



Top 20%

Tuition Scholarship

2023-2024

To be eligible for the 2023-2024 Top 20% Tuition Scholarship Program, students must:

1. Be a resident of Community College District 522 at the time of high school completion AND during attendance at SWIC.
2. Be eligible to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Illinois Alternative Application for Student Aid.
3. Achieve Top 20% of one of the following categories:
 - High School Graduates: Ranked in the top 20% of the graduating high school class on the final high school transcript OR placed into the 80th percentile on the ACT or SAT examination by earning a composite score of 1240 or higher on the SAT or 25 or higher on the ACT.
 - High School Equivalency Completers: Score in the top 20% of their equivalency group on GED or other high school equivalency test.
 - Homeschool Graduates: Must be at least 16 years of age and placed into the 80th percentile on the ACT or SAT examination by earning a composite score of 1240 or higher on the SAT or 25 or higher on the ACT.

2023-2024 Top 20% Tuition Scholarship Program Conditions

PLEASE NOTE: High school completion refers to high school graduates, high school equivalency completers, and home school graduates.

All applicants must meet all of the following non-negotiable conditions. Failure to do so will result in loss of the scholarship for which there is no appeal process to regain.

- 1. All recipients of this scholarship must be a resident of Community College District 522 at the time of high school completion and during attendance at SWIC.**
- 2. Every new academic year, students must renew the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to the start of the fall term. A student's financial aid file must be complete with an official financial aid award prior to receipt of the scholarship. The deadline to complete all necessary FAFSA required paperwork and scholarship application is the 2nd week of the 1st semester of attendance. SWIC's school code is 001636.**
- 3. A complete Top 20% Application (including all required application information) must be submitted by the second week of the first semester of attendance following high school completion.**
- 4. The scholarship must be used toward enrollment within the academic year immediately following high school completion: Fall (8/19/2023), Spring (1/23/2024) or Summer (6/3/2024). The scholarship may be used for the summer semester immediately following high school completion only if continuously enrolled in the fall semester of the following academic year and attends the fall semester. This will be evaluated at the time of awarding and will be based on the first high school credential received.**
- 5. High school graduates ranked in the top 20% of their graduating class must provide an official final high school transcript including the number of students in the class and the individual class rank or official record of a qualifying ACT/SAT score. If the official transcript has already been sent to Enrollment Services, please notify the Financial Aid Office.**
- 6. High school equivalency completers must be ranked in the top 20% of their equivalency group. Proof must be provided by submitting a non-returnable copy of their high school equivalent certificate and official letter from the Adult Basic Education Office identifying them as scoring in the top 20% of their equivalency group.**
- 7. ACT or SAT scores for high school graduates or homeschool graduates must have a composite score of 25/36 or higher on the ACT test or 1240/1600 or higher on the SAT test. Proof must be provided by submitting a non-returnable copy of official ACT scores.**
- 8. If the student attends any other college, university, trade school, etc. after high school completion prior to attending SWIC, the student is not eligible to apply for the scholarship. Dual credit earned while the student is still in high school does not affect eligibility.**
- 9. Students may receive the scholarship for up to six semesters of continuous enrollment. Summer attendance is not required, but the scholarship will be awarded unless otherwise requested in writing. Students must enroll in consecutive fall and spring semester. A gap between fall and spring terms, will result in loss of the scholarship (excluding summer semester).**
- 10. To maintain continuous scholarship eligibility, students must maintain a 3.0 semester GPA and a cumulative completion rate of 67%, regardless of the source of tuition payment. Cumulative completion rate may be calculated by dividing total hours earned by total hours attempted.**
- 11. The scholarship pays tuition only for classes that appear on the student's academic transcript. It does not pay fees, books, fees associated with proficiency examinations, or fees for dropped classes that are not on transcript (tuition cost).**
- 12. Students must be degree or certificate seeking at SWIC to receive the scholarship.**

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is considered a District 522 resident? Students who reside in Madison, Monroe, St. Clair, Randolph or Washington counties and meet the residency requirements of the College. If you have any questions about your residency, contact SWIC Enrollment Services.

