

## Student Frequently Asked Questions

There is a lot of information you need to know about the Star Scholarship, but you've come to the right place! Once you've taken a look at our frequently asked questions, if you still haven't found the answer you're looking for, please contact us at [starscholarship@ccc.edu](mailto:starscholarship@ccc.edu).

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### What is the Star Scholarship?

**Q: What is the Chicago Star Scholarship and what does it cover?**

A: The Chicago Star Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship at City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) that will cover all your tuition, books, and class materials, not already covered by financial aid, for CCC courses on an approved academic pathway. If you are not eligible to file for financial aid (via FAFSA) or if you are not awarded financial aid, Star scholarship waivers cover your CCC-approved expenses.

**Q: What type of scholarship is the Chicago Star Scholarship?**

A: The Chicago Star Scholarship is a “last dollar” scholarship, which means that all other available financial aid sources (Pell, etc.) must be used first before any Star Scholarship funding may be used. If you are eligible for federal financial aid, you must use that aid before any Star scholarship funds are released. You cannot save your Pell and use Star Scholarship funding instead - Pell must be fully used before Star funding is used.

**Q: How long does the Chicago Star Scholarship last?**

A: The Chicago Star Scholarship is good for up to three (3) years or until you complete an associate degree at City Colleges of Chicago, whichever comes first. The three-year duration begins with the fall semester following your high school graduation, and does not change, regardless of when you begin using the scholarship benefits.

## Overview

**Q: Which Big Shoulders Fund Schools are currently eligible for the Star Scholarship?**

A: Christ The King Jesuit College Preparatory School, Cristo Rey Jesuit High School, De La Salle Institute, DePaul College Prep, Hales Franciscan, Holy Trinity High School, Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart, Leo High School, Mount Carmel High School, Our Lady of Tepeyac High School, St Francis de Sales High School, St. Rita of Cascia High School

**Q: Do I have to graduate from one of the partner Big Shoulders Fund High Schools to be eligible for the Star Scholarship?**

A: Yes

**Q: Do I have to attend City Colleges of Chicago on a full-time basis to be included in the Star Scholarship?**

A: No. Star Scholars may attend classes on a full or part-time basis. The number of credit hours Star Scholars choose to pursue each semester may change. However, the scholarship will be available for a maximum of 3 years from the start of the fall semester following the Big Shoulders Fund partner student’s high school graduation.

## Am I eligible for the Star Scholarship?

**Q: Who is eligible for the Chicago Star Scholarship?**

A: To be eligible for the Star Scholarship, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Apply for the scholarship within one year of graduating from a Big Shoulders Fund partner high school
- A 3.0 GPA or greater at high school graduation

- Be completion-ready: have an ACT score of 17 or higher in math and English OR earn an SAT score of 460 in writing and 440 in math (if SAT is taken before March 1, 2016, 410 in writing and 400 in math) OR place in completion ready within our CCC placement exam in math and English
- Enroll in one of CCC's pathways
- Complete the FAFSA if you are eligible to do so. If you are not, you must instead complete [Certificate of Ineligibility to File FAFSA](#)
- Complete FAFSA verification process if selected or provide tax documents for students who are ineligible to complete FAFSA
- Give your consent (or denial) to share your contact and student data with Star Transfer Program colleges and universities offering transfer programs especially for Star Scholarship recipients.

Undocumented and international students are eligible for the scholarship, but home schooled and GED students are not.

**Q: To qualify for the Star Scholarship, do you look at regular or weighted GPA?**

A: Either one—as long as either GPA is 3.0 or greater at the time of Big Shoulders Fund partner high school graduation, it will meet GPA eligibility requirements.

**Q: I have a GPA of 2.99. Do I qualify? Will GPAs be rounded up?**

A: No. GPAs will not be rounded up. To be eligible for the Star Scholarship, Big Shoulders Fund partner high school students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher at high school graduation.

**Q: What does “completion-ready” actually mean?**

A: Completion-ready is a level of academic preparedness that places students one level below credit math and English along with a 3.0 high school GPA or better. Completion-ready placement allows students requiring some moderate preparation to earn an associate degree in the 3 years covered by the Star Scholarship.

