

In-District Tuition Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. **What is this scholarship, and how does it work?** This scholarship is a financial aid program for students residing in or attending high school in the five-county service area administered by East Central Community College (ECCC) that covers the remaining balance of tuition for eligible students to attend the college less federal, state, and third-party aid; ECCC Institutional Scholarships; and ECCC Foundation Scholarships. Therefore, this scholarship serves as a “**gap-filler scholarship**” for students who do not receive and/or qualify for sources of funding sufficient to cover the cost of tuition.
2. **How is the scholarship funded?** This scholarship is funded by a generous gift from the estate of Frances Gaines Blum Slagle, ECCC Class of 1940, in the amount of approximately \$3 million. According to the scholarship agreement, the college may only use the monies earned from the investment of these assets to fund the scholarship program each year. Therefore, unlike a “tuition guarantee” scholarship program, the college may not be able to meet every need of every student due to the limitation of using only the monies earned from the investment of these funds.
3. **What is covered by the scholarship?** The scholarship covers the remaining balance of tuition for eligible students to attend ECCC after applying federal, state, & third-party aid; ECCC Institutional Scholarships; and ECCC Foundation Scholarships to the student’s account.
4. **Does the receipt of a private student loan count as federal or third-party aid when calculating the amount of assistance a student receives?** No. Student loans will not be included in the calculation of “federal, state, & third-party aid” as listed in #1 or #3 above.
5. **What is NOT covered by this scholarship?** Non-tuition related expenses such as fees, supplies, books, room, and board are not covered by this scholarship.
6. **Will this money be reimbursed to a student as a refund?** **No.** This scholarship is a “**gap-filler scholarship**” for students who do not receive and/or qualify for sources of funding sufficient to cover tuition. All applicable aid and scholarships will be applied to the student’s account, and if those funds do not add up to the cost of tuition, the scholarship will cover the remaining balance. Therefore, the scholarship is of no cash value to a student.
7. **Who is eligible for this scholarship, and how do I qualify for consideration?** Eligible students are defined as having met **ALL** of the following requirements:
 - A. Graduate from an accredited public or private high school or an ECCC-recognized home school. A “graduate” is defined as an individual who has earned a regular high school diploma, occupational diploma, career-pathways diploma, or who has completed a course of study from an ECCC-recognized home school.
 - B. Reside in or attend high school in one of the five counties served by ECCC (Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, Winston).
 - C. Initiate the following forms/actions:
 - i. Complete and submit the application for *Children of Andrew & Inez Gaines: Marjorie Mansfield, Mary George Pace, Frances Gaines Blum Slagle, Virginia Gaines Smith, and Geneva Gaines Boring* In-District Tuition Scholarship.
 - ii. Take the American College Testing (ACT) assessment on a National Testing Date and submit scores to ECCC.
 - iii. Submit final high school transcript showing graduation date, class rank, & GPA to the ECCC Admissions Office.
 - iv. Complete and submit the official ECCC application for admission.
 - v. Apply for the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) each academic year by the deadlines set by the state aid office at www.msfinancialaid.org.
 - vi. Complete and submit the current and subsequent year Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov and include the ECCC School Code #002404 in the submission. The FAFSA must be submitted for both Freshman and Sophomore academic years for this scholarship consideration.
 - vii. Maintain continuous full time enrollment each semester.
 - viii. Priority deadline of June 30 each academic year for submissions.
 - D. Enroll as a full-time student at ECCC in the fall semester immediately following graduation from high school. Most often, this means graduation from high school in the spring (May) followed by immediate enrollment at ECCC in the fall (August).
 - E. Maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student and maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA each semester. If a student’s enrollment status drops below the number of semester credit hours required to be classified as a full-time student or if the student fails to earn a 2.0 GPA, the student will be ineligible for the In-District Tuition Scholarship for the following semester.

8. **What if I enroll in another college or university for the fall and transfer to ECCC in the spring? Am I eligible for the scholarship in the spring?** No. Only students who enroll as a full-time student at ECCC in the fall semester immediately following graduation from high school, maintain continuous enrollment as a full-time student, and maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA are eligible for the scholarship.
9. **What about credit hours I earned as a dual enrollment/dual credit student in high school or credit hours I earned during a previous semester while in high school or the summer immediately following high school Spring graduation?** Previous hours earned in dual enrollment/dual credit courses and hours earned during the summer term immediately following high school Spring graduation will not affect a student's initial eligibility for this scholarship. However, cumulative GPA calculations will include ALL (dual enrolled/dual credit/summer term) coursework.
10. **Are courses other than on-campus courses counted toward the semester credit hours needed to qualify as a full-time student?** Yes. Enrollment in ECCC day, evening, and online courses that generate credit hours are counted toward the required semester credit hours to be classified as a full-time student.
11. **How long may I receive these scholarship funds?** The scholarship is awarded for a maximum of four (4) consecutive semesters (Fall/Spring) during a student's freshman and sophomore years. If a student is awarded scholarship funds, he/she must fulfill the requirements listed in 7. above to retain the opportunity for the scholarship during the next semester.
12. **When will the scholarship award appear on my student account?** It is anticipated that a scholarship award from this program will appear on your student account on or before the first day of classes each semester. This will allow the college to determine the amount of aid a student will receive which is needed to calculate the difference between the amount of the aid and the amount of tuition. This will determine the amount of the scholarship award for each student. Students can monitor and/or review their account information using the college's on-line services (*myEC*) at any time. All awards are subject to change due to eligibility requirements.
13. **How much is tuition at ECCC?** Tuition charges are available on our website www.eccc.edu under Tuition and Fees.
14. **What happens if students apply for the scholarship and funds run out?** Due to the potential limitation of funding for this scholarship (*see FAQ #2*), the Federal process date of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submission date of all required forms/documents will be used to determine the priority order of the awarding of this scholarship. It is anticipated that all funds available each year will be distributed to eligible students using that priority order. Should there be more need than available funds, some students who are eligible may not receive scholarship assistance from this financial aid program.
15. **Can you provide a simple example as to how the program works?** John Doe's parents are residents of a county in the ECCC service area or he attends high school within the five-county ECCC district (Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Winston counties), and he is a May 2025 high school graduate. He has earned an ACT score that does not qualify him for an institutional scholarship at ECCC, and his parents' income does not allow him to qualify for Pell Grant assistance. He only receives a \$250 MTAG award and a third-party scholarship of \$300 each semester as financial assistance for attending ECCC. Pending available funds, John Doe, upon enrollment in the minimum number of semester credit hours required to be classified as a full-time student, would receive a \$1330 scholarship in the Fall of 2025 to "bridge-the-gap" between tuition cost (\$1880) and outside financial assistance (\$550). To retain the scholarship for the Spring of 2026, the student must fulfill the requirements listed in 7. above.
16. **When are applications due?** The priority deadline is June 30 of each academic year.
17. **Where can I obtain an application for this scholarship?** The application for this scholarship will be available online within the student's *myEC* login under the "Student" tab under "Scholarships" at the college website, www.eccc.edu.
18. **What about changes that are made in the program?** The College reserves the right to change any responses listed above when deemed necessary. Changes will be communicated as soon as possible upon adoption.
19. **Whom can I contact for additional information on this scholarship program?** You may contact Dr. Stacey Hollingsworth, Executive Director of the Foundation, at 601-635-6327 or sholling@eccc.edu. For specific questions about eligibility, please contact Bridgett Hitt, Director of Financial Aid, at 601-635-6378 or bhitt@eccc.edu.

