



2024-2025 Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship 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. The goal of the Golden LEAF Foundation is to support funding of scholarships for 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 2024-2025 academic year.

NCCCS (North Carolina Community College System) Requirements

- Promote and market the Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship and provide colleges with allocations.
- Provide training each semester on the scholarship fundamentals or periodic training to college administrators as needed or requested for professional development.
- Monitor college scholarship awards and transmittals for reimbursement.
- Provide scheduled reports that will include student data and scholarship awards per semester, interim reports, and a final report to the Golden LEAF Foundation by the end of October each year.
- Reconcile scholarship awards and reimbursements with the colleges and NCCCS business and finance department.

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.
- Award scholarships and coordinate with college Business Office to transmit funds to student account and to request reimbursement.
- Conduct internal reconciliation between Financial Aid and Business Office to confirm award transmittals and expenditures.
- Comply with scholarship guidelines, including awarding, administration, and reconciliation of award transmittals with other offices, NCCCS and the Golden LEAF Foundation.
- Follow set-up and work-flow procedures as described in the Colleague Scholarship Set-up Guide.
- 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 qualifying county as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (see Qualifying Counties 2024-2025). A scholarship recipient who resides in a qualifying county upon initial award will retain eligibility and may be eligible for a renewal award if 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 must 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 (scholarship may replace 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) Have financial need as determined by completion of the FAFSA.
- (3) Be a resident of North Carolina as determined by Residency Determination Services (RDS).
- (4) Reside in a qualifying county as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (Check with your financial aid office for Qualifying Counties 2024-2025).

Workforce Continuing Education Student Eligibility

Eligible students must:

- (1) Be a resident of North Carolina. Residency Determination Services (RDS) is not required to determine residency for WCE students. However, colleges must establish a method to verify residency if requested by NCCCS as proof for the Golden LEAF Foundation.
- (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.). Eligible credentials can be found at <https://ncccareers.org/credentials>.
- (4) Reside in a qualifying county as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (Check with your financial aid office for Qualifying Counties 2024-2025).

Scholarship Awarding Format 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.

Application Process

- The System Office will promote and market scholarships among the local community colleges to help the students understand and recognize the mission of Golden LEAF.
- Students will complete the Golden LEAF Scholarship application for the 2024-25 academic year. Applications will be filed with the college financial aid office, Workforce Continuing Education or office assigned by the college.
- 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 disburse awards and collect media release forms regarding the scholarship recipients.
- Financial aid offices will provide a list of selected recipients including name, amount, address, counties, email, and use of funds to NCCCS.

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2024-2025 Golden LEAF Community College
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 qualifying county 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 the Golden LEAF Foundation)

Educational Information:

Community College you are attending: _____

Curriculum program you are enrolled/enrolling in: _____

WCE course/pathway you are enrolled/enrolling in: _____

WCE students *must be enrolled in a credentialing program that is at least 96 hours*. The list of eligible credentials is available at <https://nccareers.org/credentials>.

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

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:** _____