



Financial Aid

Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program

Policy Statement

These rules shall be known as the Arkansas Department of Higher Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program. This policy addresses the student eligibility criteria, method for recipient selection, continuing eligibility requirements, procedures for making payments to an approved institution of higher education, and other administrative procedures necessary for operation of the program.

Applicable Arkansas Code

Ark. Code Ann. 6-85-202 ET. Seq.

Applicability

This rule is applicable to students who apply for a scholarship under the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program for the academic year 2010-2011 and each academic year thereafter. Recipients of Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarships are prohibited from receiving Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarships.

Definitions

- (1) "Academic Year" means fall, spring, first and second summer semesters in that order, or as defined by the Department of Higher Education;
- (2) "ACT" means the ACT Assessment administered by ACT, Inc.;
- (3) "ACT equivalent" means the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), COMPASS, Accuplacer, Asset or other nationally normed test that is correlated with the ACT and approved by the Department of Higher Education for use by institutions of higher education to assess a person's college readiness;
- (4) "Approved institution of higher education" means an institution of higher

education approved by the Department of Higher Education to participate in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program -- Part 2 and that is:

- (A) A state-supported two-year or four-year college or university;
- (B) A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; or
- (C) An approved school of nursing, subject to the provisions of § 6-85-213(c);

(5) "Approved school of nursing" means a school of nursing with its primary headquarter located in Arkansas that:

- (A) Prepares students as registered nurses;
- (B) Grants nursing diplomas;
- (C) Is eligible to participate in the Higher Education Act of 1965, Title IV federal student aid programs;
- (D) Is approved by the Arkansas State Board of Nursing;
- (E) Has been approved by the Department of Higher Education as eligible to participate in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program; and
- (F) Is not a two-year or four-year college or university;

(6) "Arkansas resident" means a natural person who provides evidence deemed sufficient by the Department of Higher Education that:

- (A) For the twelve-month period required under basic eligibility requirements the person:
 - (i) Maintained a permanent home in Arkansas where the person resides for an average of no less than four (4) days and nights per calendar week; and
 - (ii) Either:
 - (a) Is an Arkansas registered voter;
 - (b) Holds a valid Arkansas motor vehicle driver's license;
 - (c) Receives benefits under an Arkansas public assistance program;

(d) Uses an Arkansas residence address for federal or state tax purposes; or

(e) Claims Arkansas as a residence to hold public office or for judicial actions; or

(B) Before the deadline for filing a scholarship application under this rule the applicant:

(i) Is on active military status;

(ii) Qualifies for in-state tuition and fees if the student is a:

(1) Veteran who was discharged or released from a period of not less than ninety (90) days of active duty in the military, naval, or air service within three (3) years before the date of enrollment in a program of study;

(2) Dependent of a veteran under subdivision (1) of this section;

(3) Member of the armed forces; or

(4) Spouse of a member of the armed forces and,

(iii) Meets one (1) of the conditions under subdivision (6)(A)(ii) of this section;

(7) "Continuously enrolled" means:

(A) For a traditional student, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education twenty-seven (27) semester hours in the first academic year as a recipient and, except while the recipient is enrolled as a part-time student if the recipient is enrolled in the number of credit hours necessary to complete the recipient's degree program, successfully completes thirty (30) semester hours each academic year thereafter, ~~not including any summer term;~~

(B) For a full-time nontraditional student, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not including a summer term;~~

~~(i) Before receiving a scholarship under this subchapter, successfully completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, not including a summer term; and~~

~~(ii) As a recipient of a scholarship under this subchapter, successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, not including a summer~~

term;

(C) For a part-time nontraditional student, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at least six (6) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not including a summer term~~; and

(D) For a student who is enrolled in a degree plan that has a maximum number of semester hours in a semester that is less than the requirements of subdivisions (7)(A)-(C) of this section, he or she successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education the maximum number of hours required by the degree plan for the semester;

(8) "Cost of attendance" means the recognized cost of attendance of an institution of higher education calculated under rules established by the Department of Higher Education;

(9) "Full Time Student" means a student enrolled in at least twenty-seven (27) semester hours the first academic year and thirty (30) semester hours per academic year thereafter or the equivalent, as described in this rule, or the equivalent as defined by the Department of Higher Education;

(10) "End-of-course assessment" means an examination taken at the completion of a course of study to determine whether a student demonstrates attainment of the knowledge and skills necessary for mastery of that subject;

(11) "Enrolled" means that the approved institution of higher education where the student is attending class counts the student as enrolled for the hours claimed on the last day to add or drop a class at the approved institution of higher education;

(12) "High school equivalency test" means a test measuring the knowledge and skills usually learned in high school that is administered by a state-approved institution or organization;

(13) "High school grade point average" means the numbered grade average on a student's high school transcript calculated:

(A) For a traditional student, using the first seven (7) of the last eight (8) semesters the student completed prior to graduating high school; or

(B) For a nontraditional student, using the last eight (8) semesters the student completed before graduating high school;

(14) "Incarcerated" means a person who has been convicted of a crime and is imprisoned for that crime or is being held in custody for trial or sentencing. Incarceration will result in applicant or recipient being ineligible for the Academic Challenge Scholarship;

(15) "Lawful permanent resident" means a non-United States citizen who resides in the United States under a legally recognized and lawfully recorded permanent residence and who may receive state public benefits under 8 U.S.C. § 1622;

(16) "Nontraditional student" means a student who is not a traditional student;

(17) "Personally identifiable student data" means any information that, alone or in combination with other available information, is linked or linkable to a specific student that would allow a reasonable person in the student's school community to identify the student with reasonable certainty;

(18) "Postsecondary grade point average" means the cumulative numbered grade average for college credit courses as calculated using a 4.0 scale;

(19) "Qualified certificate program" means a program:

(A) That is offered by an approved institution of higher education;

(B) For which credit hours are awarded that are creditable toward an associate degree or baccalaureate degree; and

(C) Recognized by the United States Department of Education for financial aid purposes;

(20) "Recipient" means an applicant awarded a scholarship funded through the program;

(21) "Scholarship hold" means the temporary suspension of a scholarship award to a traditional student under this rule approved by the Department of Higher Education under § 6-85-221;

(22) "Semester" means one-half (1/2) of a traditional academic year at an institution of higher education, or an equivalent approved by the Department of Higher Education, in which a student enrolls for not less than:

(A) Fifteen (15) credit hours as a full-time student, except that in the first semester as a first-time full-time freshman, a traditional student shall enroll in not less than twelve (12) credit hours; or

(B) Six (6) credit hours as a part-time student;

(23) "Smart Core" means:

(A) The college and career readiness curriculum by that name under rules of the State Board of Education; or

(B) A college and career readiness curriculum that is:

- (i)** Established by rules of the state board in coordination with the Department of Higher Education; and
- (ii)** Substituted for the curriculum named "Smart Core";

(24) "State-supported student financial assistance" means a state-supported scholarship, grant, tuition waiver, or tuition reimbursement funded with state funds or net proceeds from the state lottery awarded by:

(A) The Department of Higher Education; or

(B) A scholarship or grant awarded by an institution of higher education in this state in whole or in part by state funds, including without limitation:

- (i)** Scholarships awarded on the basis of entrance exam scores or high school academic achievement;
- (ii)** Tuition waivers based on age, military service, occupation, or other factors;
- (iii)** Out-of-state tuition waivers for undergraduate students from contiguous states in close proximity to a college or university;
- (iv)** Scholarships for transfers from two-year institutions;
- (v)** Performance scholarships for band, musical performing groups, arts, theater, forensics, and similar activities that are not awarded on the basis of entrance exam scores or high school academic achievement; and
- (vi)** Any other publicly funded program under which students are not charged or are reimbursed by the institution of higher education for tuition, fees, books, or other costs of attendance;

(25) "Successfully completed" means that a student completed a course at an institution of higher education and received the equivalent of a minimum letter grade of "D";

(26) (A) "Traditional student" means a student who:

- (i)** Will enter postsecondary education as a full-time first-time freshman on or before the fall semester of the academic year that begins immediately following:
 - (a)** The student's graduation from high school; or

(b) The last day of the school year:

- (1) That would have been the student's junior or senior year of high school; and
- (2) In which the student completes the requirements for high school graduation and obtains a General Educational Development certificate instead of receiving a diploma; and

(ii) Remains continuously enrolled as a full-time student;

(B) "Traditional student" includes a student who otherwise meets this definition but delays entering postsecondary education under a scholarship hold approved by the Department of Higher Education.

Procedures

Basic Eligibility Requirements.

