

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.

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Overview

Q: If I graduate from a Chicago Public High School, how long will I have to wait before I know if I receive the Star Scholarship?

A: CCC will do its best to get back to CPS students within 2 weeks of their application to the Star Scholarship program. All Star Scholarship communications are sent to your CCC e-mail address. If you forget your username or password, please visit www.ccc.edu/help.

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 CPS student's high school graduation.

Student Frequently Asked Questions

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 ensure you have applied for financial aid (or provided documentation regarding financial aid ineligibility).

Q: Does the Star Scholarship cover online courses?

A: Yes.

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 CPS.

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

A: Yes. The Star Scholarship is available at any of our colleges and is transferrable between colleges.

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

A: Yes. Applicants for the Chicago 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: 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: 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: Does the scholarship cover out-of-district tuition and fees?

A: Yes. Although the student must graduate from a CPS high school to qualify, they retain their three years of eligibility regardless of residency.

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

A: No. The Chicago Star Scholarship is not a needs-based scholarship for CPS or CPS Charter students. While there is a requirement for all Star Scholarship applicants to file for financial aid, unless they are ineligible to do so, eligibility for the scholarship is not based on the assets and income of the prospective student nor that of his or her family.

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: 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.

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: Is CTA transportation included?

A: Students will have an option to purchase a UPass for a small fee, if they are enrolled in 9 or more credits. Student should contact their campus business office for more payment options.

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 CPS students that might qualify and may be awarded Chicago Star Scholarship waivers.

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.

Student Frequently Asked Questions

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.

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: 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.

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 Chicago Public High School or CPS charter, option, alternative high school.

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- Be completion-ready: meet our English and Math standards with an ACT score of 17 in Math and English, or SAT score of 460 in English, 440 in Math, or successful completion of transitional CPS English and Math course, or successful completion college level math and English or completion ready placement via CCC placement exams
- A 3.0 GPA or greater at high school graduation
- 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 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 Chicago Star Scholarship recipients.

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

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

A: No. There are no residency requirements to apply for, receive, or retain the Chicago Star Scholarship following your high school graduation.

How do I apply?

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

A: As a new, incoming student you will apply for the Chicago Star Scholarship through your student portal at my.ccc.edu. Your first step is to be admitted to City Colleges, so you must complete the CCC admissions application at www.ccc.edu/apply when you are a high school senior or graduate.

Once you've been admitted, you will complete the Star Scholarship application in the student portal (my.ccc.edu > financial aid > Star Scholarship> Star Scholarship Application). You will be asked to provide your CPS ID number and to authorize the release of your CPS student data and transcripts to CCC to complete the eligibility screening process.

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 CPS high school graduation date and your Star application date.

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

A: Yes. The deadline to apply for the Chicago 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

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processed for the start of the following academic semester. To view registration deadlines, please visit the [academic calendar](#).

Q: If I graduate from a charter high school, how long will I have to wait before I know if I receive the Star Scholarship?

A: Retrieving student academic data from Chicago charter high schools typically takes longer than six weeks, due to the need to contact each Chicago charter high school separately. You may be able to speed up the process by directly requesting that your official transcripts be sent to Starscholarship@ccc.edu.

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 CPS 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: 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: 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 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.

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: 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.

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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, CPS students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher at high school graduation.

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 CPS high school graduation, it will meet GPA eligibility requirements.

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

A: CPS determines one comprehensive transcript record with one GPA. The CPS 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 CPS.

Q: Does a CPS 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 CPS high school graduation.

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 CPS graduation.

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.

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Q: Is the Associate in Arts degree considered a "relevant pathway" for purposes of the scholarship?

A: Yes

Q: Are there any academic programs that are not included in the Chicago 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 Chicago Star Scholarship. This includes books/materials ordered from the CCC bookstore with the Star Scholarship book voucher.

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: What about CCC academic programs that don't require math? Must a student still have an ACT score of 17 or SAT score of 440 in math to be eligible for the Star Scholarship?

A: Yes. In order to qualify for the Star Scholarship, a student must get an ACT score of 17 in both English and Math or SAT scores of 460 in Writing and 440 in Math. Students with a qualifying graduation GPA, but below qualifying ACT or SAT scores are contingently qualified and will be accepted into Star Scholarship once those remaining qualifications are met, assuming they are met within one year of graduation.

