**Update on New NY State Scholarships for Seniors: Excelsior Scholarship and Enhanced Tuition Scholarship**

The Excelsior Scholarship and Enhanced Tuition Award are available for high school seniors. Applications are usually made available on the HESC website (see link below) sometime in late spring (after funding is approved by the NYS Legislature) . Interested students/parents are advised to go to the HESC website and sign up for HESC email notifications of when these scholarship applications are made available.

 Go to: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov> and scroll down to the bottom of the HESC webpage to find the email sign-up.

 (“screen shot” of the HESC website email sign-up section):



You can research ahead to see if you are interested in either of these two new scholarship programs:

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid.html#horizontalTab2>

 -Scroll down to NYS Scholarships. Both these scholarships/awards are listed.

**“Excelsior Scholarship”**: Must attend any NYS SUNY college, either two or four year, and meet the other eligibility criteria (ie. family income, etc.). Check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section also.

**“Enhanced Tuition Award”**: Must attend a *participating* NYS private college – (see link below for participating colleges) - and meet the other eligibility requirements (ie. family income, etc.).

-[https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships- awards/enhanced-tuition-awards/enhanced-tuition-awards-program-participating-colleges.html](https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-%20awards/enhanced-tuition-awards/enhanced-tuition-awards-program-participating-colleges.html))

 \* Note: Enhanced Tuition Awards are granted to eligible students on a lottery system so are not guaranteed!

**Notes regarding a couple of the other available scholarships on the HESC scholarship website:**

**“NYS Scholarships for Academic Excellence”:** Awards are competitive and limited at each high school. Selections are done automatically by high schools based on seniors’ academic class ranking at the end of their junior year. Unfortunately, students can’t apply on their own or request to be included.

**“NYS STEM Scholarship”:** Must be in the top ten percent of graduating class and go into an approved STEM college program. Must work in this occupation, in NYS, for 5 yrs., to satisfy repayment obligations. Not the best deal since the Excelsior and Enhanced Tuition awards are less restrictive and pays the same scholarship amount (cost of SUNY tuition). Excelsior/Enhanced Scholarship students are not required to be in the top 10% of their class or choose a certain approved major. Besides, the Excelsior/Enhanced Scholarship repayment obligation is on a one to one scale: After graduation, must live and work in NYS 1 yr. for each yr. that you received the award (unlike STEM, which is 5 yrs.).

Deciding whether the Excelsior Scholarship, or Enhanced Tuition Award, is right for you is your decision. Keep in mind your future plans (plan to stay in NY after graduation?). Technically, these scholarships can’t be considered free college but they can greatly defray the cost of attending college. These awards only cover the amount of up to the cost of a SUNY tuition, not room/board (“dorming” or meal plans), books, or any associated college fees (ie., activity fee, transportation fee, technology fee, etc.). Also, the amount will be decreased by any financial aid, TAP or Pell received. Students must apply for financial aid (FAFSA and TAP) before applying for these two NYS scholarships. Students should have applied for financial aid by now, since October is financial aid month. If not – complete ASAP!!!!!!