The basic requirements for an applicant to be eligible for an award from the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program are:

- (1) (A) The applicant has been an Arkansas resident for at least the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date the applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher education.
 - (B) If the applicant is less than twenty-one (21) years of age, either the applicant or a parent or guardian of the applicant shall have maintained Arkansas residency for at least the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date the applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher education.
 - (C) (i) To be considered an Arkansas resident, an applicant shall demonstrate residency by evidence deemed sufficient to the Department of Higher Education.
 - (ii) Evidence of residency may include without limitation information provided by the applicant on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a subsequent application required by the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid.
 - (D) During the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date an applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher education if the person for whom the twelve-month period is calculated under subdivision (1)(A) or (1)(B) of this section is deployed outside of Arkansas under military orders, the Department of Higher Education shall calculate the twelve (12) months by:

- (i) Excluding months of military deployment outside of Arkansas that are within the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date the applicant will enroll in an approved institution of higher education; and
 - (ii) Including months the person maintained Arkansas residency immediately preceding the military deployment outside of Arkansas;
 - (2) The applicant is a citizen of the United States or is a lawful permanent resident;
 - (3) (A) The applicant is accepted for admission as a full-time student or part-time student at:
 - (i) An approved institution of higher education in a program of study that leads to or is creditable toward:
 - (a) A baccalaureate degree;
 - (b) An associate degree;
 - (c) A certificate from a qualified certificate program; or
 - (d) A graduate-level or professional degree; or
 - (ii) An approved school of nursing in a program of study that leads to a nursing diploma under § 6-85-213.
 - (B) A full-time student shall enroll in at least twenty-seven (27) semester hours the first academic year and thirty (30) semester hours per academic year thereafter or the equivalent, as described in this rule, or the equivalent as defined by the Department of Higher Education.
 - (C) A part-time student shall complete at least six (6) semester hours but less than the minimum number of semester hours for a full-time student, as defined by the Department of Higher Education.
- (4) The applicant has not met the maximum continuing education eligibility requirements under § 6-85-210;
- (5) The applicant does not owe a refund on a federal or state student financial aid grant for higher education;
- (6) The applicant is not in default on a state or federal student financial aid loan for higher education;
- (7) The applicant has not borrowed, as determined by the approved institution of higher education to be attended, in excess of the annual loan limits under the Federal Family Educational Loan Program Systems, William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program, Income Contingent Loan Demonstration Program, Stafford Loan

Program, Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students Program, or Supplemental Loan for Students Program in the same academic year for which the student has applied for assistance under this rule;

(8) The applicant is not incarcerated at the time of the application for or during the time the applicant receives a scholarship under this rule;

(9) The applicant has complied with United States Selective Service System requirements for registration;

(10) The applicant has completed and submitted to the United States Department of Education a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or a subsequent application required by the United States Department of Education for federal financial aid; and

(11) The applicant certifies that he or she is drug-free and pledges in writing on the application form to refrain from the use or abuse of illegal substances in order to become eligible and maintain eligibility for this program.

Additional Eligibility Requirements for Traditional Students.

In addition to the basic eligibility requirements an applicant is eligible as a traditional student if the applicant:

(1) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and has a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent;

(2) Has a disability identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as it existed on July 1, 2009, and graduated from an Arkansas public high school, and either:

(A) Had a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or

(B) Scored proficient or higher on all state-mandated end-of-course assessments, including without limitation end-of-course assessments on:

(i) Algebra I;

(ii) Geometry;

(iii) Biology; and

(iv) Literacy; or

(3) Achieved a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; and

(A) Graduated from a private high school, an out-of-state high school, or a home school high school; or

(B) In the year in which the student would have been a junior or senior in high school, completed the requirements for high school graduation and obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Department of Career Education instead of receiving a diploma; or

(4) Meets the following criteria:

(A) Was enrolled at an institution of higher education in the immediately preceding academic year as a full-time, first-time freshman;

(B) Did not receive a scholarship under this rule as a first-time, full-time freshman;

(C) Successfully completed at least twenty-seven (27) semester hours of courses as a full-time, first-time freshman; and

(D) Achieved a postsecondary grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale as a full-time, first-time freshman.

Additional eligibility requirements for a nontraditional student.

In addition to the basic eligibility requirements an applicant is eligible as a nontraditional student if the applicant meets one (1) of the following requirements:

(1) If the applicant has not been enrolled in an approved institution of higher education, has either:

(A) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and achieved a 2.5 high school grade point average ~~but has not successfully completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of credit of courses under subdivision (2)(B) of this section;~~ or

(B) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school, a private high school, an out-of-state high school, a home school high school, or obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Department of Career Education and ~~either:~~ **had** a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or

~~(B)(i) Has successfully completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of courses granting three (3) or more hours of credit per course at an institution of higher education and earned a postsecondary grade point average of at least 2.5.~~

~~(ii) A course granting less than three (3) hours of credit may be counted toward the twelve (12) semester hours under this subdivision (2)(B) if it is related to a credit course required for a degree.~~

(2) If the applicant has been enrolled in an approved institution of higher education, has earned a postsecondary grade point average of at least 2.5.

Continuing eligibility.

(a) **(1) (A)** A recipient who meets continuing eligibility criteria under this rule shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic year renewable annually until the recipient first:

~~(A) Earns a baccalaureate degree; or~~

~~(B) (i) Has has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours.~~

~~(ii) (B) A recipient may continue to receive a scholarship after he or she has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours, but not more than one hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours, if the student is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours as provided under § 6-61-232.~~

(1) A semester in which a student withdraws or fails to complete the number of credit hours for which the student first enrolled is counted toward the maximum number of semesters for which the student may receive a scholarship award under this rule.

(2) The maximums under this subsection apply to any degree program, regardless of whether or not the degree program requires additional semesters.

(3) A recipient may attend summer terms at the student's own expense to earn credit hours necessary to maintain eligibility for a scholarship under this rule.

(b) To maintain eligibility for an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship under this rule, a recipient shall meet the following requirements:

(1) A recipient shall continue to meet the eligibility requirements of this rule while

a recipient of a scholarship under this rule;

(2) (A) (i) A recipient shall meet the satisfactory academic progress standards required to receive other financial aid at the approved institution of higher education where the recipient is enrolled, as determined by the Department of Higher Education in conjunction with the institution of higher education where the recipient is enrolled.

(ii) (a) A recipient who does not successfully complete any credit hours toward degree completion in a semester in which he or she received a scholarship under this rule immediately forfeits the remainder of the scholarship award for that academic year.

(b) The department shall notify the recipient of the loss of eligibility under this subdivision.

(iii) By accepting scholarship funds under this rule, the receiving institution certifies that students will be enrolled in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards leading toward a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, or a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree.

(B) The department may approve a leave of absence for a reason that includes without limitation:

(i) A medical condition of the student or a member of the student's immediate family that, on the basis of a physician's good-faith judgment, necessitates the student or the student's immediate family member to be hospitalized or receive outpatient or home-based medical care or recuperation until released by the attending physician;

(ii) A personal or family emergency that requires the student to:

(a) Attend the funeral of an immediate family member; or

(b) Visit a relative of the student if the relative has a medical condition in which death is possible or imminent;

(iii) Military service under § 6-61-112;

(iv) (a) A commitment for twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months of service in a national or international humanitarian project sponsored by a nonprofit corporation organized with a charitable or educational purpose.

(b) The student's commitment shall be expressed in a written agreement with the nonprofit organization including the terms of completion for the student's service on the related project;

(c) The department shall release a scholarship hold if the department determines that the student did not complete the commitment under the written agreement; or

(v) Any other reason approved by the department;

(3) A recipient who enrolls in one (1) or more remedial courses shall complete all remedial courses required by the approved institution of higher education by the time the student completes the first thirty (30) semester hours attempted after receiving the scholarship;

(4) A recipient shall earn a postsecondary grade point average of 2.5 or higher at an approved institution of higher education;

(5) A recipient shall enroll in courses that lead toward a baccalaureate degree program or graduate-level or professional degree after attempting the lesser of:

(A) Five (5) semesters; or

(B) The completion of an associate degree program; and

(6) A recipient shall meet any other continuing eligibility criteria established by the Department of Higher Education.

(c) (1) ~~(A) If a recipient becomes ineligible for the scholarship because the recipient's postsecondary grade point average or number of successfully completed credit hours no longer meets the minimum requirement for the scholarship, the recipient may regain eligibility under this subsection one (1) time only in the academic year in which the student became ineligible.~~

~~(B) The Department of Higher Education shall by rule define "academic year".~~

~~(2) (A) A traditional student recipient who becomes ineligible~~ **loses eligibility** ~~for a scholarship may use this subsection to become eligible~~ **apply** ~~as a first-time nontraditional student applicant but may not use this subsection again to regain lost eligibility for the nontraditional student scholarship.~~

~~(B) (2) A recipient~~ **under subdivision (c)(1) of this section** ~~who loses eligibility for the~~ **nontraditional student** ~~scholarship and does not regain eligibility under subdivision (c)(1) of this section is not eligible to apply for a scholarship under any eligibility provision of this rule.~~

~~(3) The recipient shall complete the requirements for regaining eligibility under this subsection:~~

~~(A) In the same academic year in which the student failed to maintain eligibility; and~~

~~(B) At the student's own expense.~~

~~(4) Except as provided under § 6-85-211(a)(3) and unless the requirements of this subsection are waived by the department under subsection (d) of this section, to regain eligibility for the scholarship:~~

~~(A)(i) As a traditional or nontraditional full-time student, the student shall:~~

~~(a) Successfully complete at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses for credit for which the approved institution of higher education certifies that the courses meet the satisfactory academic progress standards of the institution; and~~

~~(b) Achieve a 2.5 grade point average for the semester hours completed under this subdivision (c)(4)(A).~~

~~(ii) A traditional student who does not regain eligibility under subdivision (c)(4)(A)(i) of this section is ineligible to reapply for a scholarship as a traditional student but may apply as a nontraditional student; and~~

~~(B) As a nontraditional part-time student, the student shall:~~

~~(i) Successfully complete at least six (6) semester hours of courses for credit for which the approved institution of higher education certifies that the courses meet the satisfactory academic progress standards of the institution; and~~

~~(ii) Achieve a 2.5 grade point average for the semester hours successfully completed under this subdivision (c)(4)(B).~~

(d) If a recipient is subject to losing a scholarship under subsection (c) of this section due to a catastrophic event experienced by the recipient or a family member of the recipient, the department may waive the requirements of this section and determine the appropriate requirements for the recipient to either retain or regain the scholarship.