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. Students are responsible for reviewing and following through with this communication.

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: 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

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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 Chicago 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 CPS graduation. However, the student must start using the scholarship by the second CCC fall semester from CPS graduation before their time frame will expire.

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

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

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 Complete FAFSA form each academic year.

Q: If I receive the Chicago 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. The awarded Star Scholar must enroll and complete coursework within the second CCC Fall semester from high school graduation to be eligible for continued funding.

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 college advisor to be certain the added class is appropriate for their individual education plan. Any course dropped after the course refund date could have financial implications.

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A: Beginning with the FA18 cohort, 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. If the student is unsure what cohort they are in, they should contact their college advisor.

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

A: With the Star Scholarship mirroring federal guidelines, we cannot fund courses that fall outside of a student's degree requirements. If the student needs to take courses that not relating to the CCC academic degree, then they will need to find another funding source for those courses.

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: 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. However, aid eligible class will only be covered.

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

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pathway at CCC. To be eligible for Star Scholarship funding, a student must be enrolled in a program working toward a degree.

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 CCC Chicago 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 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 after the semester has started. You are responsible for selecting your refund preferences through your student portal to receive the refund.

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.

Paying for my Books

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. However, we will not cover duplicated materials.

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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. If the student is eligible for the Pell grant, the book voucher is issued by your college's Financial Aid Office, unless your aid cost equals your tuition cost. If the Star Scholarship is paying for your books, you will typically receive your book vouchers 1-3 business hours after you have registered for class.

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. Students who do not have enough financial aid book voucher funds, must request additional funds from starscholarship@ccc.edu.

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 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 provide an electronic copy of the faculty note, statement, or faculty email to 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.

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Q: Can I purchase school supplies or program required uniforms?

A: Star Scholarship book vouchers are only intended for required course materials. If the course requires uniforms or special software, students can use their Star Scholarship book voucher for such purchase through the bookstore. Students can use any additional funds, after purchasing required books/materials, for school supplies. Students need to keep their school supplies purchases to \$50 per academic term. Any misuse of the book voucher will result in the students being responsible for the book charges of the excess or duplicated item(s).

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, before the course refund date, 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 (www.ccc.edu/bookstore). 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 online bookstore course inventory for their upcoming enrolled courses only. Any remaining funds are not to be used for any other purposes (excessive school supplies or unrelated to enrolled courses) 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 Chicago Star Scholarship and will have to reimburse City Colleges of Chicago for any unauthorized purchases.

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Keeping the Chicago Star Scholarship

Q: Do I need to reapply for financial aid or complete the Certification of Ineligibility for Complete FAFSA 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: If my GPA falls below 2.0, will I still receive Star Scholarship funding?

A: Starting with the Fall 2018 cohort, students are expected to maintain a 2.0 GPA or higher through their academic career within CCC. If a student does not retain a 2.0 cumulative GPA by the end of the semester, the student has not met [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\)](#) standards, could be required to submit a SAP appeal to continue to receive Star Scholarship Funding for future semesters.

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

A: Starting with the Fall 2018 cohort, 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. If students do not appeal by the academic semester deadline, they will not receive Star Scholarship funding.

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 complete FAFSA 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 a 2021-22 FAFSA as early as October 1, 2020 rather than beginning on January 1, 2021. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1st every year.

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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: 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. The student will need to meet with their academic advisor or financial aid advisor and could be responsible for the penalty cost each semester. The Star Scholarship will only cover the first NSW penalty for each student.

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.

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

A: 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 are a part of the Fall 2018 cohort or later and 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. However for any cohort prior to FA18, Star Scholar recipients receiving financial aid must appeal a SAP hold in order to continue to qualify for Star waiver. If the appeal is successful they will continue to be covered by federal funding. If appeals made in good faith are unsuccessful, Star waivers will be applied to cover students' books and tuition. If the student do not submit an appeal by the last day of the semester, they will not receive the scholarship for that semester.

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

A: Students who officially withdraws (WTH) before the 60% point of the semester or are administratively withdrawn (ADW) from all of their Star Scholarship funded eligible classes, will have their tuition waiver removed. 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: 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.