Can I use the Top 20% to attend SWIC in the summer? Scholarships may be used for summer semesters if the application is complete and approved by the end of the second week of the summer term, student is degree/certificate seeking at SWIC, and continues enrollment into the next semester of the next academic year. The student is subject to all of the academic requirements listed in the conditions section of the application.

If I graduate from high school early, can I attend SWIC in the spring? You may use the scholarship for the first SWIC semester that begins after your documented high school completion.

Can I go to another college in the fall, transfer to SWIC in the spring, and receive the scholarship? No. SWIC must be the first post-secondary institution you attend. However, college credit earned while still in high school will not prevent a student from participating in the Top 20% Scholarship Program.

Can I receive the Top 20% for spring if I didn't attend college in the fall? Yes. As long as you are a first-time college student, you may begin using your scholarship in the spring term. The scholarship must be used within the academic year following high school completion. If you attended Southwestern Illinois College in the fall and do not complete application requirements by 2nd week of the fall term you will be ineligible for the scholarship. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Is there a deadline to apply for the scholarship? Yes. The application and all materials must be submitted by the end of the second week of the semester that the student enrolls following high school completion. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Can a 7th semester high school transcript be used to apply for the scholarship? Although the Top 20% program is based on the 8th semester high school transcript, early graduates can use the 7th semester transcript.

I can't complete the FAFSA. Can I still apply for the Top 20% scholarship? Students unable to complete the FAFSA or Illinois Alternative Application for Student Aid for any reason are not eligible for the Top 20% scholarship.

Can somebody help me complete my FAFSA? Students and their parent(s) can get help completing their FAFSA through the Financial Aid Office during regular business hours.

Why attend Southwestern Illinois College?

Location...With three campuses, 26 extension centers and many online courses, Southwestern is convenient for everyone.

Quality...All classes are taught by highly qualified professionals in their areas of expertise.

Transferability...The Associate in Arts, Associate in Fine Arts, and Associate in Science degree programs are designed for you to achieve junior status at the senior institution of your choice. Several Associate in Applied Science degree programs transfer as well.

Affordability...At current tuition rates (rates subject to change); Southwestern Illinois College offers a quality education at one of the lowest tuition rates in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Financial Aid...If you qualify, Southwestern Illinois College has financial support in the form of scholarships, loans, grants, part-time employment or any combination of these.

Service...Personal and career counseling, job placement, basic skills programs, and personal growth classes are only a few of the many services Southwestern Illinois College provides to students and members of the community

2023-2024 Top 20% Tuition Scholarship Application

Name _____ SWIC ID # _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone # (_____) _____

High School Attended _____ Graduation Date (Month/Year) _____

GED taken in (county) _____ GED Date (Month/Year) _____

Application Instructions

Complete all required sections of this application. **All required application materials must be received by the end of the second week of the first semester of enrollment.** You will receive an award letter if your application is approved and a denial letter if not approved. Tuition due prior to receipt of the award letter will be the responsibility of the student, but tuition paid will be refunded to the student after the scholarship has posted to the student's account.

- **High school graduates:** Proof of top 20% ranking must be provided by submitting an official final high school transcript including the number of students in the class and class rank or a qualifying ACT/SAT score.
- **High school equivalency completers:** Proof of top 20% ranking must be provided by submitting a non-returnable copy of the high school equivalent certificate and official letter from the Adult Basic Education Office identifying rank.
- **Home school graduates:** Proof must be provided by submitting a non-returnable copy of official ACT/SAT scores.
- **All applicants:** In addition to being a resident of Community College District 522, **a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be renewed for each academic year of enrollment.**

Please read and sign the following statement.

I certify the information reported on this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I have read the conditions of this scholarship as outlined in this application, agree to abide by them, and understand that:

- A. The scholarship is renewable and may be awarded for a maximum of six semesters of continuous enrollment.
- B. Renewal requires a student to maintain a minimum 3.0 semester GPA and a cumulative completion rate of at least 67%.
- C. All scholarships requirements must be met to receive and maintain the scholarship. There is no appeal process to regain the scholarship once lost.

I authorize the release of information concerning my tuition scholarship award to the media for general distribution.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Direct all inquiries and required application information to:

Southwestern Illinois College
Financial Aid, Veteran Services, & Student Employment Office
2500 Carlyle Avenue
Belleville, IL 62221
Attn: Scholarship Coordinator