

Eligibility Guidelines and Student Application

The Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges will provide grants of up to \$2,250 annually for curriculum students and up to \$1850 annually for workforce continuing education students. The scholarships help cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies, credentialing tests, transportation, childcare and other components of the total cost of attendance for 2020-2021 fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Student Eligibility Requirements

- Eligible students must (1) be a North Carolina resident, (2) demonstrate financial need and (3) reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (please see Qualifying Counties 2021-2022 list below). A scholarship recipient who resides in an eligible county upon initial award will retain eligibility and will be eligible for renewal awards as long as the student's place of residence is within the state of North Carolina.
- Eligible students may receive an award each year. Financial aid offices will determine their application procedures for receiving awards for subsequent terms. Selected students will be required to disclose all financial aid awards as dictated by college financial aid offices for award packaging. Golden LEAF Scholarships will not displace federal grants, e.g., Pell grants, for which the student may be eligible (may displace loan funds).

Curriculum Student Selection Criteria

Eligible students must:

- (1) Be enrolled at least full-time for fall and spring; Summer school students must be enrolled at least 6 credit hours. Grants for less-than-full-time students will be prorated based on hours of enrollment and pending availability of funds
- (2) Demonstrate financial need as determined by the FAFSA.
- (3) Be a resident of North Carolina
- (4) Reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (Please check with your financial aid office for Eligible Counties 2021-2022).

Workforce Continuing Education Student Eligibility

Eligible students must:

- (1) Resident of North Carolina
- (2) Students enrolling in Workforce Continuing Education (WCE) pathways/courses offered for 96 hours or more and leading to a State or industry-recognized credential. Eligible course codes are included on the attached Combined Course Library list. These pathways may consist of a single WCE course or a series of courses.
- (3) Eligibility criteria for students include:
 - is unemployed.
 - has received notification of a pending layoff.
 - is working and is eligible for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (FEITC); or
 - is working and earning wages at or below two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty guidelines.
- (4) Reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (Please check with your financial aid office for Qualifying Counties 2021-2022).

***Should a student become ineligible to use any semester's scholarship award, those funds will be awarded to other qualified students within the same institution.

Other WCE Student Selection Considerations

Applicants will be selected based on financial need and county of residence. Other selection factors may include:

- The effect of the declining economy on his or her family.
 - Owner of or employed in farming/agriculture business
 - Owner of or employed in traditional industries (such as textile or furniture manufacturing)
 - Household member lost their job or has gone from full-time to part-time employment
- Academic performance
- Campus activities and community service

Scholarship Awarding Format Sample:

Colleges may select students to receive up to \$2,250 in awards annually. For example, if a student receives \$2,250, funds will be awarded up to \$1,000 for the fall, \$1,000 for the spring and \$250 in the summer. The scholarship may be renewed for one year, if the student meets eligibility criteria. If the student fails to enroll, those remaining funds may be awarded to another student. Grants for less-than-full-time students may be prorated based on hours of enrollment and pending availability of funds. For example, if a student is awarded \$2,250 for the fall and spring, but enrolls for only halftime for the spring semester, the award will be prorated for the spring to \$500. The remaining \$500 may be awarded to another student.

Application Process

- The System Office will promote and market the scholarship among the local community colleges to help the students understand and recognize the mission of Golden LEAF. A marketing and publicity plan approved by the Foundation will include the scholarship notification letter sent to each scholar.
- Students will complete the Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-year Colleges application for the targeted academic year. Applications will be filed with the college financial aid offices or Workforce Continuing Education departments.
- Timing for the selection process is determined by the award policies and procedures of each college. Financial aid offices will work with Workforce Continuing Education departments to determine the awards periods for those students.
- Applicants bear full responsibility for completing the Golden LEAF application prior to each deadline.
- Financial aid offices will disburse awards and collect media releases forms regarding the scholarship recipients.
- Financial aid offices will provide a list of selected recipients including name, amount, address, counties, email, and use of funds to NCCCS.

This program is funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation.

**North Carolina Community Colleges
Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges
2021-2022 Student Application**

Instructions: Complete this application and return the completed application to the college's Financial Aid Office. Eligible students must reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (Please see your school's financial aid office for a list of 2020-2021 Qualifying Counties).

Personal Information:

Full Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

NC County of Residence: _____

Length of residence in county: _____ less than 5 years _____ 5 – 10 years _____ more than 10 years
(To be eligible for this scholarship, your permanent residence must be in an approved NC county.)

Educational Information:

College you are attending: _____

_____ Occupational Continuing Education Student (must be enrolled in a credentialing program of at least 96 hours.)

Program you are enrolled in: _____

_____ Curriculum Student: _____ GPA _____ 1st semester _____ not enrolled

Program you are enrolled in: _____

Other Information:

Have members of your immediate family worked for or owned a farming or agricultural related business now or in the past? _____ yes _____ no

Have you or members of your immediate family been employed in traditional industries such as furniture, textiles, or tobacco manufacturing? _____ yes _____ no

Has anyone in your household lost their job in the past two years? _____ yes _____ no

Has anyone in your household transitioned from a full-time job to a part-time job? _____ yes _____ no

Please list all campus and community service activities you are currently involved in, if any. _____

Applicant Certification: I have read and understand the requirements for the Golden LEAF Scholarship program. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature

Date

Please return the completed application to the college's Financial Aid Office.