Student Aid, Brenda Burgess at burgessb@nccommunitycolleges.edu or by phone at 919-807-7104.

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Guidelines for Administering the NCCCS Scholarship Program

The successful administration of NCCCS scholarships depends on effective collaboration between the North Carolina Community College System and the individual colleges. The following responsibilities are provided as a framework to guide colleges and the System Office in managing scholarships efficiently, equitably, and in compliance with applicable regulations.

College Responsibilities

Colleges play a direct role in promoting scholarships, selecting recipients, managing funds, and communicating with both students and the NCCCS.

- **Promote Scholarships**
Actively advertise and promote the availability of scholarships within your college and throughout your service area to ensure equitable access.
- **Establish Scholarship Committee**
Form a dedicated scholarship committee to review applications and select recipients and alternates based on the specific eligibility and selection criteria for each scholarship.
- **Submit Required Information**
Submit student data, award information, and support documentation using NCCCS-provided templates by the established deadlines.
- **Coordinate Publicity and Notification**
Publicize scholarship announcements through appropriate campus and community channels. Notify recipients promptly of their selection and provide relevant instructions regarding acceptance and use of funds.
- **Report Recipient Changes**
Immediately inform the NCCCS if a selected recipient does not enroll, withdraws, or no longer meets eligibility criteria to allow for reallocation of funds or alternate recipient selection.
- **Manage and Return Funds**
Return any unexpended scholarship funds by the deadline specified by the NCCCS. When returning funds, colleges must clearly indicate the scholarship or grant program name and award year for accurate reconciliation.

NCCCS System Office Responsibilities

The System Office provides the necessary guidance, coordination, and oversight to ensure the effective administration of scholarships across all participating colleges

- **Inform and Notify**
Distribute scholarship award allocations, payment schedules, disbursement methods, and program guidance to colleges in a timely manner.
- **Maintain Master Records**
Compile and maintain a centralized master list of all scholarship recipients as reported by colleges.
- **Disburse Scholarship Payments**
Process and disburse scholarship payments to colleges according to approved schedules and funding availability.
- **Report to Stakeholders**
Prepare and submit required scholarship expenditure and outcome reports to donors, partner organizations, agencies, and the State Legislature.
- **Professional Development and Support**
Provide training opportunities, policy updates, and technical assistance to college financial aid and scholarship personnel to support effective program administration.

The Next NC Scholarship for Community Colleges

Program Overview

Session Law 2021-180, Section 8A.2.(a) directed the public colleges and universities need-based financial aid consolidation. This consolidation resulted in the North Carolina Need-Based Scholarship for Public Colleges and Universities and established the Scholarship Reserve Fund for Public Colleges and Universities. Beginning in FY 2023-24, within the funds available, the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) shall administer and allocate the scholarship. In collaboration with the NC Community College System, NCSEAA will set up the annual community college payment schedule.

Formally known as the North Carolina Need-Based Scholarship for Public Colleges and Universities, “NC Scholarship Program”, is now the “Next NC Scholarship Program”. The program was authorized by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2021 to provide financial assistance to needy NC resident students attending eligible colleges and universities located within the State of North Carolina, beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year. Directed by the General Assembly, the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) administers the program pursuant to the Act and the NC Scholarship Program rules. Each eligible college and university play a role in administering the scholarships for the eligible students that it enrolls in. The Authority administers the program as directed by the General Assembly, and funding for scholarships is generally contingent on appropriations made available to the Authority for the program.

The Next NC Scholarship is a financial aid program that helps most North Carolinians from households making \$80,000 or less pursue higher education by fully covering tuition and fees at any community college or more than half, if not all, of tuition and fees to attend any public university in the state.

The Next NC Scholarship combines the Federal Pell Grant and other state-funded financial aid for students attending a community college that may receive at least \$3000 in an academic year (fall and spring).

Eligibility and Criteria:

- An NC resident is eligible for in-state tuition as determined by the Residency Determination Service (RDS). A high school graduate or General Equivalency Diploma (GED).

- Complete the 2025-26 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by August 15, 2025.
 - Meet Pell eligibility criteria: Is eligible to receive financial assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.
 - An Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of \$80,000 or less.
 - Enrolled in an eligible undergraduate curriculum certificate, diploma, or degree program with no prior bachelor's degree for the 2024-2025 academic year.
 - Enrolled in at least 6 credit hours per semester (part-time students will receive a partial award).
 - Meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards as defined by the college.
 - Not be in default on any State loan or grant program.
- Final eligibility will be determined and confirmed by the college financial aid office.**

Eligibility Limitations:

- An eligible student may not receive the Next NC Scholarship or a scholarship or grant from any combination of the other State Funded Need-Based Financial Aid Programs for more than ten (10) full-time semesters, or the equivalent if enrolled part-time, or if the student is enrolled in a program officially designated by the postsecondary institution as a five-year degree program, twelve (12) full-time academic semesters, or the equivalent if enrolled part-time, unless the institution has granted the student a waiver for up to one additional equivalent full-time academic semester.
- An eligible student enrolled at a community college may not receive a scholarship for more than six (6) full-time academic semesters, or the equivalent if enrolled part-time, unless the student has been granted a waiver for up to one additional equivalent full-time academic semester.

College Best Practices and Policies:

- Designate an authorized school official as the primary contact between the institution and the Authority and charging that person with the primary responsibility for executing the responsibilities of the institution under the program rules.
- Comply with the scholarship disbursement procedures.
- Comply with the refund procedures.
- Certify in a manner acceptable to the Authority that an applicant meets the eligibility requirements for a scholarship under the program's rules.

Additional Information:

- “Tuition and fees” refer to fees that are required to attend college. The college may have other fees that are optional (i.e., parking fees, other fees).
- Students must remain enrolled for the term they receive the Next NC Scholarship. Students may be required to return Next NC Scholarship funds if (1) the student completely withdraws from all classes in a semester, and (2) funds were awarded and paid, but the student never attends classes.

Promote the Next NC Scholarship on Your Campus

A comprehensive toolkit is available to help you promote the Next NC Scholarship on your campus. The toolkit includes a variety of useful materials, such as graduation content, promotional advertisements, flyers, Power Point slides, graphic short video and more. The resources are designed specifically for educational professionals and can be accessed through the College for North Carolina (CFNC) website at www.cfnc.org. Click on “Educational Professionals” to find the toolkit and support materials.

Targeted Assistance and Less Than Half-Time Grant Programs

Program Overview

Each year the State Board of Community Colleges is asked to approve \$500,000 in awards to NC community colleges to be used for the Targeted Assistance and Less Than Half-Time Grant programs. Each college receives an allocation based on a formula that begins with a base allotment of \$1000. The remaining funds are allocated on a pro-rata basis as determined by each college's percentage of the total of the previous year's Pell Grant disbursements. Note that allocations are subject to change based on the previous year's Pell Grant disbursements.

In accordance with G.S. 115D-40.1 (b), the Targeted Assistance and Less Than Half-Time Grant programs may provide financial assistance to students (1) who enroll in low-enrollment, high-demand programs, (2) students with disabilities who may have been referred by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and (3) those enrolled in fewer than six credit hours per semester who otherwise qualify for need-based federal financial aid programs.

In July 2011, the State Board of Community Colleges consolidated the NC Targeted Assistance and Less Than Half-Time Grant programs.

Best Practices and Policies

- **Program Identification:** Community colleges shall identify programs in which enrollment is substantially lower than program capacities but are in high demand based on employer needs and or industry demand.
- **Funding Application:** Apply funds to cover the cost of in-state tuition and other eligible expenses.
- **Reporting:** Submit annual reports detailing student information, funding amounts and program of study to NCCCS by June 30th each year.

Eligibility Criteria:

- An NC resident is eligible for in-state tuition as determined by Residency Determination Services (RDS).

- Completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and meet eligibility requirements to receive financial assistance under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.
- Enrolled in a certificate, diploma, or degree program.
- May be enrolled through the sponsorship of the NC Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Other:

- Colleges may award up to \$76 per credit hour to students for the Less Than Half-Time Grant program.
- Colleges may award the Less Than Half Time Grant to students enrolled in non-Title IV eligible programs (programs that do not meet the Department of Education's minimum credit hour requirements).



The Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship Program

Overview

Since 2001, the NC Community College System has partnered with the Golden LEAF Foundation to provide scholarship funding through the Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship program. The initiative is aimed at supporting students and their families by offsetting costs associated with curriculum and workforce continuing education programs at community colleges throughout the state. The costs may include tuition, fees, books, credential exams, childcare and transportation.

The program offers annual scholarships of up to \$2,250 for curriculum students enrolled in certificate, diploma or degree programs, and up to \$1,850 for continuing education students enrolled in a course that trains towards a credential listed on the Workforce Continuing Education Credentials list. Scholarships are awarded to students residing in counties designated as qualifying by the Golden LEAF Foundation.

Scholarship program operations follow a contractual year beginning on July 1st and ending on June 30th of the following year. Funding is disbursed on a reimbursement basis, requiring colleges to issue scholarship awards to students and report those awards to NCCCS for payment processing.



NCCCS Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship Program Best Practices and Procedures Guide

INTRODUCTION

This guide serves as a comprehensive resource outlining the program's requirements, responsibilities, eligibility criteria, awarding procedures, reimbursement processes and reporting guidelines. The purpose is to support the proper administration and compliance of the Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship program.

REQUIREMENTS

North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) Requirements:

- Apply annually to the Golden LEAF Foundation to participate in the scholarship program.
- Promote the scholarship program and use the Golden LEAF logo on all publicity and printed materials as outlined by Golden LEAF on all publicity and printed materials using the Golden LEAF logo on all publicity and printed materials related to the contract. The Golden LEAF logo brand and publicity guide is accessed at <https://www.goldenleaf.org/brand-and-publicity-guide>.
- Provide annual award notification and allocations to all colleges participating in the program.
- Collaborate with Golden LEAF on program-related outreach and communications including communications directly with Golden LEAF scholars.
- Provide training each semester on the scholarship fundamentals and periodic training to college administrators for professional development.
- Monitor college scholarship award transactions for reimbursement and reconciliation and compliance with the program.
- Submit reports on an approved schedule, in accordance with the terms of the contract and provide additional or further reports if requested by Golden LEAF.
- Maintain records: keep full, accurate and verifiable records, support documentation and all other pertinent data for the program for up to 5 years from the end of the contract term.

College Requirements:

- Announce and promote the scholarship program to both curriculum and workforce continuing education students.
- Award scholarships to curriculum and workforce continuing education students. Scholarships may be used to cover the cost of attendance, including tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, and childcare.
- Determine application procedures including deadlines for curriculum and workforce continuing education students.
- Conduct internal review and reconciliation process including deadlines between the Financial Aid and Business/Finance office.
- Comply with scholarship guidelines including award transmittals, administration, and reconciliation of scholarship program with NCCCS.
- Maintain all Golden LEAF scholarship applications for curriculum and workforce continuing education students for a period up to 5 years for audit/compliance purposes.
- Attend meetings/program management workshops as scheduled, typically during the fall and spring semesters.
- Reconcile and return unexpended funds due to adjustments (student ineligibility, withdrawal, etc.) to NCCCS **by June 30, 2026**.

SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1.1 Curriculum Student Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify for the Golden LEAF Scholarship, CU students must:

- Be a NC resident as determined by Residency Determination Services (RDS).
- Reside in a qualifying county as designated by Golden LEAF.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as a demonstration of need.
- Be enrolled at least full-time for the fall and spring semesters. Scholarships for less than full-time enrolled students may be prorated based on enrollment hours and the availability of funds. Colleges should determine reasonable proration award amounts.
- Be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) during the summer semester to receive a scholarship award.

Workforce Continuing Education Student Eligibility Requirements:

To qualify for the Golden LEAF Scholarship, CE students must:

- Be a NC resident. (RDS is **not** required). Per Golden LEAF, colleges are expected to assess the connection of the students to rural NC and the student's likelihood of staying in rural NC. Colleges are expected to use a consistent method for verifying residency.
- Reside in a qualifying county as determined by Golden LEAF.
- Be enrolled in a course that trains toward credentials listed on the Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) Credentials list. The latest WCE Credentials list is available at <https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/college-faculty-staff/academics/workforce-continuing-eduction/administrative-resources>.

SECTION 2: SCHOLARSHIP AWARDING AND EXAMPLES

2.1. General Scholarship Awarding Guidelines

- Scholarships may be awarded:
 - For the full academic year (e.g., fall/spring/summer or fall/spring)
 - By individual semester (e.g., fall only, spring only).
- CE awards must be awarded using a curriculum term format.
- At least 25% of the college's allocation must be awarded to WCE students. Noncompliance may result in a 50% reduction in future years in accordance with the Golden LEAF contract.

Curriculum Scholarship Awarding Format Examples

Curriculum students may receive up to \$2250 in a scholarship award annually. An example award may include:

EXAMPLE 1

Semester/Period	Scholarship Award Amount	Enrollment
Fall (August – December)	\$1125.00	Full-time
Spring (January – May)	\$1125.00	Full-time
TOTAL AWARD	\$2250.00	

EXAMPLE 2 – Prorated Award

Semester/Period	Scholarship Award Amount	Enrollment
Fall (August – December)	\$844.00	9-11 credit hrs.
Spring (January – May)	\$844.00	9-11 credit hrs.
Summer (May – July)	\$562.00	6 credit hrs.
TOTAL AWARD	\$2250.00	

Curriculum student scholarship awards cannot exceed \$2250 annually. **A total scholarship award cannot exceed \$1125 per semester.**

Continuing Education Awarding Format Examples

Continuing Education students may receive up to \$1850 in a scholarship award annually. CE student scholarship awards must be made in Ellucian Colleague within a semester like a curriculum student award. An example award may include:

EXAMPLE 1

Semester/Period	Scholarship Award Amount	Enrollment
Fall – (CE course starts November)	\$925.00	N/A
Spring (CE course ends April)	\$925.00	N/A
TOTAL AWARD	\$1850.00	

EXAMPLE 2

Semester/Period	Scholarship Award Amount	Enrollment
Fall (ex. CE course starts September)	\$750.00	N/A
Spring (ex. CE Fall course continues through May)	\$750.00	N/A
Summer (ex. CE course ends in July)	\$350.00	N/A
TOTAL AWARD	\$1850.00	

CE scholarship awards cannot exceed \$1850 annually. **A total scholarship award cannot exceed \$1850. A total scholarship award cannot be \$1850 for one semester.**

SECTION 3: REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES

3.1. Reimbursement Method:

The Golden LEAF Scholarship operates on a reimbursement basis. Colleges are required to:

- Submit certified reports for reimbursement monthly or as your college has awarded and disbursed scholarships to students.
- All scholarships awarded must be entered in Colleague. For instructions on set-up, refer to the Colleague Scholarship Set-Up Guide available on the Service Now Portal at <https://ncccs.servicenowservices.com/so>.

SECTION 4: REPORTING FOR REIMBURSEMENT AND RECONCILIATION

4.1 Monthly Reporting Requirements

- Reimbursement requests are due by the end of the month.
- Requests must include:
 - Student details (Full name, county, address)
 - Award type and amount (CU/CE)
 - Total reimbursement request
- Signatures are required by:
 - Financial Aid Officer
 - Business Officer
 - Missing signatures may result in processing delays.
- Submit reports securely via email to:
 - Dr. Wanda White, Grants Management Associate at whitew_ctr@ncccommunitycolleges.edu.
 - Financial Aid Term Scholarship Reporting (FATSR) at fatsr@ncccommunitycolleges.edu.

