



Eligibility Guidelines and Student Application

The Golden LEAF Foundation makes scholarships available to students from qualifying counties who demonstrate financial need to help them attend a North Carolina community college. Golden LEAF's goal is for scholarship recipients to gain talent, knowledge, and the skills to help their communities thrive.

The Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship provides scholarships of up to \$2,250 annually for curriculum students and up to \$1850 annually for workforce continuing education students. The scholarships help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare and other components of the total cost of attendance for the 2023-2024 academic year.

NCCCS Requirements

- Notify the college of their allocation of scholarship funds, including acceptable uses of the funds.
- Market and promote scholarships and provide an annual student application to be used by the colleges.
- Monitor the program for overall compliance including monitoring awards and transmittals made by colleges.
- Provide interim and end of the year reports to Golden LEAF including scholarship awarded and project activities and outcomes.
- Provide professional development and training opportunities to college aid administrators.

College Requirements

- Announce and promote the Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship program to curriculum and workforce continuing education students.
- Determine application procedures including deadlines to apply for the scholarship.
- Comply with scholarship guidelines, including awarding, administration, and reconciliation of award transmittals with other offices and NCCCS.
- Maintain all Golden LEAF scholarship applications.

Student Eligibility Requirements

- Eligible students must (1) be a North Carolina resident, (2) demonstrate financial need and (3) reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (see Qualifying Counties 2023-2024). A scholarship recipient who resides in an eligible county upon initial award will retain eligibility and may be eligible for a renewal award as long as the student's place of residence is within the state of North Carolina. NOTE: the college will be asked to provide proof of the student's county of residency at the time of the initial award.
- Eligible students may receive an award each year. Financial aid offices will determine their application procedures for making awards for subsequent terms. Selected students will be required to disclose all financial aid awards as dictated by college financial aid offices for award packaging. Golden LEAF Scholarships will not displace federal grants, e.g., Pell grants, for which the student may be eligible (may displace loan funds).

Curriculum Student Selection Criteria

Eligible students must:

(1) Be enrolled at least full-time for fall and spring; Summer school students must be enrolled at least 6 credit hours. Grants for less-than-full-time students should be prorated based on hours of enrollment and pending availability of funds. Colleges should determine reasonable proration award amounts.

- (2) Demonstrate financial need as determined by completion of the FAFSA;
- (3) Be a resident of North Carolina
- (4) Reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (Please check with your financial aid office for Qualifying Counties 2023-2024).

CU Scholarship Awarding Format Sample: THIS IS AN EXAMPLE.

Colleges may select students to receive up to \$2,250 in awards annually. For example, if a student receives \$2,250, funds will be awarded up to \$1,000 for the fall, \$1,000 for the spring and \$250 in the summer. The scholarship may be renewed for one year, if the student meets eligibility criteria.

If the student fails to enroll, those remaining funds may be awarded to another student. Grants for less-than-full-time students will be prorated based on hours of enrollment and pending availability of funds. For example, if a student is awarded \$2,250 for the fall and spring, but enrolls for only halftime for the spring semester, the award will be prorated for the spring to \$563. The remaining \$562 may be awarded to another student.

Workforce Continuing Education Student Eligibility

Eligible students must:

- (1) Be a resident of North Carolina.
- (2) Reside in a qualifying Golden LEAF County.
- (3) Be enrolled or enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses offered for 96 hours or more and leading to a State or industry-recognized credential.

WCE Scholarship Awarding Format Sample: THIS IS AN EXAMPLE.

Colleges may select students to receive up to \$1,850 and must award according to the curriculum semester(s) as set up in Colleague for fall, spring, and summer. For example, a student may be awarded \$925 in the fall, based on CE course/program beginning in August. A student may be awarded \$925 in the spring, based on CE course/program beginning in January. If a course/program begins in December, the scholarship should be awarded under the fall semester/term in Colleague.

At least 25% of the college Golden LEAF allocation must be awarded to WCE students.

Application Process

- The System Office will promote and market the scholarship among the local community colleges to help the students understand and recognize the mission of Golden LEAF. A marketing and publicity plan approved by the Foundation will include the scholarship notification letter sent to each scholar.
- Students will complete the Golden LEAF Community College application for the targeted academic year. Applications will be filed with the college financial aid offices or Workforce Continuing Education departments.
- Timing for the selection process is determined by the award policies and procedures of each college. Financial aid offices will work with Workforce Continuing Education departments to determine the awards periods for those students.
- Applicants bear full responsibility for completing the Golden LEAF application prior to each deadline.
- Financial aid offices will provide a list of selected recipients including name, amount, address, county, email, and program of study to the System Office as requested for reporting purposes.

This program is funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation.



2023-2024 Scholarship Application

Instructions: Complete this application and return it to the college's Financial Aid Office or the office designated by the college. Eligible students must reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as 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? _____
(To be eligible for an initial award, your permanent residence must be in a qualifying county determined by Golden LEAF)

Educational Information:

Name of Community College you are attending: _____

Curriculum program you are enrolled in: _____

Workforce Continuing Education course/program you are enrolled in: _____
Occupational Continuing Education Student (must be enrolled in a credentialing program of at least 96 hours.)

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

NOTE: To be eligible for this scholarship, students must demonstrate need. For curriculum students, completion of the Free Application for Federal Student aid (FAFSA) is required. For continuing education students, colleges will establish practices for determining the need for this scholarship.

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: _____

Please return this application to the college's Financial Aid Office or the office designated by the college.