**Q: What can I do after graduation if I still do not qualify for the Star Scholarship because my ACT or SAT scores are too low?**

A: You have one year (by the second fall semester after high school graduation) to be completion-ready. This can be accomplished by re-taking your ACT or SAT test(s) to achieve Star Scholarship academic eligibility, taking City Colleges' placement tests as an alternative to the ACT or SAT, transferring completed college level course work for English and Math from another institution, or by successfully completing (with a letter grade of “C” or better) CCC’s remediation course sequence in the subject area(s) requiring improvement within a year after your Big Shoulders Fund partner high school graduation.

**Q: What if I'm taking AP courses? Does that affect my college placement?**

A: AP courses do not affect college placement. AP Courses successfully completed in high school may be used to satisfy part of the general education requirements or electives in your approved CCC academic pathway. See your college advisor for additional information. Students interested in the Star Scholarship must still have qualifying ACT, SAT, or placement test scores.

**Q: Do I have to live in the City of Chicago to be awarded the scholarship?**

A: Yes. To be awarded the Star Scholarship, a Big Shoulders Fund partner high school graduate must reside in Chicago to receive or retain the Star Scholarship following your high school graduation.

**Q: If I did not complete all of my high school courses at a Big Shoulders Fund partner high school, how will my credits be used in calculating my GPA at graduation?**

A: Big Shoulders Fund partner high school determines one comprehensive transcript record with one GPA. The Big Shoulders Fund partner high school calculated GPA is what CCC uses in determining a student's Star Scholarship GPA-based eligibility. Questions about your high school GPA should be directed to Big Shoulders Fund partner high school.

**Q: Is the Star Scholarship based on financial need?**

A: Yes. The Star Scholarship is a needs-based scholarship and restricted to students who have graduated from a Big Shoulders Fund partner high school with an estimated family income of \$50,000 or less per household per year.

## How do I apply?

**Q: When and how do I apply for the Star Scholarship?**

A: Your first step is to be admitted to City Colleges, so you must complete the CCC admissions application at [www.ccc.edu/apply](http://www.ccc.edu/apply) when you are a high school senior or graduate. Once you have been accepted to City Colleges, you must complete the Star Scholarship application within your student portal (my.ccc.edu), submit a high school transcript and ACT/SAT test scores to [Starscholarship@ccc.edu](mailto:Starscholarship@ccc.edu).

**Q: Is there a deadline to apply for the Star Scholarship?**

A: Yes. The deadline to apply for the Star Scholarship is always the last day of registration for the upcoming semester's 16-week credit term. If you miss the deadline, your application will be reviewed and processed for the start of the following academic semester. To view registration deadlines, please visit the [academic calendar](#).

**Q: Can I still apply for the Chicago Star Scholarship during the fall semester?**

A: Yes. You can apply for the Star Scholarship year round. The first semester you are eligible for the scholarship is determined by your Catholic high school graduation date and your Star Scholarship application date.

**Q: What is the latest date I may apply to the Star Scholarship after my high school graduation?**

A: You may apply to the Star Scholarship up to one year following the first fall term after your Big Shoulders Fund partner high school graduation, and by the CCC registration deadline mentioned above. However, you must have qualifying ACT, SAT, placement test scores, or coursework upon submitting your application at this final deadline.

**Q: If I applied for the scholarship, but have not heard a response back yet, what can I do?**

A: You can contact [Starscholarship@ccc.edu](mailto:Starscholarship@ccc.edu) to have your records reviewed. Many students have received an email notification from CCC, but have not checked their CCC student email. Some applicants do not have valid e-mail addresses on file and email messages may have been undeliverable.

## Is there timeframe to use the Star Scholarship?

**Q: Do I have to attend City Colleges of Chicago continuously (term after term) to keep the Star Scholarship?**

A: No. you may stop-out (not attend classes for a given semester or longer) and later resume classes. However, you should check in with your Star advisor before resuming classes, because CCC will need to confirm your eligibility (e.g., are they still within the 3-year duration and residency) and ensure you have applied for financial aid (or provided documentation regarding financial aid ineligibility).

**Q: Can I use my scholarship at any City College, even if I leave the one I originally started at?**

A: Yes. The Star Scholarship is available at any of our colleges and is transferrable between colleges. We keep track of any campus changes on your student record, so you do not need to resubmit your Star Scholarship application.

