

2020-21 Scholarship Policy

Initial Eligibility for New Applicants

1. MUST have been enrolled in a Denver Public Schools (DPS) high school by the state [October Count](#) for all four (4) years of high school (or each year of your high school career for students who complete in less than four years).
2. MUST graduate from a DPS high school by July 1 with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0.

Your final cumulative high school GPA will determine the type of college where you will be eligible to receive the DSF scholarship:

- a. 2.75 or higher GPA: eligible for scholarship at any [DSF college partner](#) (technical, community, or 4-year college/university).
- b. 2.5 - 2.749 GPA: eligible for scholarship only at a DSF partner technical or community college.
- c. 2.0 – 2.49 GPA: eligible for scholarship only at a DSF partner technical college.

See [High School GPA Requirement section](#) for more details about [eligible college](#) types.

3. MUST apply for the DSF Scholarship and meet application requirements within one year of high school graduation.
 - a. MUST also meet deadline for receiving an [Initial Payment](#), December 31 of the year after your high school graduation.

Apply for the DSF Scholarship – Deadline April 1

1. Submit a completed DSF Scholarship application at portal.denverscholarship.org.
2. *For New Applicants only:*

Apply for other Scholarships & Support Programs: at least 3 additional scholarships OR 2 scholarships and 1 student support program.

 - a. We recommend applying for [institutional scholarships](#) (offered by your college).
 - b. Visit a DSF Future Center or denverscholarship.org/scholarshipdirectory to learn about scholarship opportunities and student support programs (Note: [FAFSA](#) and the College Opportunity Fund (COF) are not scholarships).



Updated January 31, 2020

3. Demonstrate Financial Need

- a. *For students eligible for [Federal Student Aid \(FSA\)](#) (U.S. Citizen, Legal Permanent Resident, or other [eligible noncitizen](#)):*

Complete the [FAFSA](#) by April 1 each year (or by your [college's priority deadline](#) if earlier):

- DSF determines financial need based on the final [Expected Family Contribution \(EFC\)](#) calculated by your college's Office of Financial Aid (even if the initial EFC from your FAFSA was different).
- *For New Applicants only:* You must have a qualifying [EFC](#) upon completion of all financial aid requirements at your college. For 2020-21, your EFC must be between zero and 1.5x [Pell Limit](#) (0 – 8364*) to qualify for DSF.

OR

- b. *For students not eligible for Federal Student Aid (i.e., DACA – Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals):*

Agree to allow DPS to provide [Free & Reduced-Price Lunch \(FRL\)](#) information to DSF (part of DSF application)

- DSF determines financial need based on qualifying for Free/Reduced-Price meal benefits at any point during your time in high school.

4. *For DACA Students/Ineligible for FSA only:*

DSF provides scholarship support to eligible students who are lawfully present in the U.S. (most often through the DACA program). This scholarship policy will be updated if any court, executive, or legislative action requires changes to DSF's requirements. Students who are not eligible for federal aid must:

- Affirm your lawful presence in the U.S. as part of the online DSF application.
- You will also be required to submit [proof of your lawful presence](#) to DSF by July 15 each year that you apply for the DSF Scholarship.
- If you have questions about the lawful presence requirement, please contact DSF at <https://denverscholarship.org/contactus> or 303-640-6564, or review DSF's [FAQs for DACA students](#).

College Choice & Financial Aid Requirements – Deadline July 15

1. Notify DSF of your final 2020-21 college enrollment plans by submitting a [College Choice Form](#).

* Based on 150% of the 2019-20 maximum Expected Family Contribution to qualify for a Pell Grant. This limit will be adjusted if the maximum EFC for Pell is increased for 2020-21.

- a. You must attend a [DSF College Partner](#) in order to be considered for a scholarship award.
 - b. See more information on [Mid-Year Transfers](#).
2. Complete all financial aid requirements at your college.
 - a. Start early! A complete financial aid file consists of more than just your FAFSA. Log into your college student portal and check the status of your financial aid.

