

West Virginia Invests is a state-funded grant program that covers the full cost of basic tuition and fees for select certificate and associate degree programs at a West Virginia public two- or four-year institution. Priority is given to programs in high-demand fields, such as information technology or healthcare, as determined by the West Virginia Department of Commerce. This is a last-dollar-in program, meaning that it will pay for any amount up to the total cost of tuition and fees that isn't already covered by other state or federal grants or scholarships.

You may qualify for a West Virginia Invests Grant if you:

- Were a legal resident of West Virginia for at least 1 year immediately before applying;
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen for federal financial aid;
- Are a graduate of a public, private or homeschool program, or have successfully passed a high school equivalency test;
- Have not already earned a college degree (associate level or higher) or have attempted 90
 or more college credit hours;
- Be in compliance with the college's Satisfactory Academic Progress policy; for renewal you
 must also have a 2.0 cumulative grade point average;
- Have completed the <u>Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)</u>;
- Not be in default on a federal student loan;
- Are willing to make a commitment to improving the state by living in West Virginia for at least two years after graduation and completing at least 2 hours of unpaid community service each academic term;
- Meet the minimum admissions requirements at <u>an eligible institution</u> and register for at least 6 credit hours; and
- Pay for and <u>pass a drug screening</u> before the start of each academic term you are receiving an award. You have a 60 day window prior to the start of each term to pass the drug screen.

Once you receive a West Virginia Invests grant, you'll have to meet a few simple requirements to remain eligible for future awards. These requirements include:

- Completing an annual Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the West Virginia Invests Grant application each year.
- Maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 (a 'C' average) on all coursework and be in compliance with your college's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.
- Maintaining continuous enrollment for at least 6 credit hours each semester until you earn your certificate or degree.
- Passing a drug test prior to the beginning of each term in which grant funding is received.
- Complete two hours of community service each term in which funds are received and verify with your institution.
- Once you meet the requirements for an associate's degree or reach 90 attempted college credit hours, you will no longer be eligible.

Apply online at: http://wvinvests.org/