**Q: What happens if I take a semester off - will the scholarship still be good for the next semester?**

A: Yes. As long as you are within the three year scholarship duration, you may enroll and resume attending classes.

**Q: If I receive the Chicago Star Scholarship, do I have to re-apply for it each semester or every year?**

A: No. Once you have been awarded the Star Scholarship you have the benefits of the scholarship for three years starting with the first CCC fall semester following your high school graduation. You will, however, be required to complete the FAFSA process or a Star Scholarship Certification of Ineligibility to File for Financial Aid income verification each academic year.

**Q: Does a Big Shoulders Fund partner high school student need to start their college career at CCC to keep the scholarship?**

A: No. A student who meets the eligibility requirements but chooses to attend a different institution immediately after high school can still qualify for Star Scholarship if they transfer to CCC; however, the scholarship's 3-year duration will have still begun the first fall semester after their Big Shoulders Fund partner high school graduation.

**Q: Is there a maximum date for scholarship recipients to begin using their funding?**

A: Yes. Students must begin using the Star Scholarship funding within 1 year of the CCC fall semester following their graduation from high school. The deadline is fixed regardless of when the student was either awarded the scholarship or informed they are contingently qualified, meaning they have the required 3.0 GPA or greater, but not yet achieved the required ACT Math and/or English scores or equivalent CCC placement level to qualify for the Star Scholarship award.

**Q: Are Star Scholarship recipients restricted to an academic semester they must enroll and start using the Star Scholarship funding?**

A: Students may begin using the Star Scholarship in any semester (fall, spring, or summer) beginning with the fall semester immediately following Big Shoulders Fund partner high school graduation. However, the student must start using the scholarship by the second CCC fall semester from Big Shoulders Fund partner high school graduation before their time frame will expire.

**Q: If I receive the Star Scholarship, but do not immediately enroll and attend classes at City Colleges do I have to re-apply for the scholarship?**

A: No. However, if an academically eligible Star Scholar does not begin using the scholarship within one year of their high school graduation, they will not be funded by Star Scholarship waivers thereafter.

# Earning My Degree

**Q: The Star Scholarship requires students to be on an academic pathway. How does the Star Scholarship define a pathway?**

A: Enrolling in a pathway means the student is declared in an academic program that leads to a CCC degree or certificate. Within the student portal, a student can view their academic plan under "my academic plan." If you need to adjust your academic plan, please see your advisor. Students in a "Course Enrollee" or "No Degree or Certificate" status are not on a pathway.

**Q: Are there any academic programs that are not included in the Star Scholarship program?**

A: Yes. The French Pastry School, Adult Education (GED/ESL), Continuing Education, and Personal and Professional Development programs are not included or covered by the Star Scholarship.

**Q: Can the Star Scholarship be used for all academic certificate programs even if some of the programs do not qualify for financial aid?**

A: In order to remain eligible for the Star Scholarship, students must be enrolled in an approved pathway. Many of our pathways have stackable credentials in which a student can earn a basic certificate and advanced certificate while completing an associate degree. As long as the certificate program is on the pathway, it is eligible for Star.

**Q: How do you ensure that the student is only taking courses that are applicable to his/her program?**

A: When the CCC student is following a chosen pathway, we confirm all classes are within that specific pathway through a degree audit. We notify the student via CCC email if they are registered for a class outside of their degree requirement/pathway. The student is held financially responsible for any classes not associated with their degree requirement.

**Q: Does the scholarship pay for summer classes, or only fall and spring semester classes?**

A: Yes. The Star Scholarship covers fall, spring, and summer classes starting with the CCC fall semester after graduation from Big Shoulders Fund partner high school.

**Q: Does the Star Scholarship cover online courses?**

A: Yes.

**Q: Certain academic disciplines have certification exams that are not part of the academic program, but are highly recommended for working in the career field. Will certification exams be covered by the Star Scholarship?**

A: No. If the certification exam is not included in the actual CCC academic program, it will not be covered by Star Scholarship funding.