If your college requests additional information (i.e. verification forms, tax transcripts), you must submit it as soon as possible. This may take several weeks to complete, so start early, check your status often, and keep copies of everything you submit!
 - b. *For New Applicants Eligible for FSA only:* Have a qualifying [EFC](#) upon completion of all financial aid requirements. For 2020-21, your final EFC must be between 0-8364* (zero – 1.5x [Pell Limit](#)) to meet the DSF requirement of demonstrated financial need.
 3. *For DACA Students/Ineligible for FSA only:* Submit proof of your lawful presence to DSF.
 - a. Visit www.denverscholarship.org/lawfulpresence to view acceptable forms of proof and submission instructions.
 4. *If planning to enroll Part-time during the Fall:* Submit Part-Time Enrollment Form.
 - a. Only limited exceptions will be approved – [See more information on part-time exceptions here](#).
 5. *2019 & Earlier HS Graduates Only:*
If your final high school GPA was between 2.0 - 2.749 and you plan to enroll at a community college or 4-year college/university in 2020-21: Carefully review the updated [college GPA requirements](#) in the High School GPA Requirement section.

Enrollment Requirements – Deadline by Your [College's Census Date](#)

1. Enroll full-time (at least 12 credit hours per semester/quarter)
 - a. See [Full-time Enrollment Requirement & exceptions information](#)
 - b. *Students in 2017 & 2018 cohorts:* Remember that the Credit Completion Incentive Award for completing 15+ credit hours is no longer available, effective Fall 2019.
2. Enroll at an [eligible college type](#) based on your High School GPA and [years of eligibility](#)
 - a. See [High School GPA Requirement information](#)

Ongoing Student Success Requirements

1. Complete DSF [Student Success Requirements](#) as defined by your college each semester/quarter.
 - a. Your [DSF Campus Contact](#) will help you meet these requirements!
2. Meet your college's requirements for [Satisfactory Academic Progress \(SAP\)](#).

* Based on 150% of the 2019-20 maximum Expected Family Contribution to qualify for a Pell Grant. This limit will be adjusted if the maximum EFC for Pell is increased for 2020-21.

Getting your Scholarship Award!

If you meet all the requirements outlined above, you are on your way to get your Scholarship Award! The scholarship award payment is sent directly to the college for DSF Scholars who have met all requirements.

- Aug/Sept: Fall payments sent to college
- Jan/Feb: Winter/Spring payments sent to college
- Your scholarship award payment may not appear on your college award letter until DSF has sent the payment to your college.

Your eligibility and award amount is determined by:

1. Your [DSF Cohort](#) & [Years of Eligibility](#) at your college type
2. The type of [DSF partner college](#) you are attending
3. Your [demonstrated financial need](#)
4. The number of college credits you are enrolled in
 - a. [See Full-time Enrollment Requirement & exceptions information](#)

DSF 2020-21 Scholarship Annual Awards Table* (2019 & 2020 Cohorts)

DSF Partner College Type	Required Minimum HS GPA	Annual Award Amount
Four-year College/University	2.75	\$2,800
Community College	2.5	\$1,400
Technical College	2.0	\$1,700

* Annual scholarship award amounts are based on full-time enrollment & will be divided equally per semester/quarter for the academic year; summer term(s) are not funded.

All applicants must [demonstrate financial need](#) to qualify for a scholarship award. If you have a previously qualifying EFC or qualifying FRL status on record with DSF, you are considered to have met the financial need requirement for the scholarship.

DSF 2020-21 Scholarship Annual Awards Table* (2018 & Earlier Cohorts)

Award amounts for Scholars in the 2018 and earlier cohorts will remain the same as the award amount each Scholar received in 2019-20. If for any reason the Scholar did not receive an award in 2019-20, then the award amount will be the same as the Scholar's 2018-19 award amount.

