

# **SECU Foundation “People Helping People®” Scholarship**

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What scholarships are provided to North Carolina community colleges by the SECU Foundation, and how much is the scholarship worth?**

SECU Foundation gives two \$5,000 scholarships to students at each North Carolina community college. The 2-year community college scholarship is for \$5,000 payable at \$1,250 per semester, for up to four consecutive semesters. The student must be enrolled full-time at the same school for all four semesters.

### **Who is eligible for the community college scholarship?**

All applicants or full-time students who are high school graduates or have completed the General Education Development (GED) program, enrolled in an associate degree, diploma or certificate program and meet the eligibility criteria are eligible. The eligibility criteria are sent to community college presidents and financial aid officers.

### **Where do I get an application?**

Students must contact their community college Financial Aid Office to express interest in being considered for the scholarship. Recipients are selected by a Scholarship Selection Committee at each community college. No individual "applications" are reviewed by the Foundation.

### **What expenses are covered by the scholarship?**

Scholarships are to be used for tuition, books, fees, course supplies and transportation.

### **Who determines the scholarship recipients?**

The Scholarship Selection Committee at each community college makes the final decision regarding recipients.

### **When is the SECU Foundation’s submission deadline for recipient names from the community colleges?**

Deadlines may vary slightly at each community college, please contact the individual financial aid office of the community college for application deadlines. Blue Ridge Community College’s SECU application deadline is July 1, 2022.

### **How and when are the community college scholarship funds distributed?**

The financial aid office at each community college must verify each recipient’s continued full-time enrollment and request funds for each semester. Funds are distributed for spring and fall semesters, after the registration period has ended and verification of enrollment is received from each community college. Checks are forwarded to the financial aid office at each community college to be distributed to student accounts for eligible expenses.

### **What happens if the student changes schools?**

Scholarships are non-transferable without prior written approval of the SECU Foundation.

1. A written appeal for transfer must be made to SECU Foundation prior to transfer. Appeals may be emailed to [secufoundation@ncsecu.org](mailto:secufoundation@ncsecu.org). Please note, no transfers will be allowed to a community college outside of the 58 NC Community Colleges System.
2. After the request has been reviewed, the student will be notified in writing regarding the decision made by SECU Foundation. If accepted, confirmation of scholarship funding will also be sent to the community college. Please note, SECU Foundation must receive proof of full-time status at the new community college before any funds will be disbursed to the school.

### **If a student leaves their community college for a semester, becomes part time, or falls below the minimum 2.5 GPA, what happens to the funds for that semester?**

No lapse in proper registration, or break in consecutive semesters, will be allowed. Should a student be unable to attend for any reason or their GPA falls below a 2.5, scholarship funding for that semester would be forfeited and it would be the responsibility of the student to contact SECU Foundation directly to advise of their return to full-time status or updated academic standing. The scholarship does not extend beyond the four consecutive semesters.

### **How does SECU Foundation define “full-time” status for community college students?**

SECU Foundation relies on the community college to define and determine full-time status. Each semester the financial aid office at the 58 community colleges reports to SECU Foundation the enrollment status for each of our scholarship recipients. Students should check with the financial aid office at their community college if they have questions regarding enrollment status.

### **Who should applicants contact if they have any questions about the community college scholarship process?**

Students should contact their financial aid office at their local community college if they have any questions about the scholarship.

### **Define “public sector” employees.**

Public sector includes state and local government employees. Preference is to be given to students whose parents or guardians, and family members, are public sector employees who live and work in North Carolina.