



Washington State

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs

GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

What you need to know about your GEAR UP Scholarship:

- You need to begin using your scholarship the fall term after you graduate from high school. You must use all of your scholarship within five years of your high school graduation.
- Your GEAR UP Scholarship can be used toward tuition, fees, books, and housing costs.
- You must be enrolled at least half time at an accredited Washington State college or university and cannot be pursuing a degree in theology.
- Your GEAR UP Scholarship can be used toward an undergraduate degree. You cannot use your scholarship for earning a master or doctorate degree.
- To continue receiving your GEAR UP Scholarship, you must be making satisfactory progress toward your program requirements as defined by the institution you attend. At the end of each term, the institution will examine your progress and determine whether you are making satisfactory progress.
- Scholarship payments are made directly to the financial aid office of the institution you are attending. The financial aid office will verify your enrollment and eligibility to before your scholarship funds are released to you.
- It is your responsibility to notify us of any change in name, address, or the school that you are attending while using your GEAR UP Scholarship.

In order to start using your GEAR UP Scholarship, each student must complete the following:

1. Apply for federal student aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as you can after January 1st of your senior year of high school. If you have not mailed or completed the FAFSA form online prior to high school graduation, you should contact the financial aid office at the institution you plan to attend as soon as possible to find out how to apply. If you are unable to complete the FAFSA, notify our office as soon as possible.
2. After you graduate from high school, fill out the Graduate Data Sheet and return it with a copy of your diploma or GED and a copy of your final high school transcript. Mail these three documents to:

**GEAR UP
Higher Education Coordinating Board
PO Box 43430
Olympia, WA 98504-3430**

For other scholarship questions, or to have a Graduate Data Sheet mailed to you, please contact Kelly Keeney at kellyk@hecb.wa.gov or 360-753-7838.