If a Scholar transfers to a different college partner for 2020-21 or future years, their award amount will be based on the award amount at that college type for their award tier in 2019-20.

DSF Partner College Type	EFC Range: Zero to Pell Limit (0 – 5576) **	EFC Range: Pell Limit to 1.5x Pell Limit (5576 – 8364)** <i>OR</i> Ineligible for FSA (DACA)
Four-year College/University	\$2,800	\$3,400
Community College	\$1,400	\$1,700
Technical College	\$1,700	\$1,700

* Annual scholarship award amounts are based on full-time enrollment & will be divided equally per semester/quarter for the academic year; summer term(s) are not funded.

** If you have a previously qualifying EFC on record with DSF, you are considered to have met the financial need requirement for the scholarship.

Contacting DSF and Submitting Documents

All required/requested documents [must be submitted online to DSF](#) by 11:59 p.m. Mountain Time on the day of the corresponding deadline. All document submissions must include the student's:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Phone number
- Student ID number (college ID preferred)
- Email address

If you have questions about the DSF Scholarship, contact DSF at denverscholarship.org/contactus or (303) 640-6564.

More Detail on Scholarship Policies & Deadlines

Appeals

DSF considers appeals to request exceptions to the scholarship policy in cases of exceptional personal or family circumstances. If you feel your situation may be appropriate for an appeal, please contact the DSF Scholarship team or your Campus Contact to discuss the situation.

DSF will review and consider appeals based on the following extenuating circumstances:

- Death in your immediate family
- Medical illness or injury (personal/immediate family)
- Other special circumstances beyond the student's control

Time management issues, poor decision-making, forgetting about a deadline, or human error are not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

Appeals are considered on a rolling basis. Your completed appeal and any supporting documents (like a transcript or doctor's letter) must be submitted at least 30 days before the end of the term if you wish to be considered for a scholarship award in that term.



DSF does not consider appeals for the following situations:

Denver Public Schools (DPS) Enrollment	Scholarship Amount
DPS Graduation	Length of Eligibility
High School GPA < 2.0	Graduate School
Eligible Colleges	

High School GPA Requirement

You must have at least a 2.0 high school GPA to be eligible for the DSF Scholarship. Your final cumulative high school GPA (weighted or unweighted, whichever is higher) will determine the college type(s) where you are eligible to receive the DSF Scholarship. [Click here to see DSF's High School GPA Requirement webpage and FAQs.](#)

If Your Final HS GPA is:	You are eligible for the scholarship only at the following DSF Partner College Type:	When you successfully complete your program at your initial college type:
2.75 or higher	Any partner college: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Four-year College/University - Community College - Technical College 	...You'll continue to be eligible at any college type within your years of eligibility (or through completion of your first bachelor's degree, whichever is first).
2.5 – 2.749	Community College Technical College	...You will be eligible at a four-year college/university within your years of eligibility
2.0 – 2.49	Technical College	...You will be eligible at a community college or four-year college/university within your years of eligibility

When you [successfully complete](#) a technical or community college program, you will be eligible to receive the scholarship at any college type (regardless of your high school GPA) within your [years of eligibility](#) as long as all other scholarship requirements are met.

If you plan to enroll at a college type where you do not meet the minimum required high school GPA and you have not yet completed a technical or community college program, you may [complete an DSF appeal](#) if you meet the following requirements for a **GPA Exception**:

- [Successful completion](#) of a minimum of 12 college credit hours at a community college or four-year college/university, as shown on a college transcript; and
- Minimum 2.0 cumulative college GPA; and
- Meeting current college's [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) requirements (not on academic/financial aid probation).

If you intend to transfer to a different college type for the Winter/Spring term, confirm that you meet the High School GPA Requirement for your transfer college type. If needed, you must submit an



appeal for a GPA Exception, along with your Mid-Year Transfer form and transcript, no later than February 1.