SECTION 5: INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTING

5.1 Reporting Deadlines

- Fall 2025 Interim Report: due by Jan. 30, 2026
- Spring 2026 Interim Report: due by May 29, 2026
- Final Cumulative Report due by Oct. 30, 2026

5.2 Interim and Final Report Data Fields

Interim and final reports must include:

- Student's full name, address, phone, email
- County of residence
- CU/CE award amount
- Program of study

College Instructions for Monthly Reporting and To Request Payment from NCCCS

1. College Financial Aid Administrator(s) and Business Officer(s) should review Golden LEAF Community College scholarship awards each month.
2. By the end of each month, colleges should report scholarship awards and transmittals made to students. The report should be completed and submitted to Dr. Wanda White, Grants Management Associate, whitew_ctr@nccommunitycolleges.edu and may be copied to Financial Aid Term Scholarship Reporting at fatsr@nccommunitycolleges.edu by the specified dates. Late reports will be processed the following month.
3. Each monthly report must include the student's name, address, county of residence, CE or CU award and transmitted amount and total reimbursement request at the end of the total award column.
4. College Financial Aid Administrators should review all student data entered for accuracy. **NOTE:** changes made to a student(s) address, county of residence or other should be made in Colleague for capture in the NCCCS Data Warehouse for reporting purposes.
5. At the end of the report, the Financial Aid Administrator and Business Officer should review the total award amount(s) transmitted, reconcile, and sign the

confirmation statement. The confirmation statement serves as acknowledgement and certification that the information submitted has been reviewed by the financial and business office for accuracy and no ineligible students have been included in the report. **NOTE:** the certification statement will not be accepted without signature from both offices. Failure to obtain both signatures may cause a delay in processing.

Reporting Requirements

Colleges must use the attached template for the specific year. Follow each row to record awards and transmittals for curriculum and continuing education students. Below is a description of each column and row to be completed. **Note:** colleges are expected to use the 2025-26 template throughout the contract award year, **July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.**

- **College Name:** Enter the name of your college.
- **Financial_Aid_Award_Year:** This column has been pre-populated for the award year. Example: **2026** is for FY2025-26.
- **Reporting_Month** – Enter the month of the scholarship award transmittal. **Note:** There is a tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet listing each month and year. Please use it.
- **First_Name** – Enter the student’s first name.
- **Last_Name** – Enter the student’s last name.
- **County** – Enter the student’s county of residence. Note: students must reside in an eligible county based on the Golden LEAF Qualifying County list.
- **CU_GLF_SCH_26_Award_Amt** – Enter amount for curriculum (CU) Golden LEAF award. 26 is the NCHED code.
- **CE_GLF_SCH_108_Award_Amt** – Enter amount for continuing education (CE) Golden LEAF award per student. 108 is the NCHED code.
- **Total_GLF_Award_Amt** – Enter total GLF award amount. **You must enter the total reimbursement request at the end of the total column. Failure to provide total request for reimbursement may result in delayed payment for the college.**

CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

The certification statement serves as confirmation by the college’s financial aid and business office(s) that the information presented for reimbursement has been verified for accuracy and completeness.

Golden LEAF Certification Statement(s): Before submitting, these statements must be completed for college payment requests. Failure to complete both certifications may result in delayed payment for the college.

Financial Aid Administrator's Certification Statement

I certify that the information provided is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and verify that each student awarded resided in a qualifying county at the time the award was made.

Financial Aid Officer _____ Date: _____

Business Officer's Certification Statement

I, along with the FA officer, have reviewed and reconciled the Golden LEAF scholarship award transmittals and certify its accuracy to the best of my knowledge.

(Note: College financial aid award transmittal totals should match the college business office transmittals for each reporting period.)

Business/Finance Officer _____ Date: _____
Report Submitted by: _____

All spreadsheets must be sent in a protected format. Colleges may use these instructions.

Instructions: Protecting An Excel File Spreadsheet

- Select File > Info.
- Select the Protect Workbook Box.
- Choose Encrypt with Password.
- Enter the password in the Password box.
- Select OK.
- Confirm the password in the Reenter Password box.
- Select OK.
- Submit password and spreadsheet separately to NCCCS.

INTERIM AND FINAL REPORTING DEADLINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Interim reports at the end of the fall and spring semesters require additional student directory information to be submitted to the Golden LEAF Foundation.

Interim and Final Reporting Deadlines

Fall 2025 – **due January 30, 2026** (this includes all award transmittals made between 07/01/25 – 12/31/2025).

Spring 2026 – **due May 29, 2026** (this includes all award transmittals made between 01/01/2026 – 05/15/26).

Final/Cumulative Reconciliation Report – **due September 30, 2026** (this includes all award transmittals and adjustments made between 07/01/25 – 05/15/2026).

Interim Reporting Requirements

NCCCS must provide interim reports including student data and financial aid awards for each semester. This report will include a list of recipients including college name, student name, address, email address and phone number (if provided), county of residence, award amount, program name, and term of award. Colleges shall submit a more comprehensive report at the end of each semester along with a cumulative report by the end of the grant cycle. Note: College reporting dates will be sooner than Golden LEAF deadlines to allow time for NCCCS data collection and review.

Instructions for Completing Interim Reports to the Golden LEAF Foundation

For Interim reporting, colleges shall provide additional information to the Golden LEAF Foundation. Colleges should use the attached template for 2025-26 and follow each row to record recipient awards for curriculum and continuing education students. Below is a description of each column and row to be completed.

- **College Name:** Enter the name of your college.
- **Financial_Aid_Award_Year:** This column has been pre-populated for the award year. **Note: 2026** is FY2025-26.
- **Reporting_Term** – Enter the semester of the scholarship award (i.e., Fall 2025). **Note:** This has been populated for you. DO NOT CHANGE.
- **First_Name** – Enter the student's first name.
- **Last_Name** – Enter the student's last name.
- **County** – Enter the student's county of residence. Note: the student must reside in an eligible county based on the Golden LEAF Qualifying County list for 2025-26.

- **Address_Line_1** – Enter the student’s full address.
- **Address_Line_2** – Enter the student’s apartment/ P.O. Box number.
- **City** – Enter the student’s city/town of residence.
- **State** – Enter NC. **Note:** NC has been populated for you.
- **Zip** – enter complete 5-digit zip code.
- **Phone_Number** – enter 9-digit phone number. **Note:** If unknown/unavailable, leave blank. For example: 111-222-3333. Do not enter parenthesis or slashes.
- **Email_Address** – enter email address from Colleague or from student registration. **Note:** If unknown/unavailable, leave blank.
- **CU_GLF_SCH_26_Award_Amt** – Enter amount for curriculum (CU) Golden LEAF award. This is the Golden LEAF Scholarship for CU students. 26 represents the NCHED code.
- **CE_GLF_SCH_108_Award_Amt** – Enter amount for continuing education (CE) Golden LEAF award per student. This is the Golden LEAF Scholarship for CE students. 108 represents the NCHED code.
- **Total_GLF_Award_Amt** – Enter total GLF award amount.
- **Program_Of_Study** – Enter the name of the student’s program of study. **Note:** Do not enter a program code.

REPORTING AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

All reports should be submitted to NCCCS by the due date. Late or incomplete submissions for reimbursement may be delayed. **All Golden LEAF reports will be submitted by Dr. Wanda White to NCCCS Finance Office representative for reimbursement.**

Colleges must email all reports and passwords to Dr. Wanda White at whitew_ctr@ncccommunitycolleges.edu and Financial Aid Term Scholarship Reporting (FATSR) at fatsr@ncccommunitycolleges.edu.

Colleges are encouraged to share a copy of the reimbursement and reporting calendar with the Business Office on your campus.