Literacy tutoring.

(a) As an additional component to the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program:

(1) Each applicant for the scholarship shall agree that for each year the scholarship is awarded he or she may volunteer to serve as a literacy tutor for a minimum of twenty (20) clock hours each semester in a public school or a faith-based

educational institution serving students in prekindergarten through grade six (preK-6);

(2) A recipient who agrees to volunteer as a literacy tutor:

(A) Shall complete the prerequisite training in literacy and college readiness skills provided under this section before he or she begins tutoring; and

(B) May receive college credit for the tutoring as determined by the institution of higher education where the recipient is enrolled; and

(3) An enrolled college student who participates in the tutorial program and fails to meet the academic eligibility requirement under this rule for the fall or spring semester shall be given the probationary opportunity during the subsequent spring or summer term to continue his or her education and improve academic performance before losing scholarship funding in the subsequent semester.

(b) A recipient who agrees to volunteer as a literacy tutor under this section shall receive the prerequisite training in literacy and college readiness from an approved institution of higher education based on training modules developed by the Department of Education.

Scholarship award amounts.

(a) The General Assembly may use net proceeds from the state lottery to fund the scholarships awarded under this rule and to supplement the state-supported student financial assistance that the General Assembly determines is necessary to meet the state's objective for broadening and increasing access of Arkansas citizens to higher education.

(b) Net proceeds from the state lottery used to fund scholarships under this rule shall:

(1) Be used exclusively for the purposes set out in Arkansas Constitution, Amendment 87, and this rule; and

(2) Supplement and shall not supplant nonlottery state educational resources.

(c) It is the General Assembly's intent that before increasing award amounts for scholarships under this rule, the number of scholarships awarded to nontraditional students under § 6-5-208 be increased.

(d) The scholarships established under this rule are subject to available funding and do not create for any student an entitlement to financial assistance to enable the student's attendance at an approved institution of higher education.

(e) (1) (A) Beginning with the 2016-2017 academic year, the scholarship award amount

under this rule for an academic year for a full-time recipient enrolled in a four-year approved institution of higher education is:

- (i) One thousand dollars (\$1,000) for a recipient who has earned less than twenty-seven (27) semester credit hours;
- (ii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient who has earned at least twenty- seven (27) semester credit hours but less than fifty-seven (57) semester credit hours;
- (iii) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) for a recipient who has earned at least fifty- seven (57) semester credit hours but less than eighty-seven (87) semester credit hours; and
- (iv) (a) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for a recipient who has earned at least eighty-seven (87) semester credit hours but no more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours, unless the recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more than one hundred (120) semester credit hours, but not more than one hundred thirty (130) semester credit hours, as provided under § 6-61-232, then up to the number of credit hours required to complete the baccalaureate program.

(b) A recipient shall receive no more than one (1) year of ~~a five-thousand-dollar~~ the scholarship provided under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this section unless the recipient is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that requires more than one hundred (120) semester credit hours as provided under § 6-61-232.

(c) (1) A recipient who is eligible to receive the scholarship under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this section may receive the scholarship while enrolled in a semester as a part-time student if the recipient is enrolled in the number of credit hours necessary to complete the recipient's degree program.

(2) The scholarship amount for the semester in which a recipient is enrolled as a part-time student under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(iv)(c)(1) of this section shall be prorated by the number of credit hours in which the recipient is enrolled.

(B) The Department of Higher Education shall not accept new applications for scholarships for current achiever students under § 6-85-209 after June 1, 2012.

(C) (i) To determine the correct scholarship award amount based on credit hours, a **first-time** recipient shall submit a current **college or university** transcript **if the first-time recipient has earned any semester credit hours** to the Department of Higher Education no later than ~~June 1~~ a date

determined by the department each year prior to the academic year for which the first-time recipient will receive an initial scholarship award.

- (ii) A first-time recipient who does not submit a transcript to the department on or before June 4 the date determined by the department shall receive the award amount under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(i) of this section.

(D) (i) An Applicant may elect for the earned semester credit hours under subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section to be only those semester credit hours earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Department of Career Education.

- (ii) If the applicant makes the election under subdivision (e)(1)(D)(i) of this section, any semester credit hours earned through concurrent credit or any other method before graduating high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Department of Career Education shall not be counted as earned semester credit hours for the purposes of determining a recipient's scholarship award amount under subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section.

(2) (A) Beginning with the ~~2014-2015~~ 2017-18 academic year, the department shall award an aggregate amount of scholarship awards to nontraditional students of up to ~~sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000)~~ twelve million (\$12,000,000).

(B) (i) The department shall return to the Office of the Arkansas Lottery the excess funding, if any, for scholarship awards the department received under § 23-115-801.

- (ii) The office shall deposit any funds received from the department under this subdivision (e)(2)(B) into a trust account established under § 23-115-801(b).

(C) Priority for scholarships awarded to nontraditional students is based on:

- (i) the ~~The~~ applicant's level of progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, ~~or~~ a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree; or
- (ii) on other ~~Other~~ criteria established by the department Department of Higher Education.

(3) The scholarship award for an academic year for a full-time student enrolled in one (1) of the following institutions of higher education is one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for the first year and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for the second year:

- (A) A two-year approved institution of higher education;
- (B) A branch campus of a four-year approved institution of higher education; or
- (C) An approved nursing school.

(4) The scholarship award amount for a part-time student recipient shall be:

- (A) One-half (1/2) of the award amount for a full-time student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least six (6) semester hours but less than nine (9) semester hours; or
- (B) Three-quarters (3/4) of the award amount for a full-time student recipient, if the recipient is enrolled in at least nine (9) semester hours but less than the number of hours required for a full-time student recipient.

(5) A current recipient who maintains eligibility for the scholarship under this rule shall continue to receive the scholarship award amount first awarded to the recipient.

(6) The department shall give priority for a scholarship award to a full-time or part-time student:

(A) Who meets the eligibility requirements under this rule; and

(B) Whose parent, by birth or legal adoption:

(i) Was a resident of the State of Arkansas at the time that person entered the service of the United States Armed Forces or whose official residence is in Arkansas; and

(ii) Was a member of the United States Armed Forces who was killed while performing military duty:

(a) In a status identified under 32 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. or 10 U.S.C. § 101 et seq. as they existed on January 1, 2011; or

(b) In state active duty status.

(f) Annually by December 15, the Legislative Council shall provide to the General Assembly its recommendations for any changes to the:

- (1) Award amounts;
- (2) Number or type of scholarships; and
- (3) Eligibility requirements.

- (g) It is the intent of the General Assembly that in determining award amounts under this rule the General Assembly will consider whether sufficient funds will be available to pay for scholarship awards through the anticipated completion of the degree or certificate a recipient is seeking.
- (h) All awards under this subchapter are subject to the prohibition under § 6-80-105 against using public funds in a student financial package in excess of the recognized cost of attendance at the institution where the student is enrolled.
- (i) (1) If the department has less than a sufficient amount from net proceeds from the state lottery to provide for the scholarship commitments under this rule, the department shall give priority for continued financial support under this rule to a student with continuing eligibility superior to first-time applicants.
- (2) If the funding is insufficient to fully fund the scholarships for students with continuing eligibility created under this rule, the department shall award scholarships based upon the following criteria to students with continuing eligibility as follows:
- (A) First, to students who have the highest level of progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, or a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are enrolled in a program of study that is:
- (i) In an area of critical workforce need as determined by the department; or
- (ii) In a science, technology, engineering, or mathematics field;
- (B) Second, to students who have the highest level of progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, or a baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are enrolled in a program of study other than those listed in subdivision (i)(2)(A) of this section; and
- (C) Last, in the event funding is insufficient to fully fund students under subdivision (i)(2)(A) or (i)(2)(B) of this section, to students who have the highest postsecondary grade point average.
- (3) (A) If after funding all students with continuing eligibility under this section funding is insufficient to fund all qualified first-time applicants, the department shall award scholarships to first-time applicants in order of priority based upon the applicants' highest ACT or ACT equivalent scores.
- (B) If after prioritizing first-time applicants based upon the applicants' ACT or ACT equivalent scores funding is insufficient to fund all applicants with like ACT or ACT equivalent scores, the department shall determine who receives an award by random drawing.
- ~~(j) When the General Assembly determines that sufficient net lottery proceeds exist to~~

~~fund students enrolling in certificate, associate degree, and baccalaureate degree programs, the department shall submit recommendations to the Legislative Council for the award of scholarships and grants to certain graduate and professional programs at approved institutions of higher education.~~

Payments of Scholarships.