**Q: If I receive electronic communication regarding “Courses not Used,” What does that mean?**

A: The City Colleges Financial Aid Office identifies students registered for courses that do not apply to their CCC academic program. Federal financial aid is only available to students taking courses that apply to a federal aid-eligible degree or certificate. Federal financial aid and the Star Scholarship cannot be used for “courses not used.” We are simply trying to tell you that you are registered for courses that do not count within your degree requirements and you will be financially responsible for those courses and required materials.

**Q: What happens if I drop a class or want to add one? Is this possible?**

A: Yes. Star Scholars follow the same policy as all other CCC students. Star Scholars may drop a class and add one if it is within the academic pathway the student is pursuing and subject to add/drop deadlines. Students should meet with their assigned Star Scholarship college advisor to be certain the added class is appropriate for their individual education plan. Students who drop courses must adhere to the r2t4 calculation. If a student drops the course outside the course refund date and within the r2t4 calculation, it could cause the student to have a balance for that course. Star Scholarship will not cover the cost of withdrawing from a course too early within the semester or a student who has been provided a NSW or ADW from the instructor. Star Scholars will be held to the same standards of all non-Star Scholars in terms of mirroring federal financial aid requirements and policies.

**Q: Can I earn multiple certificates in my three year eligibility period?**

A: Yes, as long as those certificates are on your selected pathway.

**Q: What can I do if I need the “course not used” for my transfer program?**

A: You should fill a full-time schedule (12+ credits) with courses required for your degree. You should add the additional course needed for the transfer program. You are still considered full-time for either federal financial aid or Star Scholarship funding. Tuition funding in either case will not be diminished. NOTE: Books and materials for the “course not used” will be the responsibility of the student. Since the course not used is not part of a Star Scholarship recipient’s academic pathway, the books and materials for that course will not be covered by Star Scholarship book vouchers.

**Q: Is there a limit on the number of classes students can take with the Star Scholarship?**

A: Star covers all pathway credits per term. A student is limited only by the maximum credit per semester standards of CCC's Academic policy.

**Q: Will the scholarship include repeatable courses and if so, how many times?**

A: The CCC [student policy](#) determines how many times a student may repeat a class. Star waivers will fully cover any courses taken in accordance with this policy.



**Q: What happens if students get placed in a foundational studies course? Will the Star Scholarship cover the cost of the foundational studies course?**

A: Yes. The Star Scholarship administrator conducts an analysis of Star Scholars' placement before the start of each semester. We will attempt to identify placement issues that are inconsistent with the Star Scholarship requirements and bring them to the attention of College Advisors for correction. However, if students are inadvertently placed in foundational studies courses, the Star Scholarship will cover the cost of the courses.

**Q: If I have already been awarded an associate degree at a non-CCC institution, am I still eligible to apply for the Star Scholarship and earn an associate degree at CCC?**

A: Yes. Applicants for the Star Scholarship that are academically eligible for the scholarship and fulfill all other requirements will still be able to pursue an associate degree at City Colleges of Chicago.

**Q: I'm already attending classes at one of the City Colleges as part of the dual enrollment/dual credit program. Do I automatically qualify for the Star Scholarship?**

A: No. A dual enrollment/dual credit student must meet the eligibility requirements and apply to be a Star Scholar.

## Keeping the Star Scholarship

**Q: What do I need to do to keep my Star Scholarship each semester?**

A: To keep your Star Scholarship, you must:

- Maintain federal standards of academic progress (SAP), even if you are not eligible to complete the FAFSA. To learn more about what this means, take a look at our [Maintaining Financial Aid Eligibility](#) page. Your Financial Aid Office can also help you understand the SAP, which include maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher, completing 67% of all your classes with a D grade or better, and staying on track to complete your program of study within 150% of the program's credit-hour length.
- Meet with your academic advisor, Transfer Center team, or Career Services team once a semester. The staff member you meet with will track this in our system for you.

**Q: If my GPA falls below 2.0 while attending CCC, will I still get to keep my Star Scholarship?**

You are expected to maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher through your academic career at CCC. If you do not have a 2.0 GPA by the end of the semester, you may be required to submit a [SAP appeal](#) to continue to receive the Star Scholarship for future semesters.

**Q: What happens if I get a SAP hold?**

A: If you have not met [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\) standards](#), you must follow the SAP appeal process. If your SAP appeal is denied, you will be financially responsible for the registered courses until you meet the SAP standards or your SAP appeal is approved.

