New York State Awards

In this lesson we will be identifying examples of New York State funded grants and scholarships. This course will be helpful to be able to distinguish between New York State funded scholarship and grants. In addition, we will discuss the application process and the award notification process for the student and the institution.

OBJECTIVES
At the conclusion of this session, you will be able to:

- Determine the types of New York State Aid
- Determine how to apply for New York State Aid
- Describe 3 criteria for TAP Eligibility
- Determine methods to regain eligibility
- Determine the Waiver Criteria

Types of Financial Aid in New York State
New York State offers a variety of aid packages to help students pay for college. They include:

Full Time Student Awards

- Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) – The New York State Assistance Program (TAP) is New York's largest grant program that helps eligible New York residents attending in-state postsecondary institutions pay for tuition. TAP grants are based on the applicant's and his or her family's New York State taxable income.

- NYS Educational Opportunity Program – the Educational Opportunity Program provides assistance to NYS residents who are academically and financially disadvantaged, according to state guidelines.

- Flight 3407 Memorial Scholarship – Provides financial aid to children, spouses and financial dependents of individuals killed as a direct result of the crash of Continental Airlines Flight 3407 on February 12, 2009


- Military Enhanced Recognition Incentive and Tribute – MERIT Scholarship, also known as Military Service Recognition Scholarship (MSRS) – Provides financial aid to children, spouses and financial dependents of members of the armed forces of the United States or of a state organized militia who, at any time on or after August 2, 1990, while a New York State resident, died or became severely and permanently disabled while engaged in hostilities or training for hostilities. For study in New York State.

- NYS Math and Science Teaching Incentive Scholarship – Provides grants to eligible full-time undergraduate or graduate students in approved programs that lead to math or science teaching careers in secondary education.
- **NYS Memorial Scholarship for Families of Deceased Firefighters, Volunteer Firefighters, Police Officers, Peace Officers, and Emergency Medical Service Workers** - Provides financial aid to children, spouses, and financial dependents of deceased firefighters, volunteer firefighters, police officers, peace officers, and emergency medical service workers who have died as the result of injuries sustained in the line of duty in service to the State of New York. For study in New York State.

- **NYS Scholarships for Academic Excellence** – Awarded to outstanding graduates from registered New York State high schools. Awards are based on student grades in certain Regents exams. For up to five years of undergraduate study in New York State.

- **NYS World Trade Center Memorial Scholarship** – Guarantees access to a college education for the families and financial dependents of the victims who died or were severely and permanently disabled in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the resulting rescue and recovery efforts.

- **Senator Patricia K. McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship** – The Senator Patricia K. McGee Nursing Faculty Scholarship program seems to increase the number of educators and adjunct clinical faculty teaching nursing education in New York State.

- **NYS Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program** – The NYS STEM Incentive Program provides a full SUNY or CUNY tuition scholarship for the top 10 percent of students in each New York State high school if they pursue a STEM degree in an associates or bachelor degree program and agree to work in a STEM field in New York State for 5 years after graduation.

- **New York State Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program** – The New York State Young Farmers Loan Forgiveness Incentive Program is offered to encourage recent college graduates to pursue careers in farming in New York State. This program provides loan forgiveness awards to individuals who obtain an undergraduate degree from an approved New York State college or university and agree to operate a farm in New York State, on a full-time basis, for five years.

- **NYS Aid to Native Americans** – Provides aid to enrolled members of tribes listed on the official roll of New York State tribes or to the child of an enrolled member of a New York State tribe. For study in New York State.

- **NYS Regents Award for Children of Deceased and Disabled Veterans** – Provided to students whose parent(s) have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during specified periods of war or national emergency.

- **Segal AmeriCorps Education Award** – Provided to New York State residents interested in high quality opportunities in community service.

- **Veterans Tuition Awards** – Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or other eligible combat veterans matriculated at an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution or in an approved vocational training program in New York State are eligible for awards for full or part-time study.
Part-Time Awards (special requirements apply in some instances)

- NYS Aid for Part-time Study (APTS) – The Aid for Part-time Study (APTS) program provides grant assistance for eligible part-time students enrolled in approved undergraduate studies.

- Part-time TAP – Part-time TAP helps eligible New York residents attending in-state postsecondary institutions on a part-time basis pay for tuition.

- Veteran Tuition Award - Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, or other eligible combat veterans matriculated at an undergraduate or graduate degree-granting institution or in an approved vocational training program in New York State are eligible for awards for full or part-time study.