(A) The Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall disburse scholarships to the approved institution of the student's choice. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall send funds to the institution via electronic funds transfer or state warrant. After verification of full-time enrollment, the institution will disburse the scholarship to the student according to the institution's disbursement procedures. The scholarship payment will correspond to academic terms, semesters, quarters, or equivalent time periods at the eligible institution. In no instance may the entire amount of the scholarship disbursement for an educational year be paid to or on behalf of such student in advance.

(B) Transfer of Scholarships to another Approved Institution

A recipient who has received an Academic Challenge Scholarship may transfer the scholarship to another approved Arkansas institution of higher education, provided that:

1. The student notifies the Arkansas Department of Higher Education of the change of status by October 1 for the fall term and by February 1 for the winter and/or spring terms by changing the college on the student's ADHE YOUNiversal financial aid account;

(C) Repayment of Scholarships

If the recipient of a scholarship withdraws, drops out, or is expelled on or after the first day of class of a payment period, the institution will determine whether the student received an overpayment of financial aid funds for non-institutional expenses. Overpayment is the difference between the amount received as cash disbursements and the amount incurred for non-institutional costs during the portion of the payment period that the student was actually enrolled. It is the institution's responsibility to contact students and recover overpayments.

(D) Refunds

The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program is entitled to a refund of the scholarship or loan amount, for that semester, if the recipient of a scholarship or loan withdraws, drops out, or is expelled on or after his or her first day of class of the payment period and the situation falls under the refund policy of the institution. The institution shall pay the refund to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education.

(E) Overpayment

If the award of an Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship results in an overpayment to the student according to the state law (Arkansas Code § 6-80-105) governing the stacking of scholarships, the institution shall follow the ADHE Stacking policy in reducing the student's financial package to prevent the student from receiving funds above the federally recognized cost of attendance.

Institutional Responsibilities.

I. College/University Responsibilities

A. Administrative Agreement

The chief executive officer of the eligible institution is responsible for appointing one representative from the financial aid office to act as administrator of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program and to receive all communications, forms, etc. This representative is responsible for verification, data and compliance with all program rules and regulations. The institution must comply with all rules and regulations in order to maintain continued eligibility status.

B. Disbursement Records

The institution shall maintain information on the student indicating disbursement of scholarship funds.

C. Institutional Verification

The institution shall provide certification of full-time enrollment and enrollment in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards, as of the eleventh day of classes, by completing a Verification Roster each semester after registration. The Verification Roster is an alphabetical listing by institution of all persons receiving the award for a given academic term. The certifying official is responsible for completing the verification rosters each semester or trimester. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall provide electronic Verification Rosters to the Financial Aid Administrator for each semester or trimester as needed. The electronic Verification Rosters shall be returned to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education by November 1 for the fall term and by March 15 for the spring term. Students who are enrolled less than full-time in the current term shall not receive scholarship benefits in that term. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall also provide electronic

continuing eligibility rosters to the Financial Aid Administrator before the end of the spring term. The continuing eligibility rosters shall be returned to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education no later than June 1 to ensure that adequate time is provided to notify students of their status in the program.

D. Deadlines for Disbursement of Funds

The deadline for disbursement of funds is no later than 10 days after receipt of funds. Any outstanding funds not disbursed by these dates must be returned to the Arkansas Department of Higher Education. For those students whose applications are received by ADHE too late to allow disbursement by these dates, disbursement will be made within 10 working days of receipt of the verification roster and electronic transfer of funds.

E. Due Diligence

The institution will exercise due diligence in providing complete, accurate, and timely information as requested by the Arkansas Department of Higher Education on any Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship recipient or former recipient. In addition, the institution will exercise due diligence in complying with all the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program. The Arkansas Department of Higher Education shall periodically review the institution's records concerning this program in an effort to exercise its due diligence requirements as a steward of state funds.

II. Recipient's Responsibilities

It is the recipient's responsibility to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education of any change in status within 21 days. This will include:

- Change in name
- Change in address
- Change in institution
- Change in full-time status (twelve college credit hours for those students who are in their first fall semester following high school graduation, fifteen college credit hours for those students who are beyond the first fall semester following high school graduation)

Failure to notify the Arkansas Department of Higher Education of a change of status may affect future eligibility.

Scholarship hold.

- (a) (1) The Department of Higher Education may approve a scholarship hold for a traditional student for a period of twenty-four (24) months or less.
- (2) The reasons for a scholarship hold may include without limitation:
- (A) A medical condition of the student or a member of the student's immediate family that, on the basis of a physician's good-faith judgment, necessitates the student or the student's immediate family member to be hospitalized or receive outpatient or home-based medical care or to recuperate until released by the attending physician;
 - (B) A personal or family emergency that requires the student to:
 - (i) Attend the funeral of an immediate family member; or
 - (ii) Visit a relative of the student if the relative has a medical condition in which death is possible or imminent;
 - (C) Military service under § 6-61-112; or
 - (D) (i) A commitment of twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months for service in a national or international humanitarian project sponsored by a nonprofit corporation organized with a charitable or educational purpose.
 - (ii) The student's commitment shall be expressed in a written agreement with the nonprofit organization including the terms of completion for the student's service on the related project.
 - (iii) The department shall release a scholarship hold if the department determines that the student did not complete the commitment under the written agreement.

1 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S2/9/17

2 91st General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

SENATE BILL 31

4
5 By: Senator Hickey

6 By: Representative Hammer
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
10 SCHOLARSHIP; TO EXPAND ELIGIBILITY AS A TRADITIONAL
11 STUDENT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

14 **Subtitle**

15 CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
16 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP; AND TO EXPAND
17 ELIGIBILITY AS A TRADITIONAL STUDENT.
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-207 is amended to read as follows:

23 6-85-207. Additional eligibility requirements for traditional students.

24 In addition to the requirements of § 6-85-206, an applicant is eligible
25 as a traditional student if the applicant:

26 (1) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and has a
27 minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score
28 on an ACT equivalent;

29 (2) Has a disability identified under the Individuals with
30 Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq., as it existed on July
31 1, 2009, and graduated from an Arkansas public high school, and either:

32 (A) Had a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the
33 ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or

34 (B) Scored proficient or higher on all state-mandated end-
35 of-course assessments, including without limitation end-of-course assessments
36 on:



- 1 (i) Algebra I;
- 2 (ii) Geometry;
- 3 (iii) Biology; and
- 4 (iv) Literacy; ~~or~~

5 (3) Achieved a minimum composite score of nineteen (19) on the
6 ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent and:

7 (A) Graduated from a private high school, an out-of-state
8 high school, or a home school high school; or

9 (B) In the year in which the student would have been a
10 junior or senior in high school, completed the requirements for high school
11 graduation and obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the
12 Department of Career Education instead of receiving a diploma; or

13 (4) Meets the following criteria:

14 (A) Was enrolled at an institution of higher education in
15 the immediately preceding academic year as a full-time, first-time freshman;

16 (B) Did not receive a scholarship under this subchapter as
17 a full-time, first-time freshman;

18 (C) Successfully completed at least twenty-seven (27)
19 semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, not including a summer
20 term, as a full-time, first-time freshman; and

21 (D) Achieved a postsecondary grade point average of at
22 least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale as a full-time, first-time freshman.

23

24 /s/Hickey

25

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27 **APPROVED: 03/01/2017**

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State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1957

By: Representative M. Gray
By: Senator Hickey

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT CONCERNING THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER
THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM;
TO ALLOW A SCHOLARSHIP TO BE USED TOWARD A GRADUATE-
LEVEL OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE; TO REVISE THE MANNER IN
WHICH EARNED SEMESTER CREDIT HOURS ARE CALCULATED;
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

CONCERNING THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS
UNDER THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(6)(A), concerning the definition
of "continuously enrolled" in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
Program, is amended to read as follows:

(A) For a traditional student, he or she successfully
completes at an approved institution of higher education twenty-seven (27)
semester hours in the first academic year as a recipient and, except as
provided in § 6-85-212(e)(1)(A)(iv)(c), successfully completes thirty (30)
semester hours each academic year thereafter, not including any summer term;

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-206(3)(A)(i), concerning programs of
study in which an applicant for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
Program must be enrolled to be eligible for the scholarship, is amended to



1 add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

2 (d) A graduate-level or professional degree;
3 or

4
5 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(a)(1), concerning continuing
6 eligibility in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a)(1)(A) A recipient who meets continuing eligibility criteria under
9 this subchapter shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic year
10 renewable annually until the recipient ~~first~~:

11 ~~(A) Earns a baccalaureate degree; or~~

12 ~~(B)(i) Has has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester~~
13 credit hours.