**2025-2026 Golden LEAF Scholarship Reimbursement and Reporting Calendar
For Financial Aid and Business Offices**

Month	Award Period	College submission to NCCCS for reimbursement by:	NCCCS Student Aid Processing Timeline	NCCCS sends to finance for processing	NCCCS sends payment to college
July 2025	07/01/25 – 07/31/25	07/31/25	07/31/25-08/06/25	08/07/25	08/12/25
Aug 2025	08/01/25 – 08/31/25	09/02/25	09/02/25-09/09/25	09/10/25	09/15/25
Sept 2025	09/01/25 – 09/30/25	09/30/25	09/30/25-10/07/25	10/08/25	10/13/25
Oct 2025	10/01/25 – 10/31/25	10/31/25	10/31/25-11/06/25	11/07/25	11/13/25
Nov 2025	11/01/25 – 11/30/25	12/01/25	12/01/25-12/05/25	12/08/25	12/12/25
Dec 2025	12/01/25 – 12/31/25	12/31/25	12/31/25-01/07/26	01/08/26	01/10/26
Jan 2026	01/01/26 – 01/31/26	01/30/26	01/30/26-02/05/26	02/06/26	02/12/26
Feb 2025	02/01/26 – 02/27/26	02/27/26	02/27/26-03/08/26	03/09/26	03/12/26
Mar 2026	03/01/26 – 03/31/26	03/31/26	03/31/26-04/07/26	04/08/26	04/13/26
Apr 2026	04/01/26 – 04/30/26	05/01/26	04/30/26-05/06/26	05/07/26	05/13/26
May 2026	05/01/26 – 05/31/26	05/29/26	05/29/26-06/08/26	06/09/26	06/09/26
Jun 2026	06/01/26 – 06/30/26	06/30/26	06/30/26-07/07/26	07/08/26	07/08/26



**2025-2026 Golden LEAF Community College
Scholarship Application**



Instructions: Complete this application and return it to the college's Financial Aid Office or the office designated by the college. Qualifying counties are determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation.

Personal Information:

Full Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

NC County of Residence: _____ How long have you lived in the county listed? _____

Educational Information:

Community College you are attending: _____

Curriculum program you are enrolled in: _____

WCE course you are enrolled in: _____

Must be enrolled in a course that trains toward a credential listed on the Workforce Continuing Education Credentials list. The latest WCE credentials list is available at <https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/college-faculty-staff/academics/workforce-continuing-education/administrative-resources>.

Other Information:

- Have members of your immediate family worked for or owned a farming or agricultural related business? ____ yes ____ no
- Have you or members of your immediate family been employed in traditional industries such as furniture, textiles, or tobacco manufacturing? ____ yes ____ no
- Has anyone in your household lost their job in the past two years? ____ yes ____ no
- Has anyone in your household transitioned from a full-time job to a part-time job? ____ yes ____ no

Applicant Certification:

I have read and understand the requirements of this scholarship. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Colleges may set additional criteria to select students for the Golden LEAF scholarship.



George W. Ballard Memorial Scholarship

Overview and Application

The George W. Ballard Scholarship offers a \$500 scholarship for two years to a student attending Guilford Technical Community College enrolled in the Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration diploma program. The scholarship funds will be distributed equally in two payments, one in the fall semester and another in the spring semester over two years.

Application Requirements:

- Be a North Carolina resident for in-state tuition purposes.
- Be enrolled in the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration curriculum degree program at GTCC.
- Maintain a cumulative grade point average at or above the level required for graduation.
- Continue for the duration of the scholarship at the college where he/she was enrolled at the time of the scholarship award.
- Submit an essay stating why he/she chose the field of study and how the scholarship will help financially to attain their educational goals. The essay must also answer these questions: (1) why you should be considered for this scholarship, (2) why you have chosen the field of study, and (3) involvement in community activities and your level of involvement.

Applicants will use the NC Community College System General Scholarship application in this guide's Scholarship Application Section.

Colleges should submit applications on behalf of the students to the NC Community College System Office via email to Financial Aid Term Scholarship Reporting at fatsr@nccommunitycolleges.edu.



Allen Ryan Todd Scholarship

Overview and Application

The Allen Ryan Todd Scholarship was established to honor the life and enthusiasm for learning of Allen Ryan Todd. The scholarship symbolizes his family's belief that we are here not just to further our own ends, but also to contribute to a larger purpose. In that spirit, scholarship, service, and a desire to help other committed individuals are crucial elements.

Recipients must demonstrate academic merit and commitment to furthering their education and honoring the memory of Allen Ryan Todd. Available are two scholarships valued at \$1660.00. The funds are distributed in two payments per recipient, one in the fall semester and another in the spring semester.

Application Requirements:

- Be a resident of North Carolina.
- Be enrolled (or intend to enroll) in an associate degree program in education, health, or environmental science at North Carolina Community College.
- Be a motivated, capable learner who has demonstrated economic needs.
- Submit an essay specifying a chosen field of study and explain how the scholarship will help the applicant achieve his/her goal. A statement of how his/her goals honor the values modeled in the life of Allen Ryan Todd.
- Maintain a grade point average at or above the level required for graduation.
- Continue enrollment for the duration of the scholarship at the college where he/she was enrolled at the time of the scholarship award.
- The recipient(s) must show documentation that they have volunteered in the intended field of study to be considered for this scholarship. Documentation must be within the past year.
- Submit an essay that describes any community activity involvement in addition to or beyond your academic studies, i.e., awards, special programs, or any other educational accomplishments, and how this scholarship will help you achieve your educational goals.

Applicants will use the NC Community College System General Scholarship application and submit applications on behalf of the students to the NC Community College System Office via email to Financial Aid Term Scholarship Reporting at fatsr@nccommunitycolleges.edu.



2025-2026
NC Community System General Scholarship Application

Instructions: Complete this application and return it to your college's Financial Aid Office. Submit all required documentation for the scholarship you are applying for.

Name of Scholarship Applying For: _____

Personal Information:

First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Street Address: _____ NC County of Residence: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Length of residence in county: _____ less than 1 yr. _____ 1 yr., but less than 5 yrs. _____ 5 yrs. or more

Educational Information:

Community College you are attending: _____

Type of education program in which you are enrolled. Please choose one:

____ **Curriculum (CU) Program of Study:** _____ **GPA:** _____

____ **Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) Course(s):** _____

Must be enrolled in a course that trains toward a credential listed on the Workforce Continuing Education Credentials list. The latest WCE credentials list is available at <https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/college-faculty-staff/academics/workforce-continuing-education/administrative-resources>.

Additional Information: Read the scholarship criteria carefully and provide all supporting documentation for the scholarship for which you are applying (i.e., essay, transcripts, etc.).

Acknowledgement and Certification Statement: I have read and understand the requirements for the scholarship I am applying for. I understand it is my responsibility to submit all information to the Financial Aid Office at the college by the deadline.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

State Employees Credit Union (SECU) Foundation Scholarship Program – CU

Overview and Application

Scholarships, funded by the SECU Foundation, are established to assist North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) students in achieving academic success. The members of the State Employees' Credit Union (SECU) take an active role in assisting organizations and communities across NC and truly believe in "People Helping People"! Includes eligibility requirements and application procedures.

Recipients are selected by the Scholarship Selection Committee at the community college. Colleges must consider students who best exemplify the membership philosophy of the Credit Union, "People Helping People" and have demonstrated leadership, excellence in character, integrity, and community involvement.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be a NC resident
- High school graduate or GED equivalent
- Enrolled full-time in an associate degree, diploma or certificate program.
- Applicant must not have previously been awarded the SECU 2-year People Helping People scholarship. Each year the recipients selected must be new recipients of this scholarship.
- Best exemplifies the membership philosophy of credit unions, "People Helping People" and has demonstrated leadership, excellence in character, integrity, and community involvement.
- Demonstrate financial need using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Preference may be given to students with limited financial aid from other programs.
- Demonstrate scholastic achievement and maintain a 2.5 or higher-grade point average on a 4.00 scale or attain a score of 3000 on a GED test.
- Use the scholarship to pay for full-time tuition, books, fees, course supplies, and transportation.
- Students must continue at the community college where they are enrolled at the time of the scholarship award for the duration of the scholarship for four

consecutive fall/spring semesters or upon completion of a diploma program.
Scholarships are not transferable to another student or another school.