**Q: If I receive a SAP hold, am I required to appeal the hold?**

A: If the student has not met [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\) standards](#), no matter if the student is eligible for federal financial aid or not, to continue to receive federal financial aid or Star Scholarship funding, the student must submit a SAP appeal before the academic semester deadline, and the appeal must be approved. If the SAP appeal is denied, the student will be financially responsible for the course(s) until the SAP standards are met or the SAP appeal is approved.

**Q: Do I need to reapply for financial aid or complete the Certification of Ineligibility for Financial Aid form each year in order to remain covered by Star?**

A: Yes. You must complete the appropriate form by the deadline indicated in your annual reminder.

**Q: Is there any way a Star Scholarship recipient may lose the scholarship?**

A: Yes. The Star Scholarship ends for all recipients when they are awarded a CCC associate degree or reach their 3 year scholarship expiration date, whichever comes first. Under normal circumstances, Star Scholars will not lose the scholarship if they continue to follow CCC student policies while pursuing an approved academic pathway and be in good academic standing. If Star recipients stop attending classes for a semester or more, the scholarship is still available when they resume classes, if they are within the 3 year scholarship eligibility duration. Star Scholarship funding will discontinue if recipients do not file for Financial Aid or certify their ineligibility to file for Financial Aid, if they are unable to file a FAFSA, annually. Permanent loss of future scholarship funding may also result from students misusing Star book vouchers for unauthorized purchases or providing intentionally inaccurate information regarding eligibility for federal and state financial aid.

**Q: Are Star Scholars responsible for the NSW penalty?**

A: If a student is given a No-Show Withdrawal (NSW) by faculty, there is a \$200 penalty per semester. Students will need to meet with their academic advisor or financial aid advisor and could be responsible for the penalty cost each semester.

**Q: If I withdraw from all my courses, will the Star Scholar still pay for those classes?**

A: Students who officially withdraw (WTH) before the 60% point of the semester, or are administratively withdrawn (ADW) from all of their financial aid/Star Scholarship funded eligible classes, will be required to return a portion of the Star Scholarship funds they have received. In alignment with federal guidelines, City Colleges of Chicago will apply a federally mandated Return to Title IV calculation ("r2t4") to determine the percentage of financial aid/Star Scholarship funded the student has earned, which is based on the percentage of the term he/she completed.

**Q: Are Star Scholars required to complete community service to retain their scholarship?**

A: No, Community Services is not a requirement to maintain the Star Scholarship each academic year. However, as a way to pay the scholarship forward, we recommend that you serve in your community during the time you are utilizing the scholarship. Within your student portal, there is a community service form that you can complete, as we would like you to provide the impact serving in your community had on your community and yourself.

## Tuition and Book Funding

**Q: If I am eligible for financial aid, do I have to use subsidized/unsubsidized loans prior to applying Star Scholarship waivers to my tuition and book expenses?**

A: No. You must use all awarded grant money (and other tuition discounts) before the Star Scholarship is applied to your tuition and book expenses, but not loans. Students who qualify for the Star Scholarship will not need to take out subsidized/unsubsidized loans, as the scholarship covers all CCC approved academic expenses.

**Q: Is there any penalty if a student intentionally completes the Star Scholarship Certification of Ineligibility to File for Financial Aid when they actually are eligible for federal financial aid?**

A: Yes. Any Star Scholarship funding students receive based on inaccurate information having filed a certification of ineligibility to file for financial aid must be repaid to City Colleges of Chicago. Students are subject to permanent loss of all future Star Scholarship funding.

**Q: If I qualify for financial aid, is there a refund?**

A: Yes. If the student qualifies for full financial aid, then they will still receive the appropriate refund. If they qualify for partial financial aid and Star waivers make up the difference, no refund would apply. There are no student refunds of unused Star waiver balances, but if financial aid was used, there is no impact on the financial aid refund to which the student is entitled.

**Q: Can a Pell grant be applied retroactively to an earlier, already completed semester?**

A: Yes. Student applications for federal financial aid can be processed for the current year up through June 30th of the following year. Students will be able to file FAFSA as early as October 1, prior to the upcoming academic year.