14 ~~(ii)(B)~~ A recipient may continue to receive a
15 scholarship after he or she has earned one hundred twenty (120) semester
16 credit hours, but not more than one hundred thirty (130) semester credit
17 hours, if the student is enrolled in a baccalaureate degree program that
18 requires more than one hundred twenty (120) semester credit hours as provided
19 under § 6-61-232.

20
21 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(b)(2)(A)(iii), concerning
22 continuing eligibility in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship
23 Program, is amended to read as follows:

24 (iii) By accepting scholarship funds under this
25 subchapter, the receiving institution certifies that students will be
26 enrolled in courses that will meet satisfactory academic progress standards
27 leading toward a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, ~~or~~ a
28 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree.

29
30 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(b)(5), concerning continuing
31 eligibility in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program, is
32 amended to read as follows:

33 (5) A recipient shall enroll in courses that lead toward a
34 baccalaureate degree program or graduate-level or professional degree after
35 attempting the lesser of:

36 (A) Five (5) semesters; or

1 (B) The completion of an associate degree program; and
2

3 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1)(A)(iv)(b), concerning
4 scholarship award amounts, is amended to read as follows:

5 (b) A recipient shall receive no more than one
6 (1) year of ~~a five-thousand-dollar~~ the scholarship provided under subdivision
7 (e)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this section unless the recipient is enrolled in a
8 baccalaureate degree program that requires more than one hundred twenty (120)
9 semester credit hours as provided under § 6-61-232.

10
11 SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1)(A)(iv), concerning
12 scholarship award amounts, is amended to add an additional subdivision to
13 read as follows:

14 (c)(1) A recipient who is eligible to receive
15 the scholarship under subdivision (e)(1)(A)(iv)(a) of this section may
16 receive the scholarship while enrolled in a semester as a part-time student
17 if the recipient is enrolled in the number of credit hours necessary to
18 complete the recipient's degree program.

19 (2) The scholarship amount for the
20 semester in which a recipient is enrolled as a part-time student under
21 subdivision (e)(1)(A)(iv)(c)(1) of this section shall be prorated by the
22 number of credit hours in which the recipient is enrolled.

23
24 SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1), concerning scholarship
25 award amounts, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as
26 follows:

27 (D)(i) The earned semester credit hours under subdivision
28 (e)(1)(A) of this section are those semester credit hours earned after
29 graduating from high school or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma
30 approved by the Department of Career Education.

31 (ii) Any semester credit hours earned through
32 concurrent credit or any other method before graduating high school or
33 obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Department of
34 Career Education shall not be counted as earned semester credit hours for the
35 purposes of determining a recipient's scholarship award amount under
36 subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section.

1
2 SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(2)(C), concerning priority for
3 scholarships for nontraditional students, is amended to read as follows:

4 (C) Priority for scholarships awarded to nontraditional
5 students and current achiever students is based on:

6 (i) ~~the~~ The applicant's level of progress toward
7 completion of a certificate, an associate degree, a nursing diploma, or a
8 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree; or

9 (ii) ~~on other~~ Other criteria established by the
10 ~~department~~ Department of Higher Education.

11
12 SECTION 10. The introductory language of Arkansas Code § 6-85-
13 212(i)(2)(A), concerning the priority of awarding scholarships if the funding
14 is insufficient to fully fund all scholarships, is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 (A) First, to students who have the highest level of
17 progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, ~~or a~~
18 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are
19 enrolled in a program of study that is:

20
21 SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(i)(2)(B), concerning the priority
22 of awarding scholarships if the funding is insufficient to fully fund all
23 scholarships, is amended to read as follows:

24 (B) Second, to students who have the highest level of
25 progress toward completion of a certificate, an associate degree, ~~or a~~
26 baccalaureate degree, or a graduate-level or professional degree, and who are
27 enrolled in a program of study other than those listed in subdivision
28 (i)(2)(A) of this section; and

29
30 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(j), concerning when sufficient
31 net lottery proceeds exist to fund all eligible students, is repealed.

32 ~~(j) When the General Assembly determines that sufficient net lottery~~
33 ~~proceeds exist to fund students enrolling in certificate, associate degree,~~
34 ~~and a baccalaureate degree programs, the department shall submit~~
35 ~~recommendations to the Legislative Council for the award of scholarships and~~
36 ~~grants to certain graduate and professional programs at approved institutions~~

~~of higher education.~~

APPROVED: 03/23/2017

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1 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/7/17

2 91st General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

SENATE BILL 528

4
5 By: Senator Hickey

6 By: Representative C. Douglas
7

8 For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS WORKFORCE CHALLENGE
10 SCHOLARSHIP; TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF EXCESS LOTTERY
11 PROCEEDS TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED
12 IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT WILL LEAD TO THE
13 STUDENTS BEING QUALIFIED TO WORK IN HIGH-NEEDS
14 OCCUPATIONS; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
15 PURPOSES.
16

17 Subtitle

18 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS WORKFORCE
19 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP; AND TO DECLARE AN
20 EMERGENCY.
21
22
23

24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
25

26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(2)(A) and (B), concerning
27 scholarship awards, are amended to read as follows:

28 (2)(A)~~(i)~~ The department shall award an aggregate amount of
29 scholarship awards to nontraditional students beginning with the 2010-2011
30 2017-2018 academic year of up to twelve million dollars (\$12,000,000).

31 ~~(ii) Beginning with the 2014-2015 academic year, the~~
32 ~~department shall award an aggregate amount of scholarship awards to~~
33 ~~nontraditional students of up to sixteen million dollars (\$16,000,000).~~

34 (B)(i) The department shall return to the Office of the
35 Arkansas Lottery the excess funding, if any, for scholarship awards under
36 this subchapter the department received under § 23-115-801.



1 (ii) The office shall deposit any funds received
2 from the department under this subdivision (e)(2)(B) into a trust account
3 established under § 23-115-801(b).

4 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(j), concerning recommendations to
5 the Legislative Council for the award of scholarships when sufficient funds
6 exist to fund all eligible students, is repealed.

7 ~~(j) When the General Assembly determines that sufficient net lottery~~
8 ~~proceeds exist to fund students enrolling in certificate, associate degree,~~
9 ~~and baccalaureate degree programs, the department shall submit~~
10 ~~recommendations to the Legislative Council for the award of scholarships and~~
11 ~~grants to certain graduate and professional programs at approved institutions~~
12 ~~of higher education.~~

13
14 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 85, is amended to add an
15 additional subchapter to read as follows:

16
17 Subchapter 3 — Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program

18
19 6-85-301. Creation.

20 There is created the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program.

21
22 6-85-302. Definitions.

23 As used in this section:

24 (1) "Approved institution of higher education" means an
25 institution of higher education approved by the Department of Higher
26 Education to participate in the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship
27 Program and that is:

28 (A) A state-supported two-year or four-year college or
29 university; or

30 (B) A private, nonprofit two-year or four-year college or
31 university with its primary headquarters located in Arkansas that is eligible
32 to receive Title IV federal student aid funds; and

33 (2)(A) "Certificate program" means a program that is offered or
34 made available to a student by an approved institution of higher education
35 that leads to the obtainment of a certification or license, including without
36 limitation a program operated or sponsored by a third party.

1 (B) The credit hours or contact hours awarded for a
2 certificate program may include credit hours or contact hours that are not
3 creditable toward an associate or a baccalaureate degree.

4
5 6-85-303. Funding.

6 (a) For an academic year, the following shall be used to fund Arkansas
7 Workforce Challenge Scholarships under this subchapter:

8 (A) Excess funding returned to the Office of the Arkansas
9 Lottery under § 6-85-212(e)(2)(B)(i) from the previous academic year; and

10 (B) Net proceeds remaining from the previous academic year
11 after the office:

12 (i) Transfers the funds requested by the Department
13 of Higher Education under § 23-115-801(c)(2); and

14 (ii) Deposits the amount necessary to maintain the
15 Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 in an amount
16 equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).

17 (b)(1) A scholarship under this subchapter shall not be awarded for an
18 academic year if:

19 (A) Less than two hundred fifty thousand dollars
20 (\$250,000) is available under subsection (a) of this section; or

21 (B) The department received a loan from the Scholarship
22 Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 for the Arkansas Academic
23 Challenge Scholarship Program – Part 2, § 6-85-201 et seq., for the previous
24 academic year.

25 (2) Any funds under subsection (a) of this section that are not
26 disbursed for scholarships under this subchapter shall be carried over to the
27 next academic year to be used for scholarships under this subchapter.

28
29 6-85-304. Eligibility.

