


HOWARD P. RAWLINGS
GUARANTEED ACCESS GRANT
Conditions of Award
Academic Year 2023-2024



Eligibility Requirements:

- o You must be eligible for in-state tuition, as determined by the institution.
- o If applying as a high school applicant, you must successfully complete a college preparatory program and earn at least a 2.5 unweighted cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale at the end of the first semester of your senior year in high school.
- o If applying as a high school applicant, you must be under the age of 22 at the time of receiving the first award.
- o If applying as a GED applicant, you must have scored a minimum of 165 per module on the GED exam and be under the age of 26.
- o You must enroll each semester as a full-time (12 credits per semester) degree-seeking undergraduate student at an eligible institution in Maryland.
- o You cannot be in default on a Federal Title IV student loan.
- o You may not use audited courses to reach the minimum credit hours required for full-time status.
- o You must complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Maryland State Financial Aid Application (MSFAA) by March 1.
- o You must submit all required documents for **priority consideration** by **March 15**. Documentation will be accepted until May 15, but applicants are not guaranteed an award.
- o You must begin your enrollment within one year of completing high school.

Important Facts to Remember:

- o If you fail to meet any of these eligibility requirements, your award will be canceled.
- o If you falsify or conceal a material fact in connection with your application, you may be subject to criminal prosecution.
- o You must accept your award within the allotted timeframe or your award will be canceled.
- o This award is based on financial need. Your need is based on the cost of the institution you attend and your housing status. If you change institutions or your housing, your award may be increased, decreased, or canceled. Awards are subject to the availability of funds.

Drug Free Pledge: As a condition of receiving a state scholarship or grant, you pledge to remain drug free for the full term of the award. Unlawful use of drugs and alcohol may endanger your enrollment in a Maryland college, as well as your Maryland financial aid award.

Overawards: Please be aware that if the institution you are attending notifies OSFA that you are receiving other financial assistance that causes you to exceed your financial need for the award or exceed the cost of attendance at the institution (e.g.: private scholarships; Veteran's Benefits; athletic scholarships), your state financial aid may be reduced or cancelled. The total dollar amount of all state scholarship awards may not exceed your cost of attendance, as determined by your school's financial aid office, or \$29,600, whichever is less.

Renewing Your Award:

- o Your award will be renewed for up to 3 years of undergraduate study if you:
 - continue to be eligible for in-state tuition;
 - complete and file the FAFSA or MSFAA each year by March 1;

- continue to meet the award's annual income requirements reported on FAFSA (students must continue to live at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level);
- enroll as a full time student in an eligible institution or community college;
- maintain the satisfactory academic progress standards of your institution; and
- meet the eligibility requirements as outlined above.

Students that received the award for at least two years and thereafter are required to complete 30 credits in order to have their GA award reinstated for the full amount.

- Students that complete 24-29 credits beginning with their 2nd year, their award will be prorated
- Students must complete a minimum of 24 credits, beginning in their 2nd year for the GA award to be reinstated

Payment to Your Institution: At the beginning of each semester, your institution will be asked to certify that you meet the requirements of the award. When the institution completes the certification and requests funds from the OSFA, your award will be processed for payment. **Payment to the institution will be made approximately four weeks after the institution completes the certification.** Contact your institution's financial aid office if you have questions about the payment status of your award.

To accept your awards, please log in to our online financial assistance site, MDCAPS, at <https://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>. **You will be required to create a user id and password. You will be sent an email requiring you to ACTIVATE your account in MD CAPS, after which you may log in.** There is a user's manual at the top of the home page for your use in accepting your award.