

Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship Information for Applicants and Counselors

Eligible Applicants

1. The Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship Program supports students who attended GEAR UP schools during specific years. **The list of eligible schools and the years of attendance are listed in Appendix 1.** Students are eligible if they attended 7th and/or 8th grade in a GEAR UP school **or** attended one of the 5 GEAR UP high schools as listed in Appendix 1 between 2004 - 2006.
2. Applicant must be admitted as a student in a degree-granting institution, a proprietary institution of higher education as defined by the Higher Education Act of 1965, or in a trade or technical school in the United States.
3. Applicants may be high school or college students when they apply, or have earned their GED.
4. Applicants must be less than 22 years of age at the time they receive their first scholarship or award.
5. There is no minimum GPA required for first-time application, but students must maintain an average GPA of 2.5 to be considered for scholarship renewal.
6. Applicants who are eligible for a Pell grant will be given priority consideration for receipt of a Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship. If eligible, applicants must accept a federal Pell grant and/or Monetary Award Program grant from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.
7. Students who are not eligible for a Pell or Monetary Award Program grant may still receive a Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship.

Priority Consideration

Applicants who have been admitted to a Chicago GEAR UP Alliance partner institution will be given priority consideration for scholarships. Partner institutions are: Northeastern Illinois University, Roosevelt University, DePaul University, Loyola University – Chicago, The University of Chicago, Truman College – City Colleges of Chicago, and National-Louis University.

Amount of GEAR UP Scholarships

Scholarships (including renewals) for the 2009 – 2010 school year will range from \$0 to \$5,350. The specific amount will be determined exclusively on the basis of the student's financial need for that school year.

Eligibility for Renewal of Scholarships

1. Scholarships will generally be conferred for eight (8) semesters or the equivalent. Requests for an extension beyond eight semesters will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
2. Scholarship recipients are required to maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 point scale) or the equivalent to be considered for renewal scholarships.

Use of Scholarship Funds

1. The amount of the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarships will not exceed the maximum amount available through the Pell grant program.
2. The total amount of financial aid from all sources, including the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship shall not exceed the student's *total cost of attendance*.
3. Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship funds will be distributed to postsecondary institutions.
4. The Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship funds may be used to meet the remaining financial need after the (1) federal Pell Grant, (2) public and private grants, (3) scholarships and/or tuition discounts have been taken into consideration. Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarships may be used to cover all pertinent postsecondary educational costs.
5. If a student who applied as a full-time student is awarded a Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship then attends a postsecondary institution on a less than full-time basis during any academic year, the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship amount will be reduced proportionately.
6. Scholarship recipients who transfer from one postsecondary institution to another remain eligible for a renewal of their scholarships.
7. Students who take a leave from their postsecondary programs remain eligible for their scholarship as long as they are absent no longer than one academic year and meet all eligibility requirements when returning to their studies.

Application Process

1. Applicants must complete the GEAR UP Scholarship Application Form which may be obtained online at www.chicagogearup.org.
2. Scholarships will be available for the 2009 - 2010 academic year.
3. Application requirements are similar for both high school and college applicants. Please review the application carefully and make certain that all required attachments are included.
4. Questions may be directed to Jeanne Barnas at 312-853-3930.

Complete:

- a. Biographical information: name and contact information
- b. GEAR UP background: list of elementary and high schools attended and dates of attendance
- c. 250 – 500 word essay: Impact of GEAR UP on my life

Include:

- d. Required attachments
 - i. Proof of attendance at a GEAR UP school during eligible time period
 - ii. Postsecondary acceptance letter
 - iii. Documentation of financial need: All official documentation related to cost and aid from the postsecondary institution and private scholarships/grants is required.
5. **Completed applications must be submitted in a sealed envelope by July 31, 2009 to the following address.** Only complete applications with all the required attachments will be considered.

Chicago GEAR UP Alliance Scholarship Program**Review and Selection Committee**

Chicago Teachers' Center
 770 N. Halsted – 4th Floor
 Chicago, IL 60622

Role of the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance

1. Chicago GEAR UP Alliance will award Chicago GEAR UP Scholarships until all available funds are exhausted and will avoid conflicts of interest in doing so.
2. Chicago GEAR UP Alliance shall not make eligibility for a scholarship contingent on a student's selection of any particular postsecondary institution or program.
3. The Chicago GEAR UP Alliance will enlist the volunteer services of a 5 - 7 member Scholarship Selection Committee to identify appropriate candidates for GEAR UP scholarships. The Scholarship Selection Committee will be composed of financial aid and admissions professionals from the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance partner institutions. The Scholarship Selection Committee will evaluate applications using a scoring rubric that considers eligibility, need and completeness. Ties will be broken by applicants' cumulative GPA.