Applications and other required documents are sent to colleges separately each year. This application is not included in the Scholarship Application section.

SECU Foundation Two-Year Scholarship Program for NC Community Colleges 2025 Operating Procedures

Commencing with the fall semester, recipients of the scholarships will be selected each year from students meeting the eligibility criteria at local community colleges. The college will use its Scholarship Selection Committee to select two new eligible recipient(s) each academic year. Please note, the Scholarship Selection Committee must consist of three or more members and each member must sign the brief statement (on the respective community college's letterhead) from the committee which verifies the selection of recipients.

The Community College will electronically submit the completed Student Data Form for selected recipients as a Word Document to SECU Foundation via Fluxx at NCSECUF (fluxx.io) before the deadline established each year. Funds will be forwarded to the community college financial aid office, made payable to the local Community College on behalf of the student and applied to the student's account to pay tuition, books, fees, course supplies and transportation.

Recipients of the scholarships consent to the release of their names and images for publications of the System Office, the local Community College, and/or the State Employees' Credit Union and the SECU Foundation.

The Scholarship Selection Committee at each community college will select students who best exemplify the credit union philosophy of "People Helping People". Each year the Scholarship Selection Committee will select two new recipients who have not previously been awarded the SECU Foundation People Helping People Scholarship. Information for the scholarship is available through the financial aid office. Financial Aid Offices will provide students with the 2025 People Helping People Two-Year Scholarship Student Data Form, Eligibility Criteria, and SECU Foundation Consent Form. The Scholarship Selection Committee will collect required information and submit electronically to SECU Foundation via Fluxx at **NCSECUF (fluxx.io) by August 4, 2025.**

Information to be submitted to SECU Foundation for selected recipients includes the following:

- Completed Student Data Form which includes (3) Student Community Involvement short answer questions located on the 2nd Page of the Form
- Signed and Dated SECU Foundation Consent Form
- Signed and Dated Scholarship Committee letter on school letterhead

Scholarships are not transferable to another student or another school.

A representative(s) of the local State Employees' Credit Union branch must be invited to the College to present a letter of award to the recipients at the College's recognition programs.

2025-2026 Bridge to Career Program Program Guidelines - CE

Background

In 2018, SECU Foundation established the SECU Bridge to Career Program. This program helps remove financial barriers for students seeking to obtain state-regulated or industry-recognized credentials through the Workforce Continuing Education Division of their local Community College ("the College") that lead to sustainable wage careers within their local communities.

Through participation in the Bridge to Career program, the College is eligible to request funding for up to thirty (30) scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 with a maximum scholarship award of \$15,000.00 per College. Colleges may also receive funding for the administration of the program in an amount up to 20% of scholarships awarded, for a maximum award of \$3,000.00 towards administration expenses.

*Note: Colleges are eligible for up to \$18,000 advanced funding to award scholarships and administer the program. Administrative funds may be used to offset navigation and student support services, program marketing, awards ceremony funding, etc. **The \$3,000 administrative funds may not be used to fund additional scholarships.** Any unused scholarship and administrative funds must be returned to the SECU Foundation at the end of the program year.*

Bridge to Career Program is aligned with the state's postsecondary education [attainment goal](#) to have 2 million working-age North Carolinians possess a high-quality postsecondary credential of labor market value by 2030. This will be accomplished by adjusting eligibility criteria to support the credentials identified at the Essential and Career level on the NC Workforce Credentials List. The NC Workforce Credentials Advisory Council approves credentials to be included on the NC Workforce Credentials list. This council includes the NC Dept of Commerce's Labor & Economic Analysis Division and Division of Workforce Solutions, the NC Community College System, and the Dept of Public Instruction. To ensure the continued relevance of the list, the NC Workforce Credentials Advisory Council will review occupational demand and wage data on an annual basis to refine the existing list and will engage employers to validate the findings before updating the list. The current list of validated credentials can be found [here](#). Credentials not included on the NC Workforce Credentials List that colleges would like to support through Bridge to Career must receive prior review and approval from NCCCS. Please email wcerequests@nccommunitycolleges.edu with any questions.

The SECU Bridge to Career program will be administered through the individual Community College's Workforce Continuing Education department in collaboration with their Financial Aid office. The College will utilize an Identified Staff Member to guide students in pursuing one of the eligible credentials throughout the educational process, from class registration to job

seeking. The Identified Staff Member will connect students with soft skills training opportunities and interview preparation training to alleviate barriers to job obtainment. This can include the college's Human Resources Development (HRD) Program. Identified Staff Members are responsible for following up with students and collecting and reporting student participation data, including but not limited to student demographics, referrals, completion, and credential and job obtainment data.

Student Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for funding through the program, a student or prospective student must:

- Be a North Carolina resident
- Be enrolled or enrolling in a course(s) leading to an [NC Workforce Credential](#) at the Essential or Career Level, or that has been approved by NCCCS

The student would be eligible to be awarded up to two (2) scholarships within the program year when taking two (2) scholarship eligible courses. (Program year runs July 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026)

- Be part of one of the following target groups: unemployed or underemployed, members of the NC National Guard, military veterans and spouses, or underserved populations in a specific workforce sector or area
- Not be a director, employee, or family member of an employee of the State Employees' Credit Union or SECU Foundation; and
- **Must complete their course work supported by this scholarship by end of program year (August 31, 2026)**

Application Procedures

- This program is administered through the college's Workforce Continuing Education department in collaboration with their Financial Aid office. Individuals must contact local colleges for specific instructions for submitting a scholarship application. All applications will be reviewed by a scholarship selection committee. Preference will be given to those students with limited or no access to financial aid from other programs.
- Scholarship recipients will receive instructions for accepting the scholarship award from the College.
- Students must complete and sign both the Student Data Form and the Scholarship photo release form provided by SECU Foundation.

Use of Scholarship Funds

SECU Foundation scholarship funds are to be used for registration fees, course fees, books, course supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare, and any other components of the total cost of attendance.

NCCCS Program Contact Information

- **All questions related to this program** should be directed to:
Anne Bacon (919) 807-7159 or wcerequests@nccommunitycolleges.edu

Institution Participation and Reporting Requirements

- The **funding cycle** for this program is July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. All funding must be awarded by June 30, 2026, but courses do not have to have been completed by that date. Please ensure the students awarded in the funding cycle will have completed their courses by August 31, 2026. If any students are awarded scholarships after the final report date, you may resubmit the report with appropriate updates.
- Colleges must have at least one representative attend a webinar or online seminar about the Bridge to Career Program to be eligible to participate.
- Colleges must submit a Letter of Commitment (provided by SECU Foundation) to be eligible for consideration
 - Deadline to apply: Colleges must submit all documentation to NCCCS Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) office by **June 16, 2025**.
 - Submit the completed Letter of Commitment with all required signatures and including Wire Transfer Instructions for SECU Foundation to submit funding to the College
 - Note: while wire transfer is preferred, please indicate if the College needs to receive funding via check payment on the 2nd page of the Letter of Commitment.
 - Approved Colleges will receive upfront funding for the program year from the SECU Foundation and will receive an approval notification from the SECU Foundation.
- Submission of status reports, student data forms, etc. to the NCCCS WCE Office via [Fluxx](#):
- Colleges will be required to **electronically** submit **three status reports** to the NCCC System Office in the following months: October 2025, February 2026, and June 2026.
 - Colleges will submit all reporting paperwork (i.e., status reports, student data forms, consent forms, scholarship photo release, bios, etc) using the Fluxx platform.
 - Reports must contain, at a minimum:
 - SECU Bridge to Career Status Report (Excel Spreadsheet)
 - A statement demonstrating how the program has or will bridge employment barriers in the College's local community
 - A detailed budget reflecting any appropriation of funds not detailed in a prior report
 - Student Success/Impact Stories
 - Student Data & Consent Forms, Scholarship Photo Release Forms, and Bios not previously submitted in a prior report
 - Final Reporting due June 1, 2026 – *See Appendix A for Final Report Template*
- Colleges should submit their reporting to the WCE Office on or by the following dates:
 - October 6, 2025
 - February 2, 2026
 - June 1, 2026
- The NCCCS WCE office will validate documentation and submit student information to the SECU Foundation.

