



## Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

### Montana Resident Undergraduate Student Financial Aid – 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship

#### 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship – Eligibility Criteria and Procedures

---

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes the Commissioner of Higher Education to offer 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarships annually. The 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarships will be awarded in accordance with Board of Regents Policy 940.8 – *Montana Resident Undergraduate Student Financial Aid*, and the following eligibility criteria and procedures.

- A. Qualifying students must graduate with an associate degree from one of the following schools:
- City College at Montana State University
  - Gallatin College Montana State University
  - Great Falls College Montana State University
  - Montana State University-Northern
  - Dawson Community College
  - Miles Community College
  - Helena College University of Montana
  - Highlands College of Montana Tech
  - Missoula College University of Montana
  - University of Montana Western
  - Flathead Valley Community College
- B. The scholarship is a waiver of undergraduate tuition at any 4-year unit of the Montana University System (MUS). The waiver only applies to the student's home campus (defined as the school at which the student matriculates until such time as the student formally transfers to another eligible campus). No fees, mandatory or miscellaneous, including additional fees for on-line classes, program fees or other charges, are waived by this policy per Board of Regents Policy 940.13 – Tuition Waivers and Discounts.
- C. The scholarship may be received for a total of four continuous (fall/spring) undergraduate semesters and is transferable between eligible campuses provided the student maintains a 3.4 Grade Point Average (GPA) at the home campus at the end of the academic year and demonstrates progress toward a degree by completing at least 30 credit hours per academic year. If the student is not able to obtain the credits or the GPA requirements due to circumstances beyond his or her control, the student may appeal to the financial aid office at his or her home campus. Summer tuition may be waived for an eligible student at the discretion of the home campus.
- D. A recipient must utilize the scholarship beginning with the next chronological semester after receiving his or her associate degree, excluding summer semester.
- E. To waive tuition or receive credit for classes taken on-line at MUS qualifying campuses other than the home campus, recipients must first contact and make appropriate arrangements with the home campus.
- F. Students lose eligibility by non-enrollment, obtaining lower than 3.4 GPA at the end of each academic year, not completing at least 30 credit hours by the end of the academic year, or by violating the campus student conduct code.
- G. This waiver may not be used in conjunction with any other MUS tuition waiver.

- H. The number of scholarships awarded to graduates from each of the schools listed in Section A above is determined at the end of the academic year and is based on the number of associate degree graduates from each respective school per the following table:
- |                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| • Less than 40 graduates  | No scholarships |
| • 40 to 139 graduates     | 1 Scholarship   |
| • 140 to 239 graduates    | 2 Scholarships  |
| • 240 to 339 graduates    | 3 Scholarships  |
| • 340 to 439 graduates    | 4 Scholarships  |
| • More than 440 graduates | 5 Scholarships  |
- I. A student is eligible to receive a 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship providing the student:
1. has earned an associate degree from one of the schools listed in Section A with a minimum of 3.4 cumulative GPA;
  2. has been enrolled and in attendance at one of the schools listed under Board Policy a minimum of two semesters prior to graduating;
  3. has been accepted by, or is enrolled at an eligible 4-year MUS campus;
  4. is a United States citizen; and
  5. is a Montana resident for fee purposes, as established by Board of Regents Policy 940.1 – Residency Policy.
- J. Eligible students must apply for the scholarship. An eligible student may only apply for a 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship from the school at which the student received his or her associate degree. Before the student can submit a 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship application, the student must first apply to and be accepted by one of the eligible 4-year campuses. A completed scholarship application, along with any required supplemental materials, must be submitted to the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE) by June 30 of the award year. Any student who does not submit the application and required supplemental materials by the deadline will not be eligible for the scholarship.
- K. Each school listed under Section A above shall provide a graduating class ranking list that includes each student's grade point average to OCHE no later than June 30 of the award year.
- L. OCHE will award scholarships based upon the applicant's cumulative GPA.
1. In the event of ties, the student(s) with the greatest financial need will be awarded the scholarship(s). Need is defined as the lowest Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This information will be based on the student's FAFSA the year the student graduates with his or her associate degree. If the student does not file a FAFSA, the student will be deemed to have no financial need. If there is still a tie, the tie will be broken by OCHE's evaluation of the applicants' responses to a standard essay question included with the application. In the event the student does not include a response to the essay question, the student will not be considered in this final step of the process.
  2. If the recipient of a 2 Plus 2 Honor Scholarship decides not to attend an eligible campus, the student must relinquish the scholarship at once. In such cases, the scholarship may be awarded to the next eligible student.