



# OVERVIEW

## Other State Financial Aid Programs

The following Overview focuses on smaller state financial aid programs available to Texas students.

### **\$1,000 Tuition Rebate for Certain Undergraduates**

The Texas Legislature created the \$1,000 tuition rebate program in 1997 to encourage undergraduate students enrolled in public universities to complete a bachelor's degree with as few courses outside the degree plan as possible. The incentive to graduate in a timely manner minimizes the number of courses a student takes, overall helping the student, parent, and Texas save money. Aside from other eligibility requirements, students must have attempted no more than three semester credit hours in excess of the minimum number of hours required for the student's degree. The tuition rebate is paid from institutional local funds. However, the enabling legislation provides that the Legislature shall account in the General Appropriations Act for the rebates in a way that provides a corresponding increase in the general revenue funds appropriated to the institution. In 2008, tuition rebates were disbursed to 3,649 students for a total amount of \$3,648,542.

*The first nine hours of credit earned by examination do not count as hours attempted for the purposes of the tuition rebate.*

### **Early High School Graduation Scholarship**

The Early High School Graduation Scholarship Program provides tuition and fee assistance to students completing grades 9-12 early or with a significant number of college hours; thus, enabling and encouraging the students to attend college in Texas. Scholarship awards vary from \$500 to \$3,000. The Legislature appropriated \$11.92 million for the Early High School Graduation Scholarship for the 2010-2011 biennium.

### **Educational Aide Exemption Program**

The Educational Aide Exemption Program provides tuition and fee assistance to individuals with prior experience in public education as aides in the classroom so that they may become certified to teach. Awards vary, based on the number of hours taken by the student and the relative costs of the institution. Awards cover tuition and fees other than class and laboratory fees. The Legislature appropriated \$28.73 million for the Educational Aide Exemption Program for the 2010-2011 biennium.

### **Top 10 Percent Scholarships**

The 80th Texas Legislature created the Top 10 Percent Scholarship in 2007 to encourage students who graduate in the top 10 percent of their high school class to attend a Texas public institution of higher education. Qualifying students who submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) on time and have financial need may be eligible to receive up to \$2,000 if enrolled full-time in a Texas public college or university. The Legislature increased funding for the Top 10 Percent Scholarships by \$34 million for a total of \$54 million for the 2010-2011 biennium.

## **Education and Training Vouchers for Youths Aging Out of Foster Care**

The Education and Training Voucher for Youths Aging Out of Foster Care were created to provide financial assistance to assist youth ages 16-23 to begin, continue, or complete postsecondary education and training programs. Students attending a Texas public or private college may be eligible. The education and training voucher may be used to cover the cost of attendance (tuition and fees, books and supplies, room and board, transportation, child care, computer or other required equipment, medical insurance through the institution, and some personal expenses) or \$5,000 per year, whichever amount is less.

## **Engineering Scholarship Program**

The 80th Texas Legislature established the Engineering Scholarship Program to provide scholarships to students who are pursuing an undergraduate degree in engineering at a participating public institution of higher education in Texas. The program was expanded by the 81st Texas Legislature to include engineering students at private institutions. A student must be enrolled as a sophomore in an undergraduate degree program to be eligible and meet other specific academic requirements. This scholarship is not based on financial need and funds are limited. Scholarship recipients may receive up to \$5,000 per academic year. Of the \$2 million appropriated by the 81st Texas Legislature for the Engineering Recruitment Program, \$1 million is available for the scholarship program for 2010-2011.

## **Fifth Year Accounting Student Scholarship Program**

The Fifth Year Accounting Students Scholarship Program was created to promote the professional and educational needs of the state; increase the number of highly trained and educated professional accountants available to serve the residents of this state; improve the state's business environment and encourage economic development and financial stability; and identify, recognize and support outstanding scholars who plan to pursue careers in accounting. Recipients must be completing the final 30 hours of the 150 hours required for sitting for the Texas CPA Examination. The scholarship may be used at participating public and private, non-profit colleges and universities in Texas, including junior/community colleges. Individuals may receive a scholarship for up to \$5,000. The 81st Texas Legislature passed legislation to transfer the administration of the program from the Coordinating Board to the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy (TSBPA), beginning in spring 2010. Approximately \$3.93 million was appropriated for the 2010-2011 biennium.

## **Professional Nursing Scholarship**

The Professional Nursing Scholarship provides financial assistance to encourage students to become professional nurses. This scholarship is a need-based program and may be used at both public and private, non-profit colleges and universities. No individual award may exceed the student's financial need. The maximum award is \$2,500. A total of \$1.84 million was appropriated for the 2010-2011 biennium.

## **Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program**

The 81st Texas Legislature created the Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program through the approval of House Bill 3452 to encourage students to participate in Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) programs at Texas higher education institutions. A student must meet specific eligibility criteria to receive an initial scholarship award. In addition to the eligibility criteria, a student must enter into an agreement requiring a four-year commitment as a member of the Texas Army National Guard or the Texas Air Force National Guard, or as a commissioned officer in any branch of the armed services of the United States. If the conditions of the scholarship agreement are not met, the scholarship must be repaid. Annually, the governor and the lieutenant governor may each

appoint two students, and each state senator and each state representative may appoint one student to receive a conditional Texas Armed Services Scholarship. For the 2010-2011 academic year, a student may receive up to \$10,000 and dependent on available future funding, students may receive up to four years of scholarship awards.

### **Vocational Nursing Scholarship**

The Vocational Nursing Scholarship provides financial assistance to encourage students to become vocational nurses. The scholarship is a need-based program. Both public and private, non-profit colleges or universities with vocational nursing programs may participate in the program. No individual award may exceed the student's financial need. The maximum award is \$1,500. Over \$90,000 was appropriated for this scholarship for the 2010-2011 biennium.

### **Texas Career Opportunity Grant Program**

The purpose of the Texas Career Opportunity Grant Program is to help ensure a qualified workforce to meet the needs of this state by reducing the financial barriers to postsecondary career education and training for economically disadvantaged Texans. This program is administered by the Texas Workforce Commission.

**For a complete list of eligibility requirements and additional program information, visit <http://www.collegefortexans.com/>.**

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