2018 & Earlier High School Graduates

You must have at least a 2.0 high school GPA to be eligible for the DSF Scholarship. Your final cumulative high school GPA (weighted or unweighted, whichever is higher) will determine the college type(s) where you are eligible to receive the DSF Scholarship.

Note that this is a change from previous DSF policy, which determined eligibility for a specific degree program, rather than college type.

[Click here to see DSF's High School GPA Requirement webpage and FAQs.](#)

If you previously submitted an approved GPA Exception or successfully completed a technical or community college program, you will continue to be eligible for the scholarship at any college type for your years of eligibility as long as all other scholarship requirements are met.

If you graduated from high school in 2018 or earlier and did not meet the minimum required high school GPA for the college type you'll be attending in 2020-21, you must [complete an appeal](#) and demonstrate that you meet the following requirements for a **GPA Exception**, unless you already have an approved GPA Exception on file or successfully completed a technical or community college program:

- Successful completion of a minimum of 12 college credit hours at a community college or 4-year college/university, as shown on a college transcript; and
- Minimum 2.0 cumulative college GPA; and
- Meeting current college's Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements (you are not on academic/financial aid probation).

Full-time Enrollment Requirement & Part-time Enrollment Requests

You must enroll full-time (12 credit hours or more) to be considered for the DSF Scholarship, unless enrolled in a certificate program. With pre-approval as detailed below, you may receive a prorated DSF Scholarship award while enrolled less than full-time for one of the following limited exceptions.

[Click here to see DSF's Enrollment Requirements webpage.](#)

- Enrollment in a technical certificate program (pre-approval not required); or
- Enrollment in an academic program designed to be less than full-time (i.e., students with disabilities or programs such as study abroad); or
- Fewer than 12 credit hours are required to complete your associate's or bachelor's degree; or
- One term only during your years of DSF Scholarship eligibility,
 - [Developmental education](#) or prerequisite requirements preclude full-time enrollment; or
 - Part-time enrollment is a condition of an academic appeal.

To obtain pre-approval for part-time enrollment for a reason other than enrollment in a technical certificate program, you must submit a complete [Part-Time Enrollment Form](#) to DSF by July 15 for the Fall term or February 1 for the Winter/Spring terms.

- *If you enroll less than full-time for a reason other than enrollment in a technical certificate program, without pre-approval:* You will not receive a scholarship award for the term(s) in which you are enrolled part-time. You must continue to meet all other DSF Scholarship requirements to be considered for an award when you increase to full-time enrollment.

Student Success Requirements (SSRs)

As a DSF Scholar you will receive additional support on your college campus to make sure you have the resources & information you need to graduate from college. As part of your Student Success Requirements (SSRs), you will meet with a [DSF Campus Contact](#) each semester/quarter who will help you work on completing your requirements. The SSRs help you stay on track to graduate by getting you involved on campus, keeping you on top of your academic success, and connecting you to people who can help you succeed.

If you qualify for a scholarship award and become a DSF Scholar, you are required to meet the SSRs for your college each semester/quarter. Visit denverscholarship.org/SSR to find your DSF Campus Contact and a complete list of all SSRs and deadlines for each college.

If you do not meet the SSR requirement at your college: You will be placed on scholarship suspension and will not receive a scholarship award for the next term and continuing until you meet the requirements, even if you transfer to another college.

Initial Payment Deadline

You have until December 31 of the year after you graduate from high school to receive an initial DSF scholarship award. If you do not receive an initial payment within that time, you will not be eligible to apply for DSF in future years. [Contact DSF with any questions](#) about the initial payment deadline.

For example, applicants who graduated from high school in 2019 must receive an initial DSF scholarship award by December 31, 2020 in order to be considered for a scholarship in future years.

