

Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship

Overview:

- Expansion of the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program to provide opportunities for higher education to previously unserved Arkansans (traditional & non-traditional students). The goal is to provide meaningful financial help to those qualifying.
- Universally available - college scholarships available to all Arkansans regardless of race, gender, family income or course of study.
- Scholarships will be awarded starting with the Fall 2010 semester

Award Amounts:

- The Academic Challenge Scholarship will be an annual award:
 - Amount will be determined by lottery proceeds, and will be announced in 2010.

Eligibility Requirements:

- **“Traditional Students”** – (beginning with the high school graduating class of 2010)
 - Arkansas resident and US citizen/lawful permanent resident
 - Accepted for admission at an approved institution of higher education as a **full-time** student in a program of study that leads to a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, qualified certificate or a nursing school diploma
 - Applicant must complete the FAFSA (although there will be no maximum income cap)
 - Must meet one of the following criteria:
 1. Graduate from an Arkansas public high school and successfully complete the Smart Core curriculum established by the Arkansas Department of Education; and either
 - i. Achieve at least a 2.5 HIGH SCHOOL GPA; or
 - ii. Achieve a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent.
 2. Graduate from an Arkansas public high school before the 2013-2014 school year, but did not complete the Smart Core curriculum, shall achieve at least a 2.5 high school GPA; and either
 - i. Achieve a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or
 - ii. Score proficient or higher on all state-mandated end-of-course assessments, including without limitation, end-of-course assessments on:
 - a. Algebra I;
 - b. Geometry; and
 - c. Biology
 3. Applicant who qualifies under #1 or #2, but graduates from an Arkansas public high school that is annually identified in the report by the Arkansas Department of Education as a school in which twenty percent (20%) or more of the students received a letter grade of “B” or higher but did not score proficiency or higher on the end-of-course assessment on the first attempt and achieve at least a 2.5 high school GPA; and either

- i. Achieve a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or
 - ii. Score proficient or higher on all state-mandated end-of-course assessments, including without limitation, end-of-course assessments on:
 - a. Algebra I;
 - b. Geometry;
 - c. Biology; and
 - d. Literacy, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.
 - 4. Applicant who has a disability identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as it existed on July 1, 2009 and graduates from an Arkansas public high school but did not complete the Smart Core curriculum because the applicant's individualized education program under § 6-41-217 did not require it, shall achieve at least a 2.5 high school GPA; and either;
 - i. Achieve a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or
 - ii. Score proficient or higher on all state-mandated end-of-course assessments, including without limitation, end-of-course assessments on:
 - a. Algebra I;
 - b. Geometry;
 - c. Biology; and
 - d. Literacy, beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.
 - 5. Graduate from a private or out-of-state or home school high school and achieve a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent
- **“Non-Traditional Students”** – (Year 1: \$8,000,000 allocation, expected to increase in future years)
 - Arkansas resident and US citizen/lawful permanent resident
 - Accepted for admission at an approved institution of higher education as a **full-time or part-time** student in a program of study that leads to a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, qualified certificate or a nursing school diploma
 - Applicant must complete the FAFSA (although there will be no maximum income cap)
 - Must meet one of the following criteria:
 - 1. Graduated from an Arkansas high school and achieved a 2.5 high school grade point average or had a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or
 - 2. Has completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of courses granting three (3) or more hours of credit at an approved institution of higher education and earned a postsecondary grade point average of at least 2.5; or
 - 3. Graduated from a private, out-of-state or home school high school and achieve a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent.