



New York State Financial Aid Information Sheet

New York State Tuition Assistance Program:

The New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) helps eligible New York residents pay tuition at approved schools in New York State (NYS). An annual TAP award can be up to **\$5,165**. Because TAP is a grant, it does not have to be paid back. To be eligible an applicant must meet income eligibility guidelines and the criteria listed below:

- be a legal resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen;
- have graduated from high school in the United States, earned a high school equivalency diploma by passing a Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC) formally known as a GED, or passed a federally approved "Ability to Benefit" test as defined by the Commissioner of the State Education Department;
- study at an approved postsecondary institution in NYS;
- be matriculated in an approved program of study and be in good academic standing with at least a "C" average as of the 4th semester payment;
- be enrolled as a full-time student taking twelve or more credits applicable toward the degree program, per semester.

TAP Award Student Types and NYS Taxable Income Eligibility Limits	Income
Dependent undergraduate students or Independent students who are married and have tax dependents, or Independent students who are unmarried and have tax dependents, or students who qualified as an orphan, foster child or ward of the court at any time since the age of 13.	\$80,000
Independent undergraduate students who are married and have no other tax dependents.	\$40,000
Single independent undergraduate students with no tax dependents.	\$10,000

The easiest way to apply for TAP is through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). NYS residents can link directly to the TAP application from the FAFSA submission confirmation page. If you exited the FAFSA before completing the TAP application, Higher Education Services Corp. (HESC) will automatically receive your information in about three days. HESC will then send you an email or postcard with directions to complete the TAP application online. **For questions, please contact HESC by phone at 1-888-697-4372 or by e-mail at scholarships@hesc.ny.gov.**



New York State Excelsior Scholarship Program:

The Excelsior Scholarship Program provides undergraduate tuition assistance to New York State (NYS) residents attending SUNY or CUNY on a full-time basis. For the 2020-21 academic year, families may qualify for an award with a 2018 AGI under **\$125,000**. The amount of the Excelsior Scholarship will be based on the cost of tuition minus all other grants and scholarships such as TAP and Pell. The scholarship can only be used for tuition and not for room, board, or other charges.

In addition to income requirements, students must meet academic and residency requirements to qualify for and maintain this scholarship. For example, students must complete 30 degree applicable credits per year to continue to receive the scholarship. Recipients must also live and work (if employed) in NYS for the number of years equal to the number of years the awards were received, otherwise the scholarship total will be converted to a loan (with a 0% interest rate). Please note that students need to send all of their final official college transcripts to the Office of Admissions at SUNY New Paltz to be considered.

To apply, complete the FAFSA, TAP Grant, and Excelsior Applications. The Excelsior Scholarship Program is administered by Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC). Further details about this program and deadline information are at: www.hesc.ny.gov/excelsior. **For questions, please contact HESC by phone at 1-888-697-4372 or by e-mail at scholarships@hesc.ny.gov.**

Financial Aid Award Examples:

<u>Example #1:</u>	<u>Example #2:</u>	<u>Example #3:</u>
Tuition=\$7,270 for year TAP Grant= \$5,165 for year Pell Grant= \$4,000 for year Excelsior Award= \$0 for year	Tuition= \$7,270 for year TAP Grant= \$2,000 for year Pell Grant= \$2,100 for year Excelsior Award= \$3,170 for year	Tuition= \$7,270 for year TAP Grant= \$0 for year Pell Grant= \$0 for year Excelsior Award= \$7,270 for year

Excelsior is a “last dollar” award.

That means that the value of the award is determined after subtracting other grants and scholarships, such as Pell and TAP, from the tuition cost.

If the amount of grants and scholarships exceeds the cost of tuition, the Excelsior award will be zero.