30 (a) A student is eligible to receive an Arkansas Workforce Challenge
31 Scholarship for an academic year if the student applies to the Department of
32 Higher Education by a date determined by the Department of Higher Education
33 preceding the academic year and:

34 (1) Is an Arkansas resident or, if the student is less than
35 twenty-one (21) years of age, either the student or one (1) parent of the
36 student is an Arkansas resident;

1 (2) Meets either of the following requirements:

2 (A) Graduated from a:

3 (i) Public high school in Arkansas or another state;

4 (ii) Private high school in Arkansas or another
5 state; or

6 (iii) Home school under § 6-15-501 et seq. or
7 recognized by another state; or

8 (B) Received a high school equivalency diploma approved by
9 the Department of Career Education or another state;

10 (3) Is not receiving a scholarship under the Arkansas Academic
11 Challenge Scholarship Program – Part 2, § 6-85-201 et seq.;

12 (4) Is accepted for admission in a program of study at an
13 approved institution of higher education that leads to an associate degree or
14 a certificate program in one (1) of the following high-demand fields:

15 (A) Industry;

16 (B) Health care; and

17 (C) Information technology; and

18 (5)(A) Whose program of study or certificate program will result
19 in the student's being qualified to work in an occupation identified by the
20 Department of Workforce Services under subdivision (a)(5)(B)(i) of this
21 section.

22 (B)(i) The Department of Workforce Services shall provide
23 annually to the Department of Higher Education by March 1 a list that
24 identifies the five (5) most in-demand occupations in this state in each
25 high-demand field under subdivision (a)(4) of this section that require the
26 completion of a program of study that leads to an associate degree or a
27 certificate program.

28 (ii) The Department of Workforce Services shall
29 publish on its website the list under subdivision (a)(5)(B)(i) of this
30 section and data supporting the list.

31 (b)(1) A student who received a scholarship under this subchapter and
32 successfully completed a program of study or certificate program that meets
33 the requirements under subdivision (a)(4) of this section is eligible to
34 reapply for a scholarship under this subchapter if the student is accepted
35 for admission in a different program of study or certificate program that
36 meets the requirements under subdivision (a)(4) of this section.

1 (2) A student who received a scholarship under this subchapter
2 and does not successfully complete the program of study or certificate
3 program is eligible to reapply for and receive a scholarship one (1) time
4 only.

5
6 6-85-305. Distribution – Award amounts.

7 (a) If funds are available, the Department of Higher Education shall
8 distribute Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships to all students who meet
9 the requirements under § 6-85-304.

10 (b)(1) The department shall distribute scholarships from the funds
11 available in an equal amount to every student eligible to receive a
12 scholarship under this subchapter.

13 (2) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the
14 maximum scholarship award a student may receive in an academic year shall be
15 the lesser of:

16 (A) Eight hundred dollars (\$800); or

17 (B)(i) The cost of the certificate program or program of
18 study.

19 (ii) The cost of a certificate program or program of
20 study shall include:

21 (a) Tuition, fees, or other charges;

22 (b) Textbooks or other course materials; and

23 (c) Equipment needed for a course.

24 (3) The scholarship awards may be used for expenses included in
25 the cost of the certificate program or program of study.

26 (4) A scholarship under this section shall be only for the
27 academic year for which it is awarded.

28 (c)(1) If the department has funds remaining after making the
29 distributions under subsection (b) of this section, the department shall
30 distribute scholarships to students for the summer term of the academic year.

31 (2) If funds are available under subdivision (c)(1) of this
32 section, a student shall apply for a scholarship for a summer term by a date
33 determined by the Department of Higher Education preceding the summer term.

34 (3)(A) The department shall distribute scholarships for a summer
35 term in the same manner as under subsection (b) of this section.

36 (B) Scholarships for a summer term may be used in the same

1 manner as under subsection (b) of this section.

2 (4) A student who received a scholarship under subsection (b) of
3 this section may also receive a scholarship for a summer term.

4 (d) The department shall disburse scholarship awards on behalf of an
5 eligible student directly to the approved institution of higher education.

6
7 6-85-306. Agreements between institutions.

8 An approved institution of higher education may enter into agreements
9 with other institutions of higher education, including without limitation
10 technical institutes, to allow students enrolled in the approved institution
11 of higher education under this section to take courses at the other
12 institutions of higher education.

13
14 6-85-307. Rules.

15 The Department of Higher Education shall promulgate rules to implement
16 this subchapter.

17
18 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 23-115-103(22), concerning the definition
19 of "operating expenses", is amended to add an additional subdivision to read
20 as follows:

21 (M) Management fees charged by a financial institution to
22 manage a trust account or fund maintained by the Department of Higher
23 Education or the office.

24
25 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 23-115-801(b), concerning the transfer of
26 funds, is amended to read as follows:

27 (b)(1)(A) On or before the fifteenth day of each month, the office
28 shall deposit the net proceeds from the lottery into one (1) or more trust
29 accounts at one (1) or more financial institutions.

30 (B)(i) The office shall establish a trust account for the
31 Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., in a
32 financial institution into which the office shall transfer:

33 (a) Excess funding returned to the office
34 under § 6-85-212(e)(2)(B)(i) from the previous academic year; and

35 (b) Net proceeds remaining from the previous
36 academic year after the office:

1 (1) Transfers under subdivision (c)(2)
2 of this section the funds requested by the Department of Higher Education;
3 and

4 (2) Deposits the amount necessary into
5 the Scholarship Shortfall Reserve Trust Account under § 23-115-802 to
6 maintain an amount equal to twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).

7 (ii) The funds transferred by the office into the
8 trust account for the Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-
9 85-301 et seq., established under subdivision (b)(1)(B)(i) of this section
10 shall be used for:

11 (a) Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarships;
12 and

13 (b) Any management fees charged by the
14 financial institution to manage the trust account for scholarship award
15 supplements.

16 (iii) Annually, the office shall transfer to the
17 Department of Higher Education the funds from the previous academic year, if
18 any, that were transferred by the office into the trust account for the
19 Arkansas Workforce Challenge Scholarship Program, § 6-85-301 et seq., under
20 subdivision (b)(1)(B)(i) of this section for distribution of Arkansas
21 Workforce Challenge Scholarships.

22 (2) The office shall follow the investment policy guidelines of
23 the State Board of Finance in selecting a financial institution and managing
24 the net proceeds from the lottery deposited into a the trust account
25 accounts.

26
27 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 23-115-802(c), concerning the Scholarship
28 Shortfall Reserve Trust Account, is amended to read as follows:

29 (c)(1) Except as provided in subdivision (c)(2) of this section, If if
30 net proceeds in any year are not sufficient to meet the amount allocated for
31 higher education scholarships, the account may be drawn upon to meet the
32 deficiency.

33 (2) The account shall not be drawn upon to fund Arkansas
34 Workforce Challenge Scholarships under § 6-85-301 et seq.

35
36 SECTION 7. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the

1 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that this state is in need of a
2 more educated and skilled workforce; that the Arkansas Workforce Challenge
3 Scholarships available under this act will allow more Arkansans to pursue
4 higher education in order to obtain a skill or better education that will
5 lead to employment in a high-needs occupation in Arkansas; and that this act
6 is immediately necessary to allow the funding to be in place so that Arkansas
7 Workforce Challenge Scholarships can be awarded to Arkansans as soon as
8 possible. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being
9 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and
10 safety shall become effective on:

11 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

12 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
13 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
14 bill; or

15 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
16 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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18 */s/Hickey*
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21 **APPROVED: 3/23/2017**
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1 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/16/17

2 91st General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

SENATE BILL 542

4
5 By: Senator Hickey

6 By: Representative C. Douglas

For An Act To Be Entitled

7
8 AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
9 CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE
10 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11
12
13

Subtitle

14
15 TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
16 CONCERNING THE ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
17 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.
18
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
21

22 *SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-204(6), concerning the definition of*
23 *"continuously enrolled" in the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship*
24 *Program, is amended to read as follows:*

25 *(6) "Continuously enrolled" means:*

26 *(A) For a traditional student, he or she successfully*
27 *completes at an approved institution of higher education twenty-seven (27)*
28 *semester hours in the first academic year as a recipient and successfully*
29 *completes thirty (30) semester hours each academic year thereafter, not*
30 *including any summer term;*

31 *(B) For a full-time nontraditional student, he or she*
32 *successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at*
33 *least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, not*
34 *including a summer term;*

35 *(C) For a full-time current achiever student, he or she:*

36 *(i) Before receiving a scholarship under this*



1 subchapter, successfully completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of
2 courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not including a summer term~~; and

3 (ii) As a recipient of a scholarship under this
4 subchapter, successfully completes at an approved institution of higher
5 education at least fifteen (15) semester hours of courses in consecutive
6 semesters, ~~not including a summer term~~;

7 (D) For a part-time nontraditional student, he or she
8 successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education at
9 least six (6) semester hours of courses in consecutive semesters, ~~not~~
10 ~~including a summer term~~; and