**Q: What can be done for students that are otherwise eligible for financial aid, but cannot complete the FAFSA process?**

A: A requirement of the Star Scholarship is that students must file a FAFSA and complete all required verification processes, unless they are ineligible to file for financial aid. Students that do not complete the financial aid application process for a variety of reasons will not be eligible for Star Scholarship funding. Students will have to set up an approved payment plan to avoid their enrolled courses being dropped.

**Q: If I don't meet all the qualifications when I first apply for the scholarship, but enroll in classes and pay enrollment and Nelnet fees to hold those classes, will I be refunded those costs if I get the scholarship later?**

A: If you are eligible for a refund, in means of paying your tuitions before awarded the Star Scholarship, CCC will automatically refund you the out of pocket tuition cost. If you have set up a payment plan through Nelnet, your payment plan will be automatically cancelled once your Star Scholarship waiver is applied. CCC Finances team processes refunds every 2 weeks, as it may take 5-6 weeks for you to receive your refund. You are responsible for selecting your refund preferences through your student portal to receive the refund.

**Q: If I attend City Colleges for the first time in the summer semester, do I still have to apply for federal financial aid even though federal grants do not cover any summer academic expenses for any students?**

A: Yes. If the Star Scholarship recipient has not filed a FAFSA and completed all necessary verification steps for the current academic year, they will be required to do so before Star Scholarship funding is applied. If Star Scholarship recipients have not exhausted their financial aid award, it will be used to cover any summer academic expenses before Star Scholarship funding is used to cover the excess.

**Q: If I am attending another institution on a full-time basis, can I take summer classes at City Colleges of Chicago and use Star Scholarship funding?**

A: No. If you want to enroll full-time elsewhere during the academic year and are only at City Colleges of Chicago for summer courses, you would be classified as a "Visiting Student," because you have no intention of pursuing a pathway at CCC. To be eligible for Star Scholarship funding, a student must be enrolled in a program working toward a degree.

**Q: Can I combine Star with other scholarships?**

A: Yes. Star can be used to cover any remaining costs AFTER all other grant and scholarship dollars have been applied. However, there is no refund associated with the Star Scholarship.

**Q: Is the scholarship refundable?**

A: No. The waivers will be applied directly to tuition and books with no student refunds for unused balances.

**Q: Can Star Scholarship funding be awarded to students in the tuition chargeback program?**

A: No. Star Scholars may participate in the tuition chargeback program, however, they will not be covered by Star Scholarship funding. It does not meet the Star Scholarship requirement that a student must be enrolled in a structured, relevant pathway offered at City Colleges of Chicago.

**Q: If I complete an associate degree in two years, may I pursue other areas of academic interest for the last year of the Star Scholarship at no cost to me?**

A: No. The Star Scholarship ends three years from the start of the fall semester following your high school graduation or upon earning an associate degree, whichever comes first.

**Q: Are my textbooks covered in full with the Star Scholarship? Is there a cap?**

A: The Star Scholarship will provide a book voucher via CCC email which will cover required and recommended textbooks and materials for students' enrolled courses in full after all federal grants and any other eligible scholarships a student may qualify for have been applied first.

**Q: When and how will I get my book vouchers?**

A: Book vouchers are issued only after you have filed a FAFSA and completed all financial aid verification requirements or, if you cannot file a FAFSA, after you have completed the Star Scholarship Certification of Ineligibility to File for Financial Aid income verification process. If you have a Pell grant, the book voucher is issued by your college's Financial Aid Office. Please visit your campus's Financial Aid Office. If the Star Scholarship is paying for your books, you will typically receive your book vouchers 24-48 hours after you have registered for class. It will be sent to your CCC student email address.

**Q: If I have funds for textbooks from both financial aid and a Star book voucher, what should I do?**

A: Students will have two separate vouchers and they are able to apply both of them toward their textbook and materials purchases. However, students must first use the financial aid book voucher entirely before they use the Star Scholarship book voucher.

**Q: How much money will be on my book voucher?**

A: Star book vouchers will provide \$200 per enrolled course aligned with the student's education plan and their academic pathway.

