



GEAR UP Scholarship Program for 2020 and 2021 Graduates

Information for Applicants and Counselors

Eligible Applicants

1. The Chicago GEAR UP Scholarship Program has the goal of helping students to persist and complete their postsecondary education goals. Specifically, it supports students who graduated from Chicago GEAR UP schools during specific years. The list of eligible schools is included in Appendix 1. Students are **eligible if they graduated from a GEAR UP high school in 2020 or 2021**, or did not graduate but were part of the 2020 or 2021 graduating classes and have since earned a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent (such as a GED).
2. Applicant must be admitted as a student in an undergraduate program in a degree-granting institution, a proprietary institution of higher education as defined by the Higher Education Act of 1965, or in a trade or technical school in the United States.
3. Applicants must be less than 22 years of age at the time they receive their first scholarship or award and must be documented citizens of the United States of America.
4. Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for first-time application. There is no GPA requirement for scholarship renewal although the student must remain in good standing with their postsecondary institution.
5. Applicants who are eligible for a Pell grant will be given priority consideration for receipt of a Chicago GEAR UP Scholarship. If eligible, applicants must accept a federal Pell grant and/or Monetary Award Program grant from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
6. Students who are not eligible for a Pell or Monetary Award Program grant may still receive a Chicago GEAR UP Scholarship if there are funds remaining after priority awards are made.

Priority Consideration

Priority will be given to students who were active in GEAR UP programming.

Applicants who have been admitted to a Chicago GEAR UP partner institution will be given priority consideration for scholarships. Partner institutions are: Northeastern Illinois University, City Colleges of Chicago, DePaul University, Loyola University-Chicago, Roosevelt University, University of Illinois- Chicago

Amount of GEAR UP Scholarships

The specific amount of each award will be determined exclusively on the basis of the student's remaining financial need for the school year after other awards are made, not including loans or work study offered. Scholarships for the 2021-2021 school year will be awarded a maximum amount of \$5,000 (unless the remaining need is less than \$5,000). In no case may the total amount of student financial assistance awarded to a student exceed the student's total Cost of Attendance.

Eligibility for Renewal of Scholarships

1. As long as funds are available, a student who is awarded a GEAR UP scholarship may apply to have their scholarship renewed each year of their undergraduate studies as long as they remain in good standing at their higher education institution.
2. Upon renewal, we request GEAR UP scholarship recipients to provide a personal update on postsecondary progress so we may learn of your accomplishments.

Use of Scholarship Funds

1. The total amount of financial aid from all sources, including the Chicago GEAR UP Scholarship shall not exceed the student's *total cost of attendance*.
2. Chicago GEAR UP Scholarship funds will be distributed directly to postsecondary institutions.
3. The Chicago GEAR UP Scholarship funds may be used to meet the remaining financial need after the (1) federal Pell Grant, (2) public and private grants, (3) scholarships and/or tuition discounts have been taken into consideration. Chicago GEAR UP Scholarships may be used to cover all pertinent postsecondary educational costs payable through the postsecondary institution.
4. If a student who applied as a full-time student is awarded a Chicago GEAR UP Scholarship then attends a postsecondary institution on a less than full-time basis during any academic year, the Chicago GEAR UP Scholarship amount will be reduced proportionately.
5. Scholarship recipients who transfer from one postsecondary institution to another remain eligible for a renewal of their scholarships. Amount of scholarship may adjust based on change of financial need.
6. Students who take a leave from their postsecondary programs remain eligible for their scholarship as long as they are absent no longer than one academic year and meet all eligibility requirements when returning to their studies.

Application Process

1. Applicants must complete the online GEAR UP Scholarship Application Form which linked at www.centerforcollegeaccessandsuccess.org or by request from Daniel Laubacher at dlaubach@neiu.edu.
2. After application is received, eligible candidates will be asked to send in required materials by email:
 - A 250 to 500 word essay describing your participation in GEAR UP and the impact your participation in GEAR UP activities has had on your educational ambitions and performance.
 - HS Transcript- Proof of attendance at a GEAR UP school during eligible time period.
 - Postsecondary acceptance letter- Proof of enrollment in Fall 2021-22.
 - Documentation of financial need- All official documentation related to cost and aid from the postsecondary institution and private scholarships/grants is required.
 - Social Security or Tax ID Number documentation- Federal guidelines require that students must be documented citizens of the USA to be considered an eligible applicant.
3. Questions may be directed to Daniel Laubacher at dlaubach@neiu.edu . Daniel can also provide support during the application process or refer you to a GEAR UP staff member.
4. **Completed applications should be submitted by July 12, 2021.** All required materials should be submitted by July 15, 2021. If funds remain, applications submitted until July 30 will be considered.

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Role of the Chicago GEAR UP

Chicago GEAR UP will award Chicago GEAR UP Scholarships until all available funds are exhausted and will avoid conflicts of interest in doing so.

Chicago GEAR UP shall not make eligibility for a scholarship contingent on a student's selection of any particular postsecondary institution or program.

APPENDIX 1 – GEAR UP High Schools Graduating Classes of 2020 or 2021

Instructions

- 1) Check the list of schools below to see if you attended a qualifying school.
- 2) You must have graduated from one of these schools in 2020 or 2021 to qualify (or be part of those graduating classes, but have since earned a GED).
- 3) If you attended one of the qualifying schools and were part of the eligible graduating classes in 2020 or 2021, you may submit an application for this scholarship.

Amundsen High School

Hubbard High School

Bogan High School

Julian High School

Clark Magnet High School

Kelly High School

Curie High School

Morgan Park High School

Farragut High School

Roosevelt High School

Foreman High School

Senn High School

Goode STEM Academy

Solorio High School

Harlan High School