11 (E) For a student who is enrolled in a degree plan that
12 has a maximum number of semester hours in a semester that is less than the
13 requirements of subdivisions (5)(A)-(D) of this section, he or she
14 successfully completes at an approved institution of higher education the
15 maximum number of hours required by the degree plan for the semester;
16

17 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-85-207(4)(C), as amended by Acts 2017,
18 No. 315, § 1, concerning additional eligibility requirements for traditional
19 students, is amended to read as follows:

20 (C) Successfully completed at least twenty-seven (27)
21 semester hours of courses ~~in consecutive semesters, not including a summer~~
22 ~~term~~, as a full-time, first-time freshman; and
23

24 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(a), concerning continuing
25 eligibility, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

26 (4) A recipient may attend summer terms at the student's own
27 expense to earn credit hours necessary to maintain eligibility for a
28 scholarship under this subchapter.
29

30 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 6-85-210(c), concerning continuing
31 eligibility, is amended to read as follows:

32 ~~(c)(1)(A) If a recipient becomes ineligible for the scholarship~~
33 ~~because the recipient's postsecondary grade point average or number of~~
34 ~~successfully completed credit hours no longer meets the minimum requirement~~
35 ~~for the scholarship, the recipient may regain eligibility under this~~
36 ~~subsection one (1) time only in the academic year in which the student became~~

1 ~~ineligible.~~

2 ~~(B) The Department of Higher Education shall by rule~~
3 ~~define "academic year".~~

4 ~~(2)(A) A traditional student recipient who becomes ineligible~~
5 ~~loses eligibility for a scholarship may use this subsection to become~~
6 ~~eligible apply as a first-time nontraditional student applicant but may not~~
7 ~~use this subsection again to regain lost eligibility for the nontraditional~~
8 ~~student scholarship.~~

9 ~~(B)(2) A recipient under subdivision (c)(1) of this~~
10 ~~section who loses eligibility for the nontraditional student scholarship and~~
11 ~~does not regain eligibility under subdivision (c)(1) of this section is not~~
12 ~~eligible to apply for a scholarship under any eligibility provision of this~~
13 ~~subchapter.~~

14 ~~(3) The recipient shall complete the requirements for regaining~~
15 ~~eligibility under this subsection:~~

16 ~~(A) In the same academic year in which the student failed~~
17 ~~to maintain eligibility; and~~

18 ~~(B) At the student's own expense.~~

19 ~~(4) Except as provided under § 6-85-211(a)(3) and unless the~~
20 ~~requirements of this subsection are waived by the department under subsection~~
21 ~~(d) of this section, to regain eligibility for the scholarship:~~

22 ~~(A)(i) As a traditional or nontraditional full-time~~
23 ~~student, the student shall:~~

24 ~~(a) Successfully complete at least fifteen~~
25 ~~(15) semester hours of courses for credit for which the approved institution~~
26 ~~of higher education certifies that the courses meet the satisfactory academic~~
27 ~~progress standards of the institution; and~~

28 ~~(b) Achieve a 2.5 grade point average for the~~
29 ~~semester hours completed under this subdivision (c)(4)(A).~~

30 ~~(ii) A traditional student who does not regain~~
31 ~~eligibility under subdivision (c)(4)(A)(i) of this section is ineligible to~~
32 ~~reapply for a scholarship as a traditional student but may apply as a~~
33 ~~nontraditional student; and~~

34 ~~(B) As a nontraditional part-time student, the student~~
35 ~~shall:~~

36 ~~(i) Successfully complete at least six (6) semester~~

~~hours of courses for credit for which the approved institution of higher
education certifies that the courses meet the satisfactory academic progress
standards of the institution; and~~

~~(ii) Achieve a 2.5 grade point average for the
semester hours successfully completed under this subdivision
(c)(4)(B).~~

/s/Hickey

APPROVED: 03/28/2017

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1008 of the Regular Session

State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: H3/17/17

91st General Assembly

A Bill

Regular Session, 2017

HOUSE BILL 2243

By: Representative Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND PROVISIONS OF THE ARKANSAS CODE
CONCERNING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-81-1101(a), concerning grants for certain professional schools, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The Department of Higher Education shall institute a program of making grants for the benefit of Arkansas residents to assist in paying tuition for attending certain accredited schools of dentistry, optometry, veterinary medicine, podiatry, or chiropractic, ~~or osteopathy~~ located outside the State of Arkansas but within the United States.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 6-82-311(c)(2), concerning renewal of the Arkansas Governor's Distinguished Scholarship, is amended to read as follows:

(2) A student receiving ~~the additional~~ a scholarship under ~~§ 6-82-312(b)~~ § 6-82-312(a) maintains not less than a 3.25 grade point average on a 4.0 scholastic grading scale;

SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 6-82-312 is amended to read as follows:
6-82-312. Scholarship amounts.

(a) An Arkansas Governor's Scholarship or Arkansas Governor's



1 Distinguished Scholarship awarded to a new recipient who enrolls in college
2 an approved institution as a first-time entering freshmen after July 1, 1995,
3 shall be in the an amount of ~~four thousand dollars (\$4,000)~~ per year,
4 ~~provided funds are available.~~

5 ~~(b) Provided sufficient funds are available, a student who was a~~
6 ~~first time entering freshman after July 1, 1997, but before July 1, 2002, and~~
7 ~~who exhibited extraordinary academic achievement shall be awarded, in~~
8 ~~addition to the award in subsection (a) of this section, an amount per year~~
9 ~~which when combined with the award in subsection (a) of this section equals~~
10 ~~tuition, room and board, and mandatory fees charged in academic year 2000-~~
11 ~~2001 for a regular full-time course load by the approved institution in which~~
12 ~~the recipient is enrolled.~~

13 ~~(c) Provided sufficient funds are available, a student who is a first-~~
14 ~~time entering freshman after July 1, 2002, and who exhibits extraordinary~~
15 ~~academic achievement shall be awarded, in addition to the award in subsection~~
16 ~~(a) of this section, an amount per year which when combined with the award in~~
17 ~~subsection (a) of this section that equals the lesser of:~~

18 (1) Ten thousand dollars (\$10,000); or

19 (2) Tuition, room and board, and mandatory fees charged
20 for a regular full-time course load ~~in academic year 2000-2001~~ by the
21 approved institution in which the recipient is enrolled.

22 (b) A student selected as a recipient under § 6-82-
23 306(b)(6)(B)(iii)(b) who enrolls in an approved institution as a first-time
24 entering freshman after July 1, 2017, shall be awarded an amount per year
25 that equals the lesser of:

26 (A) Five thousand dollars (\$5,000); or

27 (B) Tuition, room and board, and mandatory fees charged
28 for a regular full-time course load by the approved institution in which the
29 recipient is enrolled.

30
31 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 82, Subchapter 11, is
32 repealed.

33 ~~Subchapter 11—Second Effort Scholarship Program~~

34
35 ~~6-82-1101. Creation—Purpose.~~

36 ~~(a) The General Assembly recognizes the importance of a high school~~

1 ~~equivalency program for Arkansans desiring to complete the high school degree~~
2 ~~and go on to postsecondary education.~~

3 ~~(b)(1) An Arkansas student who completes a high school equivalency~~
4 ~~program and passes a high school equivalency test is commended for his or her~~
5 ~~initiative and persistence.~~

6 ~~(2) A student who succeeds in this endeavor should also be~~
7 ~~encouraged to enroll in a postsecondary education program.~~

8 ~~(c) There is established the Second Effort Scholarship Program to~~
9 ~~reward the top ten (10) scorers each year on a high school equivalency test~~
10 ~~with a scholarship to an Arkansas postsecondary school or college.~~

11
12 ~~6-82-1102. Definitions.~~

13 ~~For purposes of this subchapter, the following terms shall be defined~~
14 ~~as indicated:~~

15 ~~(1) "Approved institution" means any public or private school or~~
16 ~~college or any public postsecondary vocational and technical school located~~
17 ~~in Arkansas which awards postsecondary certificates, degrees, or diplomas.~~
18 ~~Further, such institution shall not discriminate against applicants,~~
19 ~~students, or employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age,~~
20 ~~disability, or national origin, consistent with the provisions of applicable~~
21 ~~state and federal law;~~

22 ~~(2) "Eligible student" means any student who meets the criteria~~
23 ~~set out in this subchapter and is deemed to be eligible by rules and~~
24 ~~regulations authorized by this subchapter and promulgated by the Department~~
25 ~~of Higher Education;~~

26 ~~(3)(A) "Tuition" means charges levied for attendance at an~~
27 ~~eligible institution.~~

28 ~~(B) For purposes of this subchapter, tuition charges shall~~
29 ~~not include any fees charged or used for student activities, including any~~
30 ~~student athletic fee; and~~

31 ~~(4) "Undergraduate student" means a resident of Arkansas who~~
32 ~~attends a postsecondary school or college and is enrolled for at least three~~
33 ~~(3) credit hours per semester or the equivalent, as defined by the Department~~
34 ~~of Higher Education, in a program of study which leads to a postsecondary~~
35 ~~certificate, degree, or diploma.~~

