

GOLDEN LEAF SCHOLARS PROGRAM TWO-YEAR COLLEGES

The Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges will provide grants of \$750 per semester, including summer term for curriculum students and up to \$250 per semester for occupational education students to be applied toward their tuition, registration fees, and related expenses at the community college where they are enrolled. Scholarships will be need and merit based on a first-come, first-serve basis. Eligible recipients can choose to attend any of the 58 member institutions of the North Carolina Community College System. This project is funded through the Golden LEAF Foundation.

To be eligible, a student must:

- Be a permanent resident of one of the counties designated as Tier I, II, and III economically distressed counties or highly tobacco-dependent counties.
- Curriculum students must show financial need as based on the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA).
- Occupational extension students must demonstrate a need under federal TRIO formula. This criterion will be used so occupational education students will not need to file a Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA). All students will be required to disclose other financial aid awards in order to meet the needs of the broad population of students.
- Curriculum students must be enrolled half-time for a full award. Less than half-time students may be considered pending availability of funds.

Finalists meeting all the eligibility criteria will undergo a separate “merit” competition. Selection is based on:

- The effect of the declining economy on his or her family
- Academic record
- Overall evaluation of the application
- Leadership and community service

Application Process

- Students will file a Golden LEAF Scholars application with college Financial Aid Offices. Applicants bear full responsibility for completing the Golden LEAF application prior to each deadline.
- Applicants will complete a waiver form for use of their social security numbers. (*Social security numbers will be used for tracking purposes only.*)
- Financial Aid Offices will determine eligibility and appoint a selection committee comprised of college personnel from various areas of the college to review student applications.
- The committee will select students (the number of students may change term to term based on funding) for awards and select award amounts. Individual award amounts are set at the discretion of the college up to \$750 for curriculum students and \$250 for occupational education students per semester. (Cap amount may change based on available funds) Primary consideration should be given to students from families adversely affected by the decline in the tobacco industry.

Application Process Continued

- The committee will meet at least once during the award semesters and on an as-needed basis throughout the year.
- Financial Aid Offices will provide an Excel spreadsheet of selected recipients, not to exceed fifteen, including name, award amounts, and use of funds to NCCCS.
- Financial Aid Officers will mail hard copies of social security numbers and waiver forms to Karen Yerby, NCCCS, 5016 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699.
- NCCCS will transfer funds to the colleges for disbursement to student recipients.
- Colleges may redistribute funds caused by student withdrawal or other circumstances to other eligible students. Colleges must provide NCCCS with the new student's name, award amount, use of funds, social security number and waiver form.

For additional information or questions contact

Karen Yerby, Associate Director,
Student Development Services
5016 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-5016
Phone: (919) 807-7107
Fax: (919) 807-7173
Email: yerbyk@ncccommunitycolleges.edu

Are there other circumstances that demonstrate your need for educational assistance? _____

2) List educationally related costs associated with participation in your program/course of choice. Educational assistance maximums are \$250 per term for non-credit occupational education programs and \$750 per term for credit, curriculum programs/courses. _____

3) Please list all leadership and/or community activities you are currently involved in. _____

4) Please attach a high school or college transcript (occupational education students only) for any courses taken in the last five years. If you have not been enrolled in high school or college in the last five years, please place an "X" here _____.

5) Please place an "X" on the blank beside the intended use of these funds, if awarded.

Tuition & Fees _____ Books & Supplies _____
Transportation _____ Other _____

I have read and understand the requirements for assistance. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

7) _____ Date _____
Applicant's Signature

For Official Use Only

Financial Aid Office:

Total aid awarded for curriculum enrollment \$ _____ # of hrs. _____

Total aid awarded for occupational education enrollment \$ _____

Major or Occupational Education Program: _____

Tuition _____ Textbooks _____

Supplies _____ Other _____

Financial Aid Officer

Date

Selection Committee

Date Denied

Date Approved

Award Amount

Consent Form

I hereby authorize _____ Community College and the North Carolina Community College System to share my name and address with one another and to release my name and address to _____ (scholarship sponsor) and the news media if I am awarded the _____ Scholarship.

I understand that the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 may prevent any disclosure of this information if I chose not to execute this release.

Recipient's Signature

Date