

New Century Scholarship

2016-2017 Frequently Asked Questions



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REQUIREMENTS

1. Do I have to meet all requirements to earn the scholarship?

Yes, both the academic and non-academic requirements must be met to earn the scholarship.

2. What are the academic requirements of the New Century Scholarship?

You must graduate from high school with a minimum GPA of 3.5 AND complete an associate degree earning a 3.0 GPA from an eligible Utah Higher Education institution by the date you graduate from a Utah high school.

Alternatively, you can complete the approved Math and Science Curriculum, earning a high school GPA of a 3.5 and a college GPA of a 3.0.

In addition, you must enroll in and successfully complete 15 or more credit hours for the fall semester immediately following high school graduation at an eligible 4-year institution in a bachelor's degree program and meet all application deadlines, or obtain an approved deferment.

You should work closely with your high school and college counselors to ensure you take the appropriate courses required by the institution where you will complete your associate degree.

3. Are students who are home-schooled or have completed high school through an online high school eligible for the New Century Scholarship?

Yes, students who are home-schooled or completed their diploma through an online high school are eligible for the scholarship. They must complete all the requirements for an associate degree or the approved Math and Science Curriculum with a minimum college GPA of 3.0 and earn a composite score of 26 or above on the ACT test by June 15th of the year their peer group graduates from high school.

4. Where can one find more information regarding the Math and Science Curriculum?

Information regarding the Math and Science Curriculum is found in the [2016-2017 Program Guide](#) on www.newcenturyscholarship.org.

5. What are the non-academic requirements for the New Century Scholarship?

To be eligible for the New Century Scholarship, the student must be a United States citizen or a non-citizen eligible for federal financial aid. You cannot have a criminal record other than a minor traffic violation. In addition, all deadlines must be met.

6. From which institutions can I earn my associate degree?

You can only earn your associate degree from the following institutions in the Utah Higher Education System: Dixie State University, Salt Lake Community College, Snow College, Southern Utah University, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, the University of Utah, and Weber State University.

7. Do all the Utah Higher Education institutions offer associate degrees?

No, the University of Utah does not offer an associate degree. However, it does offer an equivalency program. If you complete your coursework at the University of Utah, you must obtain a signed [Degree Verification Form](#) as part of your application materials. This form is available on www.newcenturyscholarship.org.

8. How do I determine which courses to take for an associate degree?

You should meet with an early college counselor at the institution where you will earn your associate degree. Most of the institutions offer orientation meetings and will also meet with you personally to create a course plan to ensure you complete the correct courses by the time you graduate from high school.

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BASIC REQUIREMENTS (CONTINUED)

9. Do students have to take all their courses at the higher education institution where they plan to earn their associate degree?

No, most students earn credits in a variety of ways such as concurrent enrollment courses, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, online courses, and by attending summer semester at an institution. Students often take courses at more than one institution, but they should contact an early college counselor to make sure the course(s) they are completing will count towards earning an associate degree. Students will be responsible to make sure any course(s) they take at other institutions are transferred to the institution where they will earn their degree; this usually requires that they send an official transcript from the institution in which the course was earned to the institution in which the degree will be granted. Some institutions also require that students fill out a request for transfer credit evaluation, so check with the institution.

10. How do I demonstrate that I have earned my associate degree?

Students will be required to submit an official college transcript showing the associate degree earned and date of graduation. Each college/university sets deadlines to apply for graduation, so check with the college/university from which you plan to earn your associate degree to know when you need to apply for graduation.

11. Can the requirements and the award value of the scholarship change?

Yes, the scholarship was created through legislation, and is therefore subject to change. Funding amounts are determined annually and are dependent on available funding, the number of qualified participants and when the participant is enrolled in college. Award amounts will be announced in April of each year at which time participants as well as applicants will be notified of funding amounts. The maximum amount a student can receive will be \$1250 per semester. Students, parents and high school counselors are encouraged to check www.newcenturyscholarship.org for the most current information.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

12. When do I apply for the New Century Scholarship?

The New Century Scholarship Application is available on www.newcenturyscholarship.org in November of each year and the application must be postmarked by **February 1** of your high school senior year.

13. How do I apply for the New Century Scholarship?

The application process has two steps. The first step is to complete and submit the New Century Scholarship online application by **February 1** of your senior year. The second step is to submit all verification documentation by the **September 1** deadline. Details regarding the verification documentation will be provided to you directly as you apply for the scholarship.

14. When is the deadline to submit the verification documentation?

The supporting documentation deadline is **September 1**. Late documents or the submission of incomplete documents is not acceptable, and such documentation will not be considered.

15. Will I be notified if information is missing from my file?

No, it is your responsibility to ensure you have submitted all the supporting documentation by the deadline. A checklist of required documents is provided your New Century student account. The checklist will indicate if the document has been received. We encourage you to contact the New Century Scholarship office if you have questions regarding the status of your application.