Years of Eligibility & Eligible Colleges for the DSF Scholarship

Your DSF Scholarship years of eligibility begin when you first meet the requirements to become a [DSF Finalist/member of a DSF Cohort](#). If you meet the [initial payment](#) deadline & continue to meet other scholarship deadlines/requirements, you are eligible for scholarship consideration for multiple years, as follows:

- 1 year at a technical college
- 2 years at a community college
- 4 years at a four-year college/university
- [Click here to see DSF's Years of Eligibility webpage](#)

For example, for students in the 2019 Cohort, your first school year of eligibility is 2020-21. These students may continue to renew the DSF Scholarship through the 2022-23 school year as long as they have met the [initial payment deadline](#).

If you withdraw/stop out or do not qualify for an award for any term(s):

You may choose NOT to enroll (i.e., stop out) for one or more academic terms after becoming a DSF Finalist. However, the time taken off from your college program will be deducted from your remaining years of eligibility. Additionally, any academic term(s) in which you do not qualify for a scholarship award will also be deducted from your remaining years of eligibility.

- You may re-apply for the DSF Scholarship at any time within your remaining years of eligibility as long as you meet the [initial payment deadline](#). You must meet all DSF application deadlines and scholarship requirements to receive a payment.

If you are enrolled in a degree program that requires more credits for completion than a traditional degree:

[Contact DSF for more information](#) on requirements and deadlines for a [Program Extension Request](#). Scholars in the 2015 or later cohorts who are enrolled in degree programs which require more credits for completion than the traditional degree may be eligible to apply for a DSF scholarship for one or more additional terms (up to an additional academic year).

For example, a student enrolled in an engineering bachelor's degree program which requires 150 credits to graduate (compared to 125 credits) may be eligible for a [Program Extension Request](#).

Submitting the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

FAFSA is an online federal form students must complete annually to determine eligibility for student financial aid. Visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> to complete the form.

If you are eligible for [Federal Student Aid](#) (U.S. Citizen, Legal Permanent Resident, or other [eligible non-citizen](#)) you must submit the FAFSA no later than April 1 each year to be considered for a DSF Scholarship. DSF will attempt to confirm your FAFSA submission with the Colorado Dept. of Higher Education & your college financial aid office.

If DSF is not able to confirm that you submitted your 2020-21 FAFSA by April 1, DSF will notify you that you have not met the initial eligibility requirements for the scholarship. You will then need to provide documentation by May 20, 2020 confirming that you completed the FAFSA by April 1 and demonstrate financial need by submitting one of the following documents ([see instructions for accessing & submitting documents here](#)):

- FAFSA Submission Confirmation Page; or
- Student Aid Report (SAR).

If you do not provide documentation confirming that your FAFSA was submitted by April 1, you will not be eligible for the scholarship for the 2020-21 academic year.

Mid-Year Transfers

To encourage DSF Scholars to complete their degrees on time, DSF discourages Scholars from transferring from one DSF partner college to another between the fall and winter/spring terms, except in certain limited situations. See the [Mid-Year Transfer Form](#) or [contact DSF](#) for more details.



If you want to be considered for a Winter/Spring award at a different DSF partner college than you attended in the Fall: You must meet all requirements on the [Mid-Year Transfer Form](#) and submit the form to DSF no later than February 1, 2021.

If you do not meet the [minimum high school GPA requirement](#) for your intended transfer college, you must also submit a completed [GPA Exception Request](#) and college transcript showing that you meet the requirements along with your Mid-Year Transfer form.

Definitions

Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

The Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree is a two-year undergraduate degree similar to the Associate of Arts (AA) and the Associate of Science (AS) degree. Unlike AA and AS degrees, which are designed primarily as transfer degrees, the AAS degree is a technical degree and is designed for students who intend to enter the workforce immediately following graduation from their program.

Census Date

A date set by your college that typically marks the last day you can add or drop classes for a full tuition refund. On this day, the college takes a "snapshot" of all students' enrollment for reporting or record-keeping purposes. Your enrollment on the census date is used for determining financial aid eligibility and to determine if you have met the DSF requirement of full-time enrollment (12 or more credit hours per term).

