



Scholarship Program Policy

The Denver Scholarship Foundation (DSF) inspires and empowers Denver Public School (DPS) students to achieve their postsecondary goals by providing the tools, knowledge and financial resources essential for success. In addition to providing expert assistance for postsecondary education planning through the Future Centers located in Denver Public High Schools, DSF also offers need-based scholarships for qualified DPS graduates who enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution.

To be considered for a DSF Scholarship, students must meet all criteria:

1. Meet the following DPS enrollment and academic requirements
 - a. **2009 Graduates:** DPS Graduates must be enrolled and included in the State Census (October 1 Count) at a participating DPS school for at least one **(1)** year immediately preceding graduation.
 - b. **2010 Graduates:** DPS Graduates must be enrolled and included in the State Census (October 1 Count) at a participating DPS school for at least two **(2)** consecutive years immediately preceding graduation and must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least **2.0** upon graduation.
 - c. **2011 Graduates:** DPS Graduates must be enrolled and included in the State Census (October 1 Count) at a participating DPS school for at least three **(3)** consecutive years immediately preceding graduation, and must have a cumulative GPA of at least **2.0** upon graduation.
 - d. **2012 Graduates and graduates thereafter:** DPS Graduates must be enrolled and included in the State Census (October 1 Count) at a participating DPS school for at least four **(4)** consecutive years immediately preceding graduation, or for their entire high school education, if less than four years (for accelerated students who graduate early) and must have a cumulative GPA of at least **2.0** upon graduation.
 - e. If students are enrolled in a DPS High School, but do not meet the enrollment requirements detailed above, the students may file an appeal to request an exemption for the enrollment requirement. Appeals for enrollment requirement exemption will ONLY be considered if a student's family made a permanent change in residence making it necessary for the student to change school districts during the student's high school career or if a student is recommended by the DPS Office of Postsecondary Readiness for a re-engaged student exemption. Verification will be required.
2. Graduate from a participating DPS High School in 2007 or later.
3. Be eligible to receive federal student financial aid (students must be US citizens, permanent residents or other eligible noncitizens, as detailed in the Student Eligibility volume of the Federal Student Aid Handbook, available in the Publications section of www.ifap.ed.gov).

To receive a DSF scholarship award, students must:

1. Meet ALL Deadlines – NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS
 - a. **April 1** – Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online at www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - i. **New Applicants** must also submit a copy of one of the following to DSF by April 1 as verification: FAFSA Submission Confirmation Page, a complete Student Aid Report, or the Check Status of Submitted FAFSA Page.
 - ii. **Renewal Applicants'** colleges will be asked to provide FAFSA verification. However, if verification is not available from the college, Renewal Applicants will be notified by May 7 and will be required to provide a copy of one of the following to DSF by May 21: FAFSA Submission Confirmation Page, a complete Student Aid Report, or the Check Status of Submitted FAFSA Page.
 - b. **April 1** – Complete and submit the DSF Scholarship application online at www.denverscholarship.org
 - c. **May 1** – *NEW APPLICANTS MUST* submit a College Choice Form online at www.denverscholarship.org.
 - d. All appeals related to the application process must be received by **June 30**.
 - e. **July 15** (for fall term) – *NEW and RENEWAL APPLICANTS MUST **notify DSF of changes to their enrollment plans*** by submitting an updated College Choice Form to DSF. Complete the form online at www.denverscholarship.org. The DSF Scholarship WILL NOT BE PAID for the fall term unless we receive an updated College Choice Form by July 15.
 - f. **July 15** (for fall term) – *NEW and RENEWAL APPLICANTS MUST **complete all financial aid requirements*** as defined by the financial aid office at the college they plan to attend. The DSF scholarship WILL NOT BE PAID for the fall term unless all financial aid requirements are met by July 15.
 - g. **July 15** (for fall term) – *NEW and RENEWAL APPLICANTS MUST **enroll at least half-time at a participating, DSF-eligible college*** to ensure earliest possible scholarship payment. Scholarship payments may be delayed for students who enroll after July 15.
 - h. **November 1** (for winter/spring term) – *NEW and RENEWAL APPLICANTS MUST **notify DSF of changes to their enrollment plans*** for the spring/winter terms