**Q: What do I do if the Star book voucher is not enough to cover all required and recommended books and materials?**

A: If a Star book voucher has insufficient funds for all the Star Scholarship recipients' enrolled courses, students need to e-mail [Starscholarship@ccc.edu](mailto:Starscholarship@ccc.edu) to request additional funds. Please be prepared to review your current Star book voucher purchases in detail and indicate the additional amounts you require. You will be provided additional book voucher funds, if approved.

**Q: What should students do if there are textbooks or materials required for their classes, but the materials are not on the online inventory for their course on the online CCC Bookstore?**

A: Students need to provide evidence that the textbook or materials are actually requested and required for their enrolled course. Students must attach a scanned copy of the faculty note, statement, or faculty email to [Starscholarship@ccc.edu](mailto:Starscholarship@ccc.edu) as evidence that the item(s) have been required by faculty. Without this, subsequent audits of a student's purchases may be interpreted as unauthorized purchases, since they do not align with the online bookstores inventory for the course.

**Q: How long are Star book vouchers good for?**

A: Star Scholarship book vouchers are only for the current semester. Book vouchers have an expiration date. Students' purchases must be made prior to the expiration date. New book vouchers are issued each semester based on the number of courses a student is enrolled in and the student's financial aid eligibility, if any.

**Q: If I drop my enrolled courses, can I re-sell my textbooks and keep the proceeds?**

A: No. Students dropping their enrolled courses must return the textbooks and materials for those courses or they will be charged for unauthorized purchases. The item(s) must be returned within the online bookstore refund window (please see 'Returns' tab on the City Colleges Online Bookstore page for details). Also note that any remaining funds left in the voucher after all authorized purchases have been made will not be refunded to a student's account.

**Q: If I have funds left over on my Star book voucher after I have purchased my books and materials, can I use the remaining funds for other things?**

A: No. The Star book voucher is intended for required and recommended books and materials as shown on the Akademos course inventory for their upcoming enrolled courses only. Any remaining funds are not to be used for any other purposes and are not refunded to students. The remaining funds are the property of and returned to the City Colleges of Chicago. Students receiving a Star Scholarship book voucher will see the following notification on their voucher: "IMPORTANT: This voucher is for the purchase of required and recommended books and materials for your personal use in your enrolled pathway courses ONLY. Voucher funds in excess of these costs are the property of City Colleges of Chicago. Misuse of Star Scholarship benefits, including the use of this voucher for any other purchase may result in loss of scholarship eligibility plus potential financial responsibility." Students misusing Star book voucher funds are subject to permanent loss of the Star Scholarship and will have to reimburse City Colleges of Chicago for any unauthorized purchases.

**Q: Are there restrictions on where I purchase textbooks?**

A: Yes. You will receive vouchers that can be used only at the [CCC Online Bookstore](#). If you want to pay for your own books, you can of course purchase books from any provider.

## How can I take advantage of the Transfer Partnerships?

**Q: What is the Star Scholarship Transfer Program?**

A: [Four-year colleges and universities](#) have committed to providing scholarships and other benefits to Chicago Star Scholars. If the Star Scholar meets the respective institution's academic and scholarship requirements, they will get recruiting and advising support while they're still at CCC, invitations to university events, and academic and financial support after transferring.

**Q: How do I participate within the Star Scholarship Transfer Program?**

A: After consenting through the Transfer Partner Consent Form within your student portal, meet with your college's transfer director to discuss the eligibility for each partnership, as they vary with requirements and eligibility.

## Miscellaneous Questions:

**Q: Is CTA transportation included?**

A: Yes, if you enroll at City Colleges full-time (12 or more credit hours per semester), you will receive a Ventra card. If you are enrolled in 9-11 credits, you are eligible for a Part-time U-Pass. Star Scholarship does not cover the fee for the Part-time U-Pass.

**Q: Is there a yearly maximum number of Chicago public or charter high school students that may be awarded the Chicago Star Scholarship?**

A: No. There is no pre-determined maximum limit on the number of Big Shoulders Fund partner high school students that might qualify and may be awarded Star Scholarship waivers.

**Q: To whom do Star students ask direct questions? Only advisors? Is there a particular person to contact?**

A: If students, Star applicants, scholars, or college advisors need answers to questions of a general or personal nature on eligibility, application status, FAFSA issues, etc., those questions should be directed to [Starscholarship@ccc.edu](mailto:Starscholarship@ccc.edu).