



Tennessee Financial Aid

Tennessee offers a wide variety of financial aid opportunities for students in the state. Tennessee Financial Aid Charts can be found here: <https://go.transitiontn.org/FACHart>. Below are eligibility requirements and examples of students who would qualify for different Tennessee financial aid opportunities.

Tennessee Hope Scholarship

The Tennessee HOPE Scholarship is a scholarship and grant assistance program meant to help Tennessee residents attending eligible postsecondary education programs in Tennessee. Typical awards are between \$3,200 and \$5,100 per semester depending on the program they will be attending.

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- Have been a TN resident for one year
- Graduate from an eligible high school in TN
- Enroll in a public college, university, or private college in TN
- Entering freshmen must achieve at least a 21 on the ACT or a 1060 on the SAT OR have an overall weighted minimum 3.0 GPA

Case Example: Susan wants a bachelor's degree in nursing. Susan has been a Tennessee resident for one year and will be graduating from a Tennessee high school this May. Susan will graduate with an ACT score of 25 and has an overall weighted GPA of 3.4. Susan meets the qualifications and could apply for the Tennessee Hope Scholarship.

Aspire Award

The Aspire Award is for students that are eligible for the HOPE scholarship and need some additional financial assistance. They must have an adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less on IRS tax form. Individuals can receive up to \$750 per semester as a supplement to the HOPE Scholarship.

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- Meet TN HOPE Scholarship requirements
- Adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less on IRS tax form



- Complete the FAFSA

Case Example: Beth has been reviewing her financial aid options to help her pay for the four-year university she plans to attend. Beth meets the requirements for the Tennessee HOPE Scholarship but is wanting to find additional aid to help pay for college. Beth has completed the FAFSA and her parent's gross income is \$35,000 per year. Beth meets the qualifications and could apply for the Aspire Award.

Tennessee Hope Access Grant

The Tennessee HOPE Access Grant is a grant assistance program for students that are not eligible for the HOPE Scholarship based on GPA and test scores. Students can receive the HOPE Access Grant when they begin their freshman year. Individuals can receive up to \$1,250 per semester depending on school type.

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- Not eligible for HOPE Scholarship while receiving the TN Hope Access Grant
- Graduate from a TN eligible high school
- Enroll in a TN public college, university, or private school
- Final high school GPA 2.75-2.99 AND 18-20 ACT or 960-1050 SAT, without essay
- Adjusted gross income of \$36,000 or less on IRS form

Case Example: Jessica wants to pursue a bachelor's degree in Dental Support. Jessica is enrolled at Tennessee State University and is not eligible for the TN HOPE Scholarship. Jessica's final GPA was 2.85 at her Tennessee high school and she scored a 20 on her ACT. Jessica lives in a single-parent household and her mom's income is \$34,000/year. Jessica meets the qualifications and could apply for the Tennessee Hope Access Grant.

Tennessee Promise

Tennessee Promise is a scholarship and mentoring program that provides two years of tuition-free attendance at a community or technical college or a 4-year university for an associate's degree in Tennessee. Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship, which means that it will cover tuition and fees not covered by other sources of financial aid such as the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or the Tennessee Student Assistance Award. If used at a 4-year university, Tennessee Promise will cover up to the average price of community college.



Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a TN resident, U.S. citizen, or an eligible non-citizen
- Graduate from an eligible high school or earn a GED/ HISET
- Attend mandatory meetings and participate in a mentoring program
- Perform 8 hours of community service prior to each term the award is received
- At a traditional 4-year university, students must enroll in an associate's degree program

Case Example: Dan wants to get an associate's degree in Computer and Information Sciences at his local community college. Dan has been a Tennessee resident for the past four years and will be graduating from a Tennessee high school this May. Dan knows he will need help with his tuition costs. Dan is interested in giving back to his community through community service and would like additional support during the semester. Dan meets the qualifications and could apply for Tennessee Promise.

Tennessee Student Assistance Award

The Tennessee Student Assistance Award Program is a program for undergraduate students with significant financial need. Individuals can receive up to \$4,000 per year depending on the program.

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a TN resident
- Complete FAFSA and have Expected Family Contribution (EFC) index number of 5846 or less
- Enroll at least half time at an eligible TN institution
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress
- Not be in default on a loan or owe a refund on previous grant

Case Example: James is a Tennessee resident. He has completed the FAFSA and his expected family contribution index number is less than 5846. James is enrolled at his local TCAT halftime beginning in the fall. James does not owe money on any other loans since this is his first experience in postsecondary education. He meets the qualifications and could apply for the TN Student Assistance Award.

Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship

The Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship is for Tennessee residents with intellectual disabilities who enroll in an Inclusive Higher Education program. Individuals can receive up to \$1,750



per full-time enrollment semester as a freshman and sophomore and up to \$2,250 per semester as a junior or senior while in the program.

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

- Have been a TN resident for 1 year
- Complete high school in TN
- Receive a regular, occupational, alternate academic, or special education diploma
- Enroll in an Inclusive Higher Education program no more than 16 months after completing high school

Case Example: Jeff has lived in Tennessee for one year and graduated from a Tennessee high school four months ago with an Occupational Diploma. Since graduation, Jeff was accepted and enrolled into an inclusive higher education program at a local university. Jeff meets the qualifications and could apply for the Tennessee STEP UP Scholarship.

This document was created on March 30, 2022. Grant and scholarship can change from year to year. For the most recent information and guidelines on the financial aid opportunities in Tennessee, please visit: <https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/financial-aid.html>