36

1 ~~6-82-1103. Eligibility — Number of scholarships.~~

2 ~~(a) Eligibility for the Second Effort Scholarship Program shall be~~
3 ~~based on the criteria set forth in this section as well as program rules and~~
4 ~~regulations adopted pursuant to this subchapter by the Department of Higher~~
5 ~~Education.~~

6 ~~(b) A student shall be eligible for an award from this program if he~~
7 ~~or she meets all of these criteria:~~

8 ~~(1) The recipient shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age~~
9 ~~or a former member of a high school class which has graduated;~~

10 ~~(2) The recipient shall have been a resident of the State of~~
11 ~~Arkansas for at least twelve (12) months prior to successful completion of~~
12 ~~the General Educational Development Test;~~

13 ~~(3) The recipient must be a citizen of the United States or be a~~
14 ~~permanent resident alien;~~

15 ~~(4) The recipient must be accepted for admission at an approved~~
16 ~~postsecondary school or college as a freshman, as defined by the Department~~
17 ~~of Higher Education, and must enroll in an approved institution within~~
18 ~~eighteen (18) months following passage of a high school equivalency test;~~

19 ~~(5) The recipient must have passed a high school equivalency~~
20 ~~test in the calendar year prior to application for the scholarship; and~~

21 ~~(6)(A) The recipient must have scored in the top ten (10) of all~~
22 ~~Arkansans who took a high school equivalency test in the calendar year prior~~
23 ~~to application for the scholarship, as certified to the Department of Higher~~
24 ~~Education by the Adult Education Section of the Department of Career~~
25 ~~Education.~~

26 ~~(B) Provided, however, that the Department of Higher~~
27 ~~Education is authorized to award a high school equivalency scholarship to an~~
28 ~~otherwise eligible student who scored in the top twenty five (25) on the~~
29 ~~previous calendar year's high school equivalency test if all test-takers~~
30 ~~scoring above the applicant on a high school equivalency test:~~

31 ~~(i) Have either received a scholarship;~~

32 ~~(ii) Have not applied by the application deadline;~~

33 ~~or~~

34 ~~(iii) Are otherwise ineligible to receive a~~
35 ~~scholarship.~~

36 ~~(c) In no case, however, shall the Department of Higher Education~~

1 ~~award more than ten (10) scholarships per year.~~

3 ~~6-82-1104. Amount and duration of scholarship — Funding.~~

4 ~~(a) Each recipient shall receive a scholarship for one (1) academic~~
5 ~~year or its equivalent for part-time students, as defined by the Department~~
6 ~~of Higher Education. The scholarship shall be renewable for up to three (3)~~
7 ~~academic years, or their equivalent for part-time students, if the recipient~~
8 ~~meets continuing eligibility criteria established by the department.~~

9 ~~(b)(1) The amount of the annual scholarship shall be the lesser of one~~
10 ~~thousand dollars (\$1,000) or the annual tuition charged by the approved~~
11 ~~institution in which the recipient is enrolled.~~

12 ~~(2) For part-time students who are recipients, the amount of the~~
13 ~~annual scholarship shall be prorated on the basis of the number of credit~~
14 ~~hours enrolled each term such that the recipient receives the maximum~~
15 ~~equivalent of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per three (3) credit hours~~
16 ~~each term up to a maximum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000).~~

17 ~~(3) Tuition shall mean the charges defined in § 6-82-1102(4).~~

18 ~~(c) Scholarships shall be awarded to eligible recipients contingent on~~
19 ~~the appropriation of funds for this purpose to the department.~~

21 ~~6-82-1105. Rules and regulations — Review — Certified list.~~

22 ~~(a) The Department of Higher Education is authorized by this~~
23 ~~subchapter to develop and promulgate rules and regulations for the~~
24 ~~administration of the Second Effort Scholarship Program, consistent with the~~
25 ~~purposes and requirements of this subchapter.~~

26 ~~(b) The rules and regulations shall include:~~

27 ~~(1) Student eligibility criteria based on the provisions of this~~
28 ~~subchapter;~~

29 ~~(2) The method for selecting scholarship recipients;~~

30 ~~(3) Rules for determining continuing eligibility;~~

31 ~~(4) Procedures for making payment to recipients; and~~

32 ~~(5) Such other administrative procedures which may be necessary~~
33 ~~for the implementation and operation of the program.~~

34 ~~(c) The Director of the Department of Higher Education is authorized~~
35 ~~to review and evaluate the operation of the program to ensure that the~~
36 ~~program's operation meets the intent of this legislation.~~

~~(d) The Department of Career Education, Adult Education Section shall provide to the Department of Higher Education by February 1 each year a certified list of the twenty five (25) top scorers on a high school equivalency test administered in the previous calendar year.~~

~~6-82-1106. Scholarship hold.~~

~~The Department of Higher Education may approve a scholarship hold for a student for a period of twenty four (24) months or less for the following reasons without limitation:~~

~~(1) A medical condition of the student or of a member of the student's immediate family that, on the basis of a physician's good-faith judgment, necessitates that the student or the student's immediate family member be hospitalized or receive outpatient or home-based medical care or recuperate until released by the attending physician;~~

~~(2) A personal or family emergency that requires the student to:~~

~~(A) Attend the funeral of an immediate family member; or~~

~~(B) Visit a relative of the student if the relative has a medical condition in which death is possible or imminent;~~

~~(3) Military service under § 6-61-112; or~~

~~(4)(A) A commitment of twelve (12) to twenty-four (24) months for service in a national or international humanitarian project sponsored by a nonprofit corporation organized with a charitable or educational purpose.~~

~~(B) The student's commitment shall be expressed in a written agreement with the nonprofit organization, including the terms of completion for the student's service on the related project.~~

~~(C) The department shall release a scholarship hold if the department determines that the student did not complete the commitment under the written agreement.~~

SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 6-85-208 is amended to read as follows:

6-85-208. Additional eligibility requirements for a nontraditional student.

An applicant is eligible as a nontraditional student if, in addition to the requirements of § 6-85-206, the applicant meets one (1) of the following requirements:

(1) If the applicant has not been enrolled in an approved

1 institution of higher education, has either:

2 (A) Graduated from an Arkansas public high school and
3 achieved a 2.5 high school grade point average ~~but has not successfully~~
4 ~~completed at least twelve (12) semester hours of credit of courses under~~
5 ~~subdivision (2)(B) of this section; or~~

6 ~~(2)(B)~~ Graduated from an Arkansas public high school, a
7 private high school, an out-of-state high school, a home school high school,
8 or obtained a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Department of
9 Career Education and ~~either:~~

10 (A) ~~Had~~ had a minimum composite score of nineteen
11 (19) on the ACT or the equivalent score on an ACT equivalent; or

12 (B)(i) ~~Has successfully completed at least twelve~~
13 ~~(12) semester hours of courses granting three (3) or more hours of credit per~~
14 ~~course at an institution of higher education and earned a postsecondary grade~~
15 ~~point average of at least 2.5.~~

16 (ii) ~~A course granting less than three (3) hours of~~
17 ~~credit may be counted toward the twelve (12) semester hours under this~~
18 ~~subdivision (2)(B) if it is related to a credit course required for a degree~~

19 (2) If the applicant has been enrolled in an approved
20 institution of higher education, has earned a postsecondary grade point
21 average of at least 2.5.

22

23 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1)(C)(i), concerning transcript
24 submission, is amended to read as follows:

25 (C)(i) To determine the correct scholarship award amount
26 based on credit hours, a first-time recipient shall submit a current college
27 or university transcript if the first-time recipient has earned any semester
28 credit hours to the Department of Higher Education no later than June 1 a
29 date determined by the department each year prior to the academic year for
30 which the first-time recipient will receive an initial scholarship award.

31

32 /s/Davis

33

34

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APPROVED: 04/06/2017

36

1 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/30/17

2 91st General Assembly

A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2017

SENATE BILL 30

4
5 By: Senator Hickey

6 By: Representative M. Gray
7

8 For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AMOUNTS FOR ARKANSAS ACADEMIC
10 CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

12 Subtitle

13 TO ESTABLISH AMOUNTS FOR ARKANSAS
14 ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.
15
16
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
19

20 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 6-85-212(e)(1)(D), as amended by Acts 2017,
21 No. 597, § 8, concerning scholarship award amounts, is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 (D)(i) The An applicant may elect for the earned semester
24 credit hours under subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section are to be only those
25 semester credit hours earned after graduating from high school or obtaining a
26 high school equivalency diploma approved by the Department of Career
27 Education.

28 (ii) Any If an applicant makes the election under
29 subdivision (e)(1)(D)(i) of this section, any semester credit hours earned
30 through concurrent credit or any other method before graduating high school
31 or obtaining a high school equivalency diploma approved by the Department of
32 Career Education shall not be counted as earned semester credit hours for the
33 purposes of determining a recipient's scholarship award amount under
34 subdivision (e)(1)(A) of this section.
35
36



As Engrossed: S3/30/17

SB30

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APPROVED: 04/06/2017

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