College Choice Form (CCF)

Online form used to tell DSF which college you will attend. The form is available at portal.denverscholarship.org after you submit your DSF application. You must notify DSF of your final college choice for the upcoming academic year no later than July 15 in order to be considered for an award payment at that college.

Developmental Education

Classes to prepare students to achieve college level proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics to be successful in completing a college degree. Check with your Campus Contact or Academic Advisor if you're not sure whether you need to complete Developmental Education.

DSF Finalist/Cohort

Applicants who met the initial application eligibility requirements become DSF Finalists for the first time in a specific year, and assigned into a cohort. For example, New Applicants who meet the criteria to become DSF Finalists by July 15, 2019 are members of the DSF 2019 Cohort.

Eligible College Type

College at which a Finalist is considered for a DSF scholarship award based on the student's final cumulative high school GPA (weighted or unweighted, whichever is highest).

Students whose final HS GPA is 2.75 or higher are eligible at any DSF partner college (technical college, community college, or 4-year college/university). Students with a final cumulative HS GPA between 2.5 and 2.749 are only initially eligible for an award if enrolled at a technical or community college. Students with a final cumulative HS GPA between 2.0 and 2.49 are only initially eligible for an award if enrolled at a technical college. See [High School GPA Requirement](#) for details.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

The number calculated by [FAFSA](#), which is based on student and family income, assets, benefits, family size and number of family members in college, that represents your and your family's expected ability to contribute to the cost of attending college; the number is confirmed by a college's Office of Financial Aid once the financial aid process is complete and helps determine the amount of financial aid you are awarded.

Federal Student Aid (FSA)

Awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. It may include grants, work-study funds, and low-interest loans, including the Pell grant and Direct Student Loans. Covers such expenses as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. Aid can also help pay for other related expenses, such as a computer and dependent care. Must have financial need, be a U.S. citizen or [eligible noncitizen](#) (such as a Legal Permanent Resident), and be enrolled in an eligible degree or certificate program at your college or career school. For details about eligibility requirements for Federal Student Aid, visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/eligibility> or your college's Office of Financial Aid.

Free/Reduced-Price Meal Benefits Program

Through the National School Lunch Program, qualifying students may receive breakfast and/or lunch free or at a reduced price; to qualify for meal benefits, an application must be completed and submitted to Denver Public Schools each year while in high school.

Institutional scholarships/financial aid

Any aid that comes directly from the college that the student has applied to. It can be need-based aid or merit scholarships. In some instances, you do not need to be eligible for Federal Student Aid to be eligible for institutional aid. For more information about available institutional aid at your college, talk to your Office of Financial Aid.

October Count

The enrollment window (usually about two weeks at the end of September - beginning of October) that is determined by the Colorado Department of Education every year.

College Partner

College with official partnership with DSF that provides DSF Scholars with additional support on campus to help them be successful. DSF Applicants must enroll in a DSF college partner in order to be considered for a DSF scholarship award payment. [Click here for a list of DSF College Partners.](#)

Pell Limit

The maximum [EFC](#) that qualifies for the federal Pell grant. The Pell limit is set by Federal Student Aid each year and may change annually. The maximum EFC to qualify for a Pell grant is currently 5576 (published 1/23/2019). If the maximum Pell-eligible EFC for 2020-21 is increased, this policy will be updated. The Pell limit is used to determine financial need for the DSF scholarship.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)

Measure of successful completion of college courses and progress toward a degree based on meeting minimum requirements for GPA and course completion rate; required to maintain financial aid eligibility and eligibility for the DSF Scholarship.

Successful Completion

Completion of a course in which a Scholar receives a grade of A, B, C, D, S/A, S/B, S/C, or S (or equivalent as determined by your college). If the Scholar receives a grade of I, F, U, U/D, U/F, W, or AW (or equivalent as determined by your college), credits from that course will not be counted in the determination of how many credit hours the Scholar successfully completed.