- **ALL program funds will be disbursed directly from the SECU Foundation to the college.** Distribution of Funds is scheduled for July 2025.
- Colleges will utilize an Identified Staff Member to guide applying students in pursuing one of the eligible credentials throughout the educational process, from class registration to job seeking. The Identified Staff Member will connect students with soft skills training opportunities and interview preparation training to alleviate barriers to job obtainment. This can include the college's Human Resources Development (HRD) Program.
 - Identified Staff Members are responsible for following up with students and collecting and reporting student participation data, including but not limited to student demographics, referrals, completion, and credential and job obtainment data.

Implementation

- Completed Letters of Commitment should be uploaded to:
 - [Fluxx](#)
- Colleges may begin submitting their Letter of Commitment immediately up to June 16, 2025. Once these have been received, the NCCCS WCE Office will review and forward to the SECU Foundation for consideration.

Recognition and Publicity

- As a condition of the award, scholarship recipients must consent to the release of their names and images for publications written/distributed by the System Office, the local Community College, and/or the State Employees' Credit Union and the SECU Foundation. The **2025-26 Student Data & Consent Form** (Attached) as well as the **Scholarship Photo Release Form** (Attached) must be utilized and submitted with the awardee's status report. **Please ensure you are collecting these documents at the time of application.**
- Colleges must send notification to scholarship recipients promptly.
- Colleges program staff must communicate all scholarship recipients to their Financial Aid Office.
- Colleges must agree to recognize SECU Foundation as the supporter of the SECU Bridge to Career Program. Recognition will include but are not limited to the following:
 - Sending a news release to the College's local newspaper announcing the grant award
 - Posting information regarding the SECU Bridge to Career Program on the college's website
- Colleges must invite representatives from the local State Employees' Credit Union to present a big check for the program to the college during a designated recognition program hosted by the college.

SECU Foundation

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

SECU BRIDGE TO CAREER PROGRAM FINAL REPORTING TEMPLATE – CE ONLY

To assist participating community colleges with reporting results for the SECU Bridge to Career program, we are providing you the following template for your final report. Please provide a summary on each of the following categories: Overview and Program Description, Student Data, and Evaluation and Analysis. Reporting results are due no later than **June 1, 2026** and should include the following information:

Overview and Program Description

A. Introduction and Background

Provide a brief overview of the credential student recipients selected to obtain while participating in the SECU Bridge to Career program and how the program was able to bridge employment barriers in the College's local community. Be sure to include which industry sectors are supported by these credentials.

B. List of Selection Criteria and Program Requirements

Please include the total number of applications received for the 2025-2026 program year. Share the selection criteria and any requirements asked of scholarship recipients during the 2025-2026 year.

C. Publicity and Communication

- 1) How did the college advertise, recruit, and promote the SECU Bridge to Career program throughout the community college this year?
- 2) Provide confirmation of any press releases issued from the community college in reference to the SECU Bridge to Career program. If there are any pamphlets, flyers, or brochures created to advertise the program, be sure to include a copy for our records.
- 3) Include a brief description of the additional resources and support used to connect students participating in the program to employment following completion of course of study (i.e., job fairs, career expos, employer engagement).

Student Data Summary

A. Student Data

Complete the Excel spreadsheet provided by the North Carolina Community College System Office (NCCCS) for status reporting and attach to the final report to provide:

- i. Name of participants
- ii. Gender and Race of Participants, if disclosed
- iii. WCE Course
- iv. Training Status
- v. Aligned Credential
- vi. Target Group Affiliation

Narrative portion should provide any available student post-graduation plans and include any student impact stories that could be collected. How many cohort participants were offered a job, did the student's employment status change after training? Was the college able to utilize all 30 scholarships offered by the program? If not, why was the college unable to utilize all the scholarships?

B. Funding

Clearly explain how funds were used and relay total amount of funding used. If for any reason full funding is not utilized, report should indicate how much funding will be returned to SECU Foundation and by what date it will be returned. In addition, please provide a detailed explanation for why full funding was not utilized (for example if a student withdrew from program, what were the circumstances).

Evaluation and Analysis

A. Navigator

Highlight the role of the Identified Staff Member in the program process. Include any student recipient feedback.

B. Program Successes and Themes

Describe the impact the funding has made at the Community College and in the local community. Provide both anecdotal and data driven examples of successes of the SECU Bridge to Career program in relation to the intended results. Include any themes or unintended benefits that were observed because of the SECU Bridge to Career program.

C. Program Challenges and Suggestions

Use this as an opportunity to take an internal analysis of your SECU Bridge to Career program and provide feedback on what worked and what did not. Include specific examples of any challenges encountered during the SECU Bridge to Career program and any future enhancements or anticipated changes to correct them.

The final report is due no later than **June 1, 2026** and should be submitted electronically using [Fluxx](#). Thank you for your participation in the SECU Bridge to Career program. We look forward to receiving your results.



Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina

Overview and Application

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of NC Firefighter Stipend and Scholarship Program will provide stipends of \$500 per term or scholarships up to \$1000 per term for eligible community college students pursuing NC Firefighter Certification courses or courses leading to an eligible associates degree as described in the (1) BCBS Foundation Firefighter Stipends, (2) BCBS Foundation Firefighter Scholarships to Adults, and/or (3) BCBS Foundation Firefighter Scholarships to High School Students.

The scholarships are limited to 20 designated NC community colleges: Beaufort CCC, Bladen CC, Blue Ridge CC, Caldwell CC&TI, Central Carolina CC, Cleveland CC, College of the Albemarle, Halifax CC, Isothermal CC, James Sprunt CC, Montgomery CC, Nash CC, Richmond CC, Robeson CC, Southwestern CC, Stanly CC, Surry CC, Vance-Granville CC, Wayne CC, and Wilson CC.

Applicants will use the Blue Cross Blue Shield Scholarship application in this guide's Scholarship Application Section.

Designated colleges will collect applications and select recipients.



**Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of North Carolina
Firefighter Stipend and Scholarship Program
Eligibility Requirements and Student Applications (Three Options)**

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of NC Firefighter Stipend and Scholarship Program will provide stipends of \$500 per term or scholarships up to \$1,000 per term for eligible community college students pursuing NC Firefighter Certification courses or courses leading to an eligible associate degree, as described in the three options detailed below. These funds are designated to assist North Carolina fire and rescue departments with recruitment and retention of firefighters. A particular emphasis is in supporting the recruitment and training of individuals in achieving their Firefighter I & II certifications to impact the number of firefighters within the state.

This funding is available to students at 20 designated NC Community Colleges: Beaufort CC, Bladen CC, Blue Ridge CC, Caldwell CC&TI, Central Carolina CC, Cleveland CC, College of The Albemarle, Halifax CC, Isothermal CC, James Sprunt CC, Montgomery CC, Nash CC, Richmond CC, Robeson CC, Southwestern CC, Stanly CC, Surry CC, Vance-Granville CC, Wayne CC, and Wilson CC.

Each college will determine which options are available and the application processes for each. Program options are as follows: **1) BCBS Foundation Firefighter Stipends; 2) BCBS Foundation Firefighter Scholarships to Adults; and/or 3) BCBS Foundation Firefighter Scholarships to High School Students**. Please contact the local college financial aid office for details.

