

Nontraditional Prioritization Process

Academic Challenge Scholarship

Nontraditional Awarding and Prioritization

Award Notification and Prioritization of Awards:

The approved allocation for the nontraditional student category under the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program Part 2 shall be divided equally between the approved 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education. The funds allocated for the approved 2-year and 4-year institutions of higher education will then be divided equally among two (2) categories of students:

- 1. Delayed Student – An eligible applicant who did not enroll in college within one year of high school graduation AND has no prior college credit, other than concurrent credit that was earned in high school or credit earned via prior learning assessment or corporate or military credit.
- 2. Earn-In Student – An eligible applicant who has attended or is currently enrolled in a postsecondary institution AND does not currently receive the Academic Challenge Scholarship Program Part 1 and who is not awarded as a traditional or current achiever student under Academic Challenge Scholarship Part 2.

Scholarships for applicants attending a 2-year college will be prioritized within each of the two (2) categories in the following manner:

Delayed Students:

Prioritization of awards is based on ACT or ACT equivalent score, first awarding those who do not need any remediation based on the state’s designated minimum scores on the ACT or ACT equivalent in Math, English Composition and Reading. After all students who do not require any remediation are awarded, if funds are still available, then students who need remediation will be awarded.

Earn-In Students:

The department’s selection criteria will consist of value points assigned to achievement measures and other criteria including: level of progress towards completion of a qualified certificate, nursing diploma or associate degree; enrollment in or intent to enroll (by declaring a major) in a program of study in an area of critical workforce need as determined by the department or is in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field; and postsecondary grade point average. Value points assigned to each selection criterion are weighted as follows:

- Highest level of progress toward completion of a qualified certificate, nursing diploma, or associate degree -----70%
- Postsecondary grade point average (based on a 4.0 grading scale)-----20%

Enrollment in or intent to enroll (by declaring a major) in a program of study in an area of critical workforce need as determined by the department or is in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field. -----10%

Scholarships for applicants attending a 4-year university will be prioritized within each of the two (2) categories in the following manner:

Delayed Students:

Prioritization of awards is based on ACT or ACT equivalent score, first awarding those who do not need any remediation based on the state’s designated minimum scores on the ACT or ACT equivalent in Math, English Composition and Reading. After all students who do not require any remediation are awarded, if funds are still available, then students who need remediation will be awarded.

Earn-In Students:

The department’s selection criteria will consist of value points assigned to achievement measures and other criteria including: level of progress towards completion of a qualified certificate, nursing diploma, associate degree or a baccalaureate degree; enrollment in or intent to enroll (by declaring a major) in a program of study in an area of critical workforce need as determined by the department or is in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field; and postsecondary grade point average. Value points assigned to each selection criterion are weighted as follows:

Highest level of progress toward completion of a qualified certificate, nursing diploma, or associate degree -----70%

Postsecondary grade point average (based on a 4.0 grading scale)-----20%

Enrollment in or intent to enroll (by declaring a major) in a program of study in an area of critical workforce need as determined by the department or is in a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field. -----10%

In the event that funds are not fully expended in any of the two (2) categories of nontraditional students, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education reserves the authority to redirect funds to another category at its discretion.