16. Can I fax or email my documents?

No, we do not accept faxes or emails for the application or supporting documentation. The application is filled out online, through your student account. Supporting documents, other than official transcripts, can be uploaded through your student account. You should consider sending the items that must be mailed via certified mail as a method of tracking the receipt of the documents.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

17. When must I begin attending college once I have graduated from high school?

You must begin attending college by enrolling in the Fall Semester immediately after graduation. Proof of enrollment in 15 or more credit hours is required as part of the supporting documentation that must be received by **September 1**. Alternatively, you must submit a request for a deferment and receive an approval for that request in lieu of proof of enrollment.

18. What if I am planning to serve a religious mission, provide humanitarian service, go into the military or for health reasons cannot enroll and attend the Fall Semester after high school graduation? Or what if I have other extenuating circumstances?

If you do not enroll in 15 credit hours for Fall Semester after high school graduation, you must apply for and be approved for a deferment. The deferment application must be postmarked by September 1. Please refer to the [Deferment Information](#) on www.newcenturyscholarship.org.

18. Can I request a deferral to attend an out-of-state school or a non-eligible institution?

No, you must attend an eligible 4-year institution in a bachelor's degree program. If you choose to attend an out-of-state or an ineligible Utah institution, you will forfeit the scholarship.

19. Where can I use the New Century Scholarship?

You can use the New Century Scholarship at the following 4-year institutions: Dixie State University, Southern Utah University, the University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, Weber State University, Brigham Young University-Provo, and Westminster College.

20. Can I receive other scholarships and still receive the New Century Scholarship?

Yes, you can receive the New Century scholarship along with other scholarship awards, with the exception of the Regents' Scholarship.

21. How do I receive the award payment?

The scholarship payment is sent directly to the college or university where you are enrolled and applied directly to your account. If your tuition has already been paid, the institution generally will refund the excess amount to you.

22. Am I required to be continuously enrolled each semester?

Yes, you must enroll in and successfully complete 15 or more hours in the Fall and Spring semesters (Fall and Winter at BYU). You do not need to enroll for the Summer semester/term. If you are not continuously enrolled, you will need to apply for and be approved for a leave of absence. The [Leave of Absence form](#) is available on www.newcenturyscholarship.org.

23. Do I need to maintain a certain GPA to remain eligible for the scholarship?

Yes, you must earn a minimum of a 3.3 GPA each semester. If your GPA falls below a 3.3 for one semester, you will be placed on probation; the next semester will still be funded. However, if you complete a second semester earning a GPA below a 3.3, the scholarship will be forfeited.

24. Am I required to submit my grades and schedules each semester?

Yes, you must send in your new semester schedule and proof of successful completion (grades) for the previous semester by the deadlines listed below. Failure to comply with these deadlines will result in the loss of the scholarship:

- Proof of enrollment in Fall semester, and proof of completion of prior semester due **September 15**.
- Proof of enrollment in Spring/Winter semester, and proof of completion of prior semester due **February 1**.
- Proof of enrollment in Summer semester, and proof of completion of prior semester due **June 1**.

25. How many semester payments can I receive in an academic year?

You can receive two payments per academic year.

INFORMATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

26. Can I use the scholarship during the summer semester?

If you choose to use the scholarship during the summer semester, you must enroll and successfully complete 15 credits. If you are considering taking summer classes, you should contact the New Century scholarship office to discuss the decision. Note: BYU does not allow students to enroll in 15 credit hours for Spring and Summer Terms. Therefore, you cannot receive a payment during these terms.

27. How long does the scholarship last?

The length of eligibility for the New Century Scholarship will be for four semesters, 60 credit hours of enrollment, or completion of the requirements for a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. The New Century Scholarship will expire 5 years from your high school graduation date. Any break in enrollment other than the summer semester must be approved through a leave of absence as mentioned in question 20.

ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

28. Can my parents call and check the status of my scholarship information?

Only if you have submitted the [Student Information Release Form](#) available on www.newcenturyscholarship.org. Once you turn 18, you are protected by FERPA, which is a federal law that protects the privacy of a student's education records. By sending in the [Student Information Release Form](#), you are giving the New Century Scholarship office permission to share information with specific individuals. This form does not give permission for the third party to act on your behalf.

29. Who administers the New Century Scholarship?

The scholarship is administered by the Utah State Board of Regents, the governing board for Utah's public colleges and universities.

30. How is the scholarship funded?

The scholarship is funded through a state appropriation determined by the Utah State Legislature. As a result, award levels are determined on an annual basis and are subject to legislative funding and the number of qualified participants. Therefore, the award amount may be reduced, may vary from year to year, and is dependent on when the recipient is enrolled. The award will be a flat dollar amount each semester; the maximum amount you can receive for a semester is \$1,250.

31. How will I know how much the award will be each year?

You will be notified each April with the award information for the upcoming academic year and any program and requirement changes that may have been made to the scholarship. This information will also be provided on our website, www.newcenturyscholarship.org.