

3. Essay: Impact of GEAR UP on my life

Please write and attach a 250 to 500 word *typed and double-spaced* essay describing your participation in GEAR UP and the impact your participation in GEAR UP activities has had on your educational ambitions and performance. Please consider the following questions: Before you started GEAR UP, what did you think you would do after you finished high school? What GEAR UP activities helped you and your family decide that you could – and should – continue your education? How did GEAR UP change the way you studied and worked in high school so that you would be prepared for a postsecondary education? What other experiences during high school influenced your decision to go to college?

4. My College Plan

We are interested in knowing how a GEAR UP scholarship will help you complete your college degree. Please provide an overview of your plans.

(Please print)

What is/are your planned major(s)?	
Are you/will you be attending full-time or part-time?	
Based on your program requirements, how long do you think it will take you to complete your postsecondary program?	

5. My Current GPA _____ (Attach most recent high school or official college transcript.)

Mail or deliver your completed application, along with the required documentation listed on the following page, in a sealed envelope to:

Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship Program
 Review and Selection Committee
 Chicago Teachers' Center
 770 N. Halsted – 4th Floor
 Chicago, IL 60622

DEADLINE: July 31, 2009

Chicago GEAR UP Alliance
GEAR UP Scholarship Program
Required Attachments

The following documents **must** be attached to complete this application. Use this page as your checklist to make sure everything is included. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Proof of attendance at a GEAR UP school

1. Select one of the following options and attach the document(s) listed for that option.

Option 1
____ If you attended one of the GEAR UP elementary schools listed in Appendix 1, attach one of the following:
a copy of your 8th grade diploma
OR
a copy of a report card from your 7th or 8th grade year
OR
CPS certification of elementary school attendance (available from the CPS Office of Former Student Records).

Option 2
____ If you attended one of the 5 GEAR UP high schools listed in the Appendix 1 during 2004-2006 attach one of the following:
a copy of a report card from 2004-2006
OR
a copy of your student ID from 2004-2006
OR
a copy of your high school diploma
OR
CPS certification of high school attendance (available from the CPS Office of Former Student Records).

Postsecondary attendance & eligibility:

2. ____ If you are entering college for the first time, attach a copy of your acceptance letter to your postsecondary institution.
3. ____ If you are a current college student, attach a copy of an official transcript from your postsecondary institution.

Financial need

GEAR UP Scholarships will be granted on the basis of financial need. If you have been awarded loans as part of your financial aid package, these will not be considered in determining your financial need. This improves your chances of receiving a scholarship.

4. ____ Please attach a copy of your financial aid award letter from your postsecondary institution showing the amount of financial aid you are receiving and expected cost of attendance.
5. ____ If you received other outside scholarships or grants (for example, a LULAC or Rotary Club scholarship), please attach a copy of the award letter.