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, CASFA, and the College Opportunity Fund (COF) are not scholarships).
Apply for Financial Aid By Your College’s Priority Deadline

All applicants, regardless of eligibility for federal student aid, will be required to:

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA), or other aid application as required by your college.

To ensure that you qualify for all possible state, federal, and institutional aid, complete all required aid applications (FAFSA, CASFA, or other) by your college’s priority deadline.

College Choice & Financial Aid Requirements – Deadline July 15

1. Notify DSF of your final 2021-22 college enrollment plans by submitting a College Choice Form.
   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.

Start early! A complete financial aid file consists of more than just your FAFSA, CASFA or other required aid application. 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!

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
2. Enroll at an eligible college type based on your High School GPA and years of eligibility
   a. If needed, submit a GPA Appeal to demonstrate readiness at your intended college type.

Financial Aid Requirements – Before Your DSF Award Can Be Sent To Your College

1. Complete any steps necessary to qualify for Colorado residency classification (for in-state tuition or state aid at private institutions), as determined by your college.
2. Demonstrate Financial Need:

For New Applicants only: Demonstrate financial need through a qualifying EFC between zero – 2.5x the maximum Expected Family Contribution to qualify for a Pell grant, upon
completion of all financial aid requirements. For 2021-22, your final EFC must be between 0-14,615* to meet the DSF requirement of demonstrated financial need.

If you have a previously qualifying EFC or qualifying Free/Reduced Price Meal Benefits (FRL) status on record with DSF, you are considered to have met the financial need requirement for the scholarship.

3. Complete any financial aid requirements added by your college after July 15 to ensure that your financial aid file is complete and eligible for disbursement.

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).

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 will be 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 2021-22 Scholarship Annual Awards Table*
(2019-2021 Cohorts)

* Based on 250% of the 2021-22 maximum EFC to qualify for a Pell Grant. This limit will be adjusted if the maximum EFC for Pell is increased for 2022-23.
This policy may be changed at any time at the discretion of the Denver Scholarship Foundation.

### DSF Partner College Type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DSF Partner College Type</th>
<th>Required Minimum HS GPA</th>
<th>Annual Award Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four-year College/University</td>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical College</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 2021-22 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 2021-22 or future years, their award amount will be based on the award amount at that college type for their award tier in 2019-20.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DSF Partner College Type</th>
<th>EFC Range: Zero to Pell Limit <em>(0 – 5711)</em></th>
<th>EFC Range: Pell Limit to 2.5x Pell Limit <em>(5,711-14,615)</em>*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Four-year College/University</td>
<td>$2,800</td>
<td>$3,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community College</td>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical College</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
<td>$1,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 are a member of the 2018 or earlier DSF cohort and you have a previously qualifying EFC on record with DSF, you are considered to have met the financial need requirement for the scholarship. If your final EFC for 2021-22 is higher than 14,615, your award amount will be the amount shown for the higher range. You must still meet all annual requirements for scholarship eligibility.

Contacting DSF and Submitting Documents

VISIT US ONLINE AT: [denverscholarship.org](http://denverscholarship.org)  
[ @DenverScholarshipFoundation](https://twitter.com/DenverScholarshipFoundation)  
[ @DenvScholarFdn](https://twitter.com/DenvScholarFdn)
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 your control

Time management issues, poor decision-making, forgetting about a deadline, and 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denver Public Schools (DPS) Enrollment</th>
<th>Scholarship Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DPS Graduation</td>
<td>Length of Eligibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School GPA &lt; 2.0</td>
<td>Graduate School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eligible Colleges</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GPA Range</th>
<th>Eligible College Type(s):</th>
<th>Program Completion Eligibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.75 or higher</td>
<td>Any college partner:</td>
<td>...You will 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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5 – 2.749</td>
<td>Community College Technical College</td>
<td>...You will be eligible at a four-year college/university within your years of eligibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.0 – 2.49</td>
<td>Technical College</td>
<td>...You will be eligible at a community college or four-year college/university within your years of eligibility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you plan to enroll at a college type where you do not meet the minimum required high school GPA, you have two options:

- Successfully complete a technical or community college program and provide proof to DSF; OR
- **Complete a GPA Appeal** once you meet the following requirements for an exception to the high school GPA requirement:
  - 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 previously submitted an approved GPA Appeal or successfully completed a technical or community college program in a previous year, you will continue to be eligible for the scholarship at any college type for your years of eligibility as long as you meet all other scholarship requirements.

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 you do not, you must submit a GPA Appeal or proof of successful completion of a technical/community college program, along with your Mid-Year Transfer form and transcript, no later than February 1.

**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

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If this policy may be changed at any time at the discretion of the Denver Scholarship Foundation.
● Fewer than 12 credit hours are required to complete your associate’s or bachelor’s degree; or
● For one term only during your years of DSF Scholarship eligibility,
  o Part-time enrollment is needed due to developmental education or prerequisite requirements; or
  o 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.

  o 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 2020 must receive an initial DSF scholarship award by December 31, 2021 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 2021 Cohort, their first school year of eligibility will be 2021-22. These students may continue to renew the DSF Scholarship through the 2024-25 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 2017 or later cohorts who are enrolled in degree programs which require more credits for completion than the standard for that type of 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 the standard 125 credits required for most bachelor’s degrees) may be eligible for a Program Extension Request.

Submitting the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or CASFA (Colorado Application for State Financial Aid)

FAFSA is an online federal form that students who are eligible for Federal Student Aid must complete annually to determine eligibility for student financial aid. Visit [https://fafsa.ed.gov/](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 each year to be considered for a DSF Scholarship. To ensure that you qualify for all possible state, federal, and institutional aid, complete FAFSA and/or any other required aid applications by your college’s priority deadline.

CASFA is an online state form that students who are not eligible for Federal Student Aid must complete each year to determine eligibility for state or institutional financial aid. Visit [highered.colorado.gov/CASFA](http://highered.colorado.gov/CASFA) to complete the form. If you are eligible for federal aid, you should not complete CASFA.
To ensure that you qualify for all possible state and institutional aid, complete CASFA and/or any other required aid applications by your college’s priority deadline.

Mid-Year Transfers

To encourage DSF Scholars to complete their degrees on time, DSF discourages Scholars from transferring from one DSF college partner 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 college partner 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, 2022.

If you do not meet the minimum high school GPA requirement for your intended transfer college, you must also submit a completed GPA Appeal 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 that 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 meet the initial application eligibility requirements become DSF Finalists for the first time in a specific year and are assigned into that year’s cohort. For example, New Applicants who meet the criteria to become DSF Finalists by July 15, 2021 will be members of the DSF 2021 Cohort.

Eligible College Type
College type at which a Finalist is initially considered for a DSF scholarship award based on the student’s final cumulative high school GPA (weighted or unweighted, whichever is highest). See High School GPA Requirement for details.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
The number calculated by FAFSA or CASFA, 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 your college's Office of Financial Aid once the financial aid process is complete, and it 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. To be eligible, you 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.gov/understand-aid/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 you have 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; it is currently 5,846 (published January 2021). The Pell limit is used to determine financial need for the DSF scholarship. If the maximum Pell-eligible EFC for 2022-23 is increased, DSF will update its policy accordingly.

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 as defined by each college or university; 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.