

Maryland Higher Education Commission

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2+2 TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

2024-2025 Academic Year

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. Q: What is the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: The 2+2 Transfer Scholarship is designed to assist and encourage transfer students from Maryland community colleges to attend a 4-year institution within the state and complete their bachelor's degrees in a timely manner. Students must be enrolled in an eligible accredited Maryland postsecondary institution.

2. Q: What is the amount of the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: Recipients are eligible for \$1,000 annually towards tuition and mandatory fees. Recipients enrolling in a science, teaching, engineering, computer science, mathematics, or nursing program are eligible for \$2,000 annually.

3. Q: What can the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship be used towards?

A: The scholarship can be used towards tuition and mandatory fees only.

4. Q: What are the initial eligibility criteria?

A: Refer to the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship webpage for a full list of eligibility criteria.

5. Q: If I am eligible for the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship and apply, will I definitely get it?

A: Not necessarily. The 2+2 Transfer Scholarship is contingent on availability of funds, the student being certified by their enrolled institution and providing all required documentation within the appropriate timelines.

6. Q: I am an undocumented student, I am eligible to apply for the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: No. For programs eligible undocumented students can be considered for, please click here.

7. Q: What is the deadline to apply for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: The priority consideration deadline is March 1, 2024. The final deadline is December 31, 2024. However, it is highly recommended applicants apply as soon as possible, as awarding is contingent on available funding.

8. Q: What is the application process?

A: Initial applicants submit a 2024-2025 FAFSA by March 1, 2024 for priority consideration, or by December 31, 2024. Then they log into MDCAPS and submit a 2+2 Transfer Scholarship application through the new MHEC One-App. Priority consideration deadline for application is March 1, 2024, final deadline is December 31, 2024. Applicants upload required documentation: a transcript from a Maryland community college they are enrolled in showing their current GPA by December 31, 2024 or earlier and Selective Service System registration, if applicable. If an applicant is awarded the scholarship, they will then be asked to upload a final transcript from their community college showing conferment of their associate's degree by March 15, 2025 or earlier.

9. Q: What are the required documents?

A: 2+2 Transfer Scholarship applicants are required to submit their most recent community college transcript showing their cumulative GPA, a final community college transcript showing when their associate's degree has been conferred, and for applicable individuals, proof of fulfilling the Selective Service System registration.

10. Q: When do I need to submit proof of my associate's degree?

A: The deadline to submit a final transcript showing an associate's degree conferred in the 2023-2024 academic year or in Fall 2024 is March 15, 2025.

However, it is highly recommended to submit the documentation as early as possible. This means awarded applicants who completed their associate's degree in Fall 2023 should try to submit their final transcript in Spring or Summer 2024, to ensure timely processing of the award for the 2024-2025 academic year. Awarded applicants who completed their associate's degree in Spring 2024 should try to submit their final transcript in Summer 2024 for similar reasons. Awarded applicants who completed their associate's degree in Fall 2024 who are being awarded for the Spring 2025 term should submit before the March 15, 2025 deadline.

11. Q: How do I submit the required documents?

A: Documents can be uploaded via the Electronic File Upload tool on MDCAPS. This can be accessed via the dashboard, as well as through the "Check Your Application Status" page.

12. Q: Why was a documented I submitted rejected?

A: Documentation can be rejected for a variety of reasons, depending on the type of documentation. Common reasons include: missing pages; unclear/blurry image; incorrect document; wrong year; missing information. Applicants will be sent a notification when a document is rejected, which contains the specific reason why it was rejected. Applicants must upload and submit a new document that corrects the issue.

13. Q: How will I know if I have received the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: Applicants will receive an email notification from MDCAPS. Applicants can also periodically log into their MDCAPS accounts and access "Check Your Application Status" from their home dashboard, and it will provide the current status.

14. Q: When are scholarship funds disbursed to the institution?

A: Disbursements are made after institutions have certified a student and initiated the payment request process – the majority of disbursements happen in September-October and January-February for the Fall and Spring terms.

For initial recipients, students MUST submit their proof of completing their associate's degree before the 4-year institution can initiate payment. If applicable, proof of meeting Selective Service System registration requirements is also needed before the scholarship payment can be initiated.

15. Q: What is the renewal eligibility criteria?

A: Refer to the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship webpage for a full list of eligibility criteria.

16. Q: For how long can the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship be renewed?

A: 2+2 Transfer Scholarship recipients may be eligible to renew the award for three years of study or six semesters of study, whichever is longer.

17. Q: What is the renewal process?

A: Renewing recipients must complete the FAFSA each year, and their 4-year institutions will upload their previous academic year's GPA on the student's behalf. Renewing recipients do not need to submit a new application or new documentation. As long as a renewing recipient meets the criteria, and their 4-year institution certifies them, their scholarship will be automatically renewed.

18. Q: I graduated with an associate's degree in Fall 2023 – can I receive the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship in Spring 2024?

A: No. The 2023-2024 2+2 Transfer Scholarship application closed in Spring 2023. The current application is for the 2024-2025 academic year, and can only go towards to the 2024-2025 academic year.

19. Q: When is the best time to apply if I graduated or will graduate with my associate's degree in: Fall 2023 | Spring 2024 | Summer 2024 | Fall 2024

A: As soon as possible after the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship application opens in all instances. The earlier an applicant applies, the earlier they are able to submit their documentation and potentially be awarded. The earlier an applicant is awarded, the earlier they will be assigned the task to submit proof of completing their associate's degree.

Even applicants who are not completing their associate's degree until Fall 2024 are encouraged to apply earlier than Fall 2024. While they will not be able to provide proof of completing their associate's degree until late 2024 or early 2025 and thus not receive payment until after that, they will be able to be awarded before then, including being awarded as early as spring 2023.

20. Q: I graduated with an associate's degree prior to Fall 2023 – am I eligible for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: No. Only students who are have recently finished or are about to finish their associate's degree (September 2023-December 2024) and plan to enroll at a 4-year institution by the fall semester following the completion of their associate's degree are eligible to apply.

21. Q: I will graduate with my associate's degree in Spring 2025 or later – am I eligible for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: No. Individuals in this scenario would need to apply for a later year's application. For example, someone completing their associate's degree in Spring 2025 would need to enroll in a 4-year institution in Fall 2025, and complete the 2025-2026 2+2 Transfer Scholarship application.

22. Q: I graduated with my associate's degree in Fall 2023, and transferred to a 4-year institution in Spring 2024 or Summer 2024 – am I eligible for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: No. The 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship is for receiving funding in the 2024-2025 academic year, and cannot be used towards the prior academic year.

23. Q: I graduated with my associate's degree in Spring 2024 – can I receive the scholarship for only Spring 2025?

A: No. The requirements of the scholarship are an applicant must enroll in an eligible 4-year institution by the fall semester following the completion of the associate's degree. An applicant who completed their associate's degree in Spring 2024 MUST enroll in a 4-year institution for Fall 2024 to be eligible for the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship.

24. Q: I accepted the scholarship, but the status shows as Pending - why?

Q: 2+2 Transfer Scholarship applicants have two phases for submitting documentation. First, they must submit their community college transcript before an awarding decision can be made. If the applicant is then awarded and accepts, they will be required to submit proof of completing their associate's degree before an institution is able to certify them and request payment. Until the proof the associate's degree is submitted and if applicable proof of Selective Service System registration, an accepted applicant's status will show as Pending.

25. Q: I accepted the scholarship, but haven't been paid yet - why?

A: The 2+2 Transfer Scholarship requires an applicant to submit proof of their associate's degree before an award can be paid out, and for applicable individuals, proof of meeting the Selective Service System registration requirement. If these tasks have not been completed, the award will not be paid out.

Awards are paid out after an institution certifies a student. Institutions tend to certify students after their Census Date each semester – this is when the institution finalizes enrollment. For many institutions, this does not happen until sometime in September for the Fall term.

26. Q: I accepted the scholarship, but it was cancelled - why?

A: Generally, because something about an individual's eligibility status changed. This can be from the school providing us information, new FAFSA or MHEC One-App information coming in, new information provided, through our audit process or a combination of sources. Individuals can log into their MDCAPS account to view the award's status updates.

27. Q: Why hasn't the scholarship appeared on my student account yet?

A: After an institution has initiated the payment process, it can take up to 4-6 weeks for the institution to receive the payment. Depending on an institution's own internal processing, it can take additional days or weeks for the award to appear on the account.

28. Q: If I am deemed ineligible, are there appeal options?

A: Yes, there are certain categories of appeal available. Student can view allowable appeal options on the <u>Appeal webpage</u>.