Applying for New York State Awards

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid is the first step to financial aid. The information provided determines whether the student is eligible for federal financial aid, and the amount they are qualified to receive. New York State residents attending in New York State schools can link directly to the TAP application from the FAFSA submission confirmation page. They can also apply for these programs directly through the Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC), by using an Express TAP Application (ETA), TAP On The Web (TOW), or by completing an Aid for Part-Time Study (APTS) application which can be obtained through the UB’s Office of Financial Aid. Programs funded by New York State are contingent upon the New York State budget passing every year.

Students must request an application from HESC for the scholarship they are applying for. Typically, all applications must be received at HESC by May 1 for the upcoming academic year. For additional information on specific NYS grants and scholarship, students can access the information at the HESC website. The application deadline will be listed on the application itself.

TAP Eligibility Requirements

Students who receive New York state financial awards are required to maintain good academic standing in order to remain eligible. The State Education Department, for these purposes, defines a student in good academic standing as one who (1) pursues the program of study in which he is enrolled (Pursuit of Program); and (2) makes satisfactory academic progress toward the completion of his or her program’s requirements (Satisfactory Academic Progress).

1) Pursuit of Program

State regulations define program pursuit as receiving either a passing or a failing grade in a certain percentage of a full-time course load. For undergraduates, the percentage increases from 50 percent of the minimum full-time load in each semester of the first year of award (6 credits each semester), to 75 percent each semester of the second award year (9 credits each semester), to 100 percent each semester of the third and fourth award years (12 credits each semester). Students who fail to meet these standards become ineligible to receive an award during the succeeding semester, and remain ineligible until good standing is regained.

Generally, the State Education Department will accept any grade that indicates that the student attended the course for the entire semester and completed all necessary assignments. By these standards, both passing and failing grades are acceptable. However, “W” (Withdrawal) grades are not acceptable. Grades of “I” and “PR” are acceptable because they are automatically changed to either a passing or failing grade before the completion of the succeeding semester.
2) Satisfactory Academic Progress
Satisfactory Academic Progress is defined both in terms of the number of credits completed and the grade point average attained at the end of a given semester. To remain eligible for awards, students must meet the following minimum standards: (Special conditions apply for part-time student awards.)
Satisfactory Academic Progress Standards for Awards:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Being Certified for this payment</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
<th>4th</th>
<th>5th</th>
<th>6th</th>
<th>7th</th>
<th>8th</th>
<th>9th*</th>
<th>10th*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A student must have earned at least this many credits</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>96*</td>
<td>111*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With at least this UB GPA</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>1.80</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0*</td>
<td>2.0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And must receive a grade for this number of credit hours</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
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</tbody>
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- Noncredit remedial instruction can be counted toward a full-time academic load as set forth in 145-2.1 of the Commissioner’s Regulations. The number of credit hours in this chart refers to work completed toward the degree.
- The credit hours indicated above assume the student is enrolled in full-time academic study, a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.
- * Only students in an approved EOP program are eligible for State Student Aid in their ninth and tenth semesters. Non-EOP students are only eligible for eight semesters of state aid.

3) Repeated Courses
Repeated courses in which the student had already received a passing grade cannot be included to meet full-time study requirements for state-sponsored financial aid (TAP). Repeated courses may be counted toward full-time study requirements the first time a student repeats a failed course, if a student repeats the course for additional credit, or when a student has received a grade that is passing at the institution but is unacceptable in a particular curriculum. Repeated courses are not counted for accelerated study semesters (summer).

Loss of Reinstatement of Student Eligibility
Students who fail to maintain good academic standing, either through failure of Pursuit of Program or in making Satisfactory Academic Progress, become ineligible for further awards. Eligibility may be regained (and payments restored) by any of the following methods:

- Achieving the required GPA and/or number of credits during a semester of attendance in which no state ward is paid
- Waiver of eligibility
**Waivers of Criteria for Satisfactory Academic Progress for New York State Financial Aid**

If a student is ineligible to receive state financial aid, there is a provision for a one-time waiver of program pursuit satisfactory academic progress requirements. The waiver is to be used only in exceptional cases (e.g., illness, death in the family) in accordance with the TAP Waiver Policy Guidelines and Procedures as stated on the waiver application.

A waiver may not be granted because an Incomplete (“I”) grade is received. If an Incomplete is included in the number of hours required to be completed during the previous semester (see chart), the student will not be eligible to receive the state award for the subsequent semester. The Incomplete grade must be changed to a letter grade by the end of the subsequent semester or the state award is lost for the semester in question.

**Conclusion**

In this lesson we have identified the various types of New York State aid, how to apply for New York State Aid, and determine what the eligibility requirements for the aid is.