1. BCBS Foundation Firefighter Stipends

Recruitment and retention of NC firefighters

While registration fees are waived there are significant costs associated with accessing any training including materials, travel, and personal resources. The BCBS Foundation Firefighter Stipends are intended to offset out-of-pocket expenses a student could incur in order to participate in training leading to Firefighter I & II, NC Driver/Operator Pumps, or Emergency Vehicle Driver Certifications

Stipend Award

- \$500 per term (must reapply each term)
 - Funds are disbursed to the student's college account to cover any expenses for the program/courses to cover instructional costs (books, materials, etc.) associated with the designated fire fighter training within a NC community college. Any balance of funds will be allocated to the student.

Eligibility Requirements

- The student must enroll in course(s) required to achieve the NC Firefighter I & II, NC Driver/Operator Pumps, and/or Emergency Vehicle Driver certifications.

BCBS Foundation Firefighter Scholarships to Adults:

Incentive to engage to advance as a firefighter with path to broader public safety career goals.

Eligible programs: Fire Protection Technology, Public Safety Administration, Emergency Management or Emergency Medical Science curriculum associate degree programs and Workforce Continuing Education courses that tie directly to a college's approved EMS Bridge program and is specifically part of the student's pathway to EMS associate degree completion.

Scholarship Award

- Up to \$1,000 per term (must reapply each term)
 - Funds are disbursed to the student's account to cover any expenses for the program/courses to cover instructional costs (tuition, fees, books, materials, supplies, etc.) associated with an eligible curriculum program. Any balance of funds will be allocated to the student.

Eligibility Requirements

- Hold an active NC Firefighter I & II certification
- Students must successfully complete courses covered by the scholarship in any previous term to be eligible for funding in a subsequent term.

2. BCBS Foundation Firefighter Scholarships to High School Students:

Incentive to engage to advance as a firefighter with path to broader public safety career goals.

Eligible programs: Fire Protection Technology, Public Safety Administration, Emergency Management or Emergency Medical Science curriculum associate degree programs and Workforce Continuing Education courses that tie directly to a college's approved EMS Bridge program and is specifically part of the student's pathway to EMS associate degree completion.

Scholarship Award

- up to \$1,000 per term (must reapply each term)
 - Funds are disbursed to the student's account to cover any expenses for the program/courses to cover instructional costs (tuition, fees, books, materials, supplies, etc.) associated with an eligible curriculum program. Any balance of funds will be allocated to the student.

Eligibility Requirements

- Successful completion of a Career & College Promise – Workforce Continuing Education (CCP – WCE) Fire Academy pathway.
- Students must successfully complete courses covered by the scholarship in any previous term to be eligible for funding in a subsequent term.

Attachments

Form A: BCBS Foundation **Firefighter Stipend** Application Form

Form B: BCBS Foundation **Firefighter Scholarship to Adults** Application Form

Form C: BCBS Foundation **Firefighter Scholarship to High School Students** Application Form



Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation Firefighter Stipend Application

Please confirm if your college is an eligible college and if it offers this option for the term, you are interested in. Return the completed application form to the college Financial Aid Office by the deadline specified by the college.

The stipend is \$500 per term and students must reapply for each subsequent term. Funds are disbursed to the student's college account to cover any expenses for the program/courses to cover instructional costs (books, materials, etc.) associated with the designated fire fighter training within a NC community college. Any balance of funds will be allocated to the student.

The student must enroll in course(s) required to achieve the NC Firefighter I & II, NC Driver/Operator Pumps, and/or Emergency Vehicle Driver certifications to be eligible for these funds.

College Name	
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Student Information (please print)

<i>Full Name</i>	
<i>Home Address</i>	
<i>City/State/Zip Code</i>	
<i>Email Address</i>	
<i>Phone Number</i>	
<i>Mobile Number</i>	

Specify Term Applying For: _____ (Example: Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Summer 2026)

List eligible course(s) student has enrolled in for the term specified above: <div style="height: 40px;"></div>

I have read and understand the requirements for this funding. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation Firefighter Scholarship to Adults Application

Please confirm if your college is an eligible college and if it is offering this option for the term, you are interested in. Return the completed application form to the college Financial Aid Office by the deadline specified by the college.

Scholarship Award: Up to \$1,000 per term (must reapply each term). Funds are disbursed to the student's account to cover any expenses for the program/courses to cover instructional costs (tuition, fees, books, materials, supplies, etc.) associated with an eligible program as listed below. Any balance of funds will be allocated to the student. **Eligible programs:** Fire Protection Technology, Public Safety Administration, Emergency Management or Emergency Medical Science curriculum associate degree programs and Workforce Continuing Education courses that tie directly to a college's approved EMS Bridging program and is specifically part of the student's pathway to EMS associate degree completion. **Eligibility Requirements:** 1) Hold an active NC Firefighter I & II certification; 2) Successfully complete courses covered by the scholarship in any previous term to be eligible for funding in a subsequent term.

College Name	
---------------------	--

Student Information (please print)

<i>Full Name</i>	
<i>Home Address</i>	
<i>City/State/Zip Code</i>	
<i>Email Address</i>	
<i>Phone Number</i>	
<i>Mobile Number</i>	

Specify Term Applying For: _____ (Example: Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Summer 2026)

List eligible course(s)/associated degree program student has enrolled in for the term specified:

☐ I have provided evidence that I have an active Firefighter I&II certification.

☐ If I was awarded this scholarship in the past, I have provided evidence of successfully completing previous courses.

☐ I have read and understand the requirements for this funding. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature _____ **Date:** _____



Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation
Firefighter Scholarship to High School Students Application

Please confirm if your college is an eligible college and if it is offering this option for the term, you are interested in. Return the completed application form to the college Financial Aid Office by the deadline specified by the college.

Scholarship Award: Up to \$1,000 per term (must reapply each term). Funds are disbursed to the student's account to cover any expenses for the program/courses to cover instructional costs (tuition, fees, books, materials, supplies, etc.) associated with an eligible program as listed below. Any balance of funds will be allocated to the student. **Eligible programs:** Fire Protection Technology, Public Safety Administration, Emergency Management or Emergency Medical Science curriculum associate degree programs and Workforce Continuing Education courses that tie directly to a college's approved EMS Bridging program and is specifically part of the student's pathway to EMS associate degree completion. **Eligibility Requirements:** 1) Successful completion of a Career & College Promise – Workforce Continuing Education (CCP – WCE) Fire Academy pathway; and 2) Successfully complete courses covered by the scholarship in any previous term to be eligible for funding in a subsequent term.

College Name	
---------------------	--

Student Information (please print)

Full Name	
Home Address	
City/State/Zip Code	
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Mobile Number	

Specify Term Applying For: _____ (Example: Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Summer 2026)

List eligible course(s)/associated degree program student has enrolled in for the term specified:
--

☐ I have provided evidence that I have successfully completed a WCE CCP Fire Academy Pathway.

☐ If I was awarded this scholarship in the past, I have provided evidence of successfully completing previous courses.

☐ I have read and understand the requirements for this funding. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____



Samuel M. Taylor Memorial Life Sciences Scholarship

Overview and Application

The Samuel M. Taylor Memorial Life Sciences Scholarship was established in memory of Sam Taylor, a founder and president of NCBIO, the trade association for life science companies in North Carolina. Sam was passionate about North Carolina's life sciences industry and served at NCBIO's helm for more than 25 years. He was instrumental in the establishment of the NCBioImpact training program to support the growth of biopharma manufacturing in our state and ensure training opportunities for North Carolinians seeking a career in the industry. Bionetwork, the life science training initiative of the North Carolina Community College System, is a key member of the NC BioImpact Collaboration. To learn more, visit: www.ncbionetwork.org/sam-taylor-scholarship

Scholarships are aimed at supporting students in life sciences programs. Eligibility and application instructions are provided.

Students must be enrolled in one of the following programs:

- o **Clinical Research Associate**
- o **Facility Maintenance Technology**
- o **Biotechnology - Bioanalytical Laboratory Technology**
- o **Biotechnology: Bioprocess Manufacturing Technology**

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a resident of **North Carolina** and eligible for in-state tuition.
- Meet satisfactory academic progress standards as determined by the college.
- Continue enrollment for the duration of the scholarship at the college where they were enrolled at the time of the scholarship award.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.studentaid.gov
- Complete the NCCCS application for the Samuel M. Taylor Memorial Life Sciences Scholarship.
- Submit an essay explaining your interest in the field of study, your goals after graduation, and how the scholarship will help you financially.
- Applicants should return the completed application to the college's financial aid office by **Friday, July 7, 2025**.
- Late applications may not be considered.



2025-2026 Samuel M. Taylor Memorial Life Sciences Scholarship Application

Instructions: Complete this application and return it to the college Financial Aid Office.

Name of Scholarship: Samuel M. Taylor Memorial Life Sciences Scholarship

Student Information:

First Name: _____ MI: ____ Last Name: _____ SID: _____

Home Street Address: _____ NC County of Residence: _____

(Note: Some scholarships require residency in a qualifying NC county).

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Check the program below that you are enrolled in. Grade Point Average (GPA): _____

____ Clinical Research Associate (A45190)

____ Facility Maintenance Technology (A50190)

____ Biotechnology – Bioanalytical Laboratory Technology (A20100)

____ Biotechnology – Bioprocess Manufacturing Technology (A20100)

Attach an essay using 300 words or less explaining your interest in the life science field of study, include your goals after graduation, and how the scholarship will benefit you financially.

Acknowledgement and Certification: I have read and understand the requirements for the scholarship I am applying for. I certify that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Completed application and essay must be submitted on behalf of the applicant by a community college representative. Application must be sent electronically to Financial Aid Term Scholarship Reporting at fatsr@nccommunitycolleges.edu by **July 11, 2025**.



North Carolina Community College Short-Term Workforce Development (STWD) Grant Program

The Short-Term Workforce Development (STWD) Grant Program, established by [Session Law 2021-180](#), is a state-funded financial aid program for eligible Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) students pursuing high-demand, family-sustaining wage credentials identified as N.C. Workforce Credentials at either the Essential or Career level. These credential pathways may consist of a single WCE course or a series of courses. The list of eligible credentials is available at <https://nccareers.org/credentials>.

Use of Scholarship Funds

Scholarship awards are determined by each college based on student needs, local industry needs, number of eligible students, and cost of course, up to a maximum of \$750 per course. The scholarships help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare, and other components of the total cost of attendance.

Student Eligibility Requirements

At a minimum, eligible students applying for this scholarship must be:

- 1) A resident of North Carolina
 - a. As required by [Session Law 2021-180](#) Section 6.6. (c), eligible students must establish residency under the criteria outlined in [G.S. 116-143.1](#) following the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the State Education Assistance Authority known as the [NC Residency Determination Service \(RDS\)](#).
- 2) A Student enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses leading to an N.C. Workforce Credential identified as either Essential or Career level. These pathways may consist of a single WCE course or a series of courses. The list of eligible credentials is available at <https://nccareers.org/credentials>.

Application Process

- Students will complete the STWD Grant application for the targeted academic year.
- Applications are filed with the college Financial Aid office, Workforce Continuing Education department, or another college-designated office.
- Applicants bear full responsibility for completing the STWD Grant application before the deadline established by the local college.

**North Carolina Community Colleges
Short-Term Workforce Development (STWD) Grant
2025-2026 Student Application**

Instructions: Complete this application and return the completed application to the college's Financial Aid Office or Workforce Continuing Education Department.

Eligibility Criteria:

At a minimum, eligible students applying for this grant must be:

- 1) A resident of North Carolina as outlined in [G.S. 116-143.1](#) and following the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the State Education Assistance Authority known as [NC Residency Determination Service \(RDS\)](#).
- 2) A Student enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/course(s) leading to an N.C. Workforce Credential identified as either Essential or Career Level. These pathways may consist of a single WCE course or a series of courses. The list of eligible credentials is available at <https://nccareers.org/credentials>.

Applicant Information:

Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____, State: __, Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone Number: (xxx) xxx-xxxx Mobile Number: (xxx) xxx-xxxx

Residency Determination:

Before submitting this application, you must complete residency determination via <https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/> and be determined to be a resident of North Carolina. Upon completing this step, you will be provided a Residency Certification Number ("RCN"), which must be provided below.

Residency Certification Number ("RCN"): _____

Education Program Information:

College Attending/Enrolled: _____

NC Workforce Credential pursuing: _____

Course(s) in which you plan to enroll or are already registered:

1. _____ (e.g., CJC-3938 Basic Law Enforcement Training)
2. _____
3. _____

Application Attestation:

I have read and understand the requirements for assistance. I attest that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Other Scholarships

Overview

The NCCCS lists the scholarships below. NCCCS does not participate in the selection process, unless asked. For additional information including application process and deadlines, colleges may contact the scholarship agency.

Morehead-Cain Scholarship – NC community colleges may nominate candidates for this scholarship. For this scholarship, students must be enrolled in a transfer program with plans to transfer to UNC-Chapel Hill. For more information including nomination process and deadlines, visit www.moreheadcain.org.

NC Patriot Star Family Recovery Scholarship – offers two scholarships administered by the Patriot Foundation for eligible family members of fallen or disabled veterans or injured service members of North Carolina. For additional information including questions about the scholarship program, contact scholarships@patriotfoundation.org. To apply, visit www.patriotfoundation.org.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship Program North Carolina – provides educational scholarships for early childhood professionals. For a list of participating NC community colleges, application process and deadlines, visit the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program online at <https://www.childcareservices.org/teach-nc/>.

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications may vary based on the agency and scholarship requirements. NCCCS makes every attempt to provide all available scholarship application links. The NC Community College System General Scholarship application may be used for the Allen Ryan Todd and George W. Ballard scholarship programs.

Resources

2025-2026 Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship Allocations to Colleges:

<https://wordpress.nccommunitycolleges.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/FC-08-Golden-LEAF-Community-College-Scholarship-Program-FY-2025-26.pdf>.

2025-2026 Targeted Assistance and Less Than Half-Time Grant Allocations to

Colleges: <https://wordpress.nccommunitycolleges.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/FC-04-Targeted-Assistance-and-Less-Than-Half-Time-Grant-Program-for-FY-2025-2026-Attachment.pdf-Combined.pdf>.

2025-2026 Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Allocations to Colleges:

<https://wordpress.nccommunitycolleges.edu/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/FC-10-Allocation-for-Short-Term-Workforce-Development-Grant-Program.pdf>.

College for North Carolina (CFNC)- <https://www.cfnc.org/>.

NC Community Colleges System: <https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu/>.

NC Community Colleges Service Now: <https://ncccs.servicenowservices.com/so>.

NCCCS Contacts

All questions related to the Targeted Assistance and Less Than Half-Time Grant, George W. Ballard Memorial Scholarship, Allen Ryan Todd, State Employees Credit Union “People Helping People” Scholarship, and Samuel M. Taylor Memorial Life Sciences scholarship, contact **State Director of Student Aid, Brenda Burgess** at burgessb@nccommunitycolleges.edu or by phone 919-807-7104.

All questions related to the Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship, contact **Grant Management Associate, Dr. Wanda White**, at whitew_ctr@nccommunitycolleges.edu and **Brenda Burgess**, at burgessb@nccommunitycolleges.edu or phone 919-807-7104.

All questions related to the State Employees Credit Union Bridge to Careers Scholarship program should be directed to **Director of Workforce Continuing Education Prison Education Liaison, Anne Bacon** at bacon@nccommunitycolleges.edu or wcerequests@nccommunitycolleges.edu or by phone 919-807-7159.

All question related to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of NC Firefighters Scholarship programs should be directed to **Director of Public Safety Training, Kenny Weatherington** at weatheringtonk@nccommunitycolleges.edu or by phone 919-291-6341.

All questions related to the Short-Term Workforce Development Grant program should be directed to **Associate Vice-President of Workforce Strategies, Dr. Andrew Gardner** at gardnera@nccommunitycolleges.edu or by phone 919-807-7159.

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