

The New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship

The New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship will pay a portion of tuition (up to an undergraduate degree) for students who meet the eligibility criteria listed below.

Eligibility:

Student must be a resident of New Mexico.

Student must have completed high school at a public or accredited private New Mexico high school, graduated from a public or accredited private New Mexico high school or received a high school equivalency credential while maintaining residency in New Mexico.

Student must enroll full-time at a public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico within sixteen months of graduation or receipt of a high equivalency credential and maintain continuous full-time enrollment. First time enrollment within the sixteen month period following graduation must be at a New Mexico public post-secondary educational institution. If the student enrolls full-time at ANY out of state institution or private in-state institution the student shall forfeit eligibility.

Student must enroll in and earn 15 credit hours per semester at a four-year New Mexico public university.

Student must enroll in and earn 12 credit hours per semester at a two- year New Mexico public community college.

Student must maintain a 2.5 or greater cumulative grade point average (GPA) each semester of enrollment.

Students with disabilities may qualify for reduced credit hour requirements and additional semesters of the scholarship. Please contact the institution's Accessibility office for more information.

Award:

A flat award based on the type of institution the student attends (Research; Comprehensive; or Community College). NMHED will notify institutions of the award for the upcoming academic year by June 1.

Duration:

The initial scholarship shall begin with the second semester of enrollment at a public postsecondary educational institution. Thereafter, the scholarship is renewed on a per-semester basis subject to maintaining eligibility. Students must remain consecutively enrolled each fall and spring semester to maintain eligibility for the scholarship. The scholarship may be renewed at a four-year institution until the award recipient has received seven (7) semesters of scholarship awards or until the student graduates with a bachelor's degree, whichever is sooner. Students attending a community college are eligible for three (3) semesters of scholarship awards. The student should contact their public post-secondary educational institution's financial aid advisor for eligibility verification if they have met the first semester eligibility requirements listed above.

How to Apply:

Student shall contact their public post-secondary educational institution's financial aid advisor for eligibility verification (no application needed).

When to Apply:

Student shall contact their public post-secondary educational institution for eligibility period.

Where to Apply:

Legislative Lottery Scholarship eligibility is determined by the public post-secondary educational institution. Please contact your educational institution for details.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Does my high school GPA impact my eligibility for the Lottery Scholarship?

No, the eligibility for this scholarship is determined by college GPA.

Does the Lottery Scholarship cover the entire cost of tuition?

The amount of tuition covered by the scholarship will vary by institution. Please contact the institution that you plan to attend to find out what amount of tuition will be covered by this scholarship.

Am I eligible to apply for other types of financial aid if I receive the Lottery Scholarship?

Yes, you may be eligible for other financial aid programs. The Financial Aid Division encourages all students to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <http://fafsa.gov/>

Does the Lottery Scholarship cover other expenses such as student fees, books, or room and board?

No, the Lottery Scholarship applies only to tuition costs.

How soon must a student enroll after completing high school to establish eligibility for the New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship?

Student must enroll full-time at a public post-secondary educational institution in New Mexico within sixteen months of graduation or receipt of a high equivalency credential and maintain continuous full-time enrollment. First time enrollment within the sixteen month period following graduation must be at a New Mexico public post-secondary educational institution. If the student enrolls full-time at ANY out of state institution or private in-state institution the student shall forfeit eligibility for the program.

What is considered full-time for purposes of Lottery Scholarship Eligibility?

Full-time for purposes of Lottery Scholarship eligibility is 15 credit hours per semester at a four-year New Mexico public university and 12 credit hours per semester at a two-year New Mexico public community college.

What are the provisions for students that begin service in the military following completion of high school?

Students that enter the military within four months of high school completion may establish eligibility within sixteen months of completion of honorable service or medical discharge.

Can the scholarship be transferred to an out of state institution or private institution in New Mexico?

No, the scholarship may only be received at a public post-secondary educational institution within New Mexico.

If a student attends a non-qualifying institution after completing high school will they forfeit eligibility for this program?

Yes, to establish eligibility for the Legislative Lottery Scholarship first attendance must be at a qualifying New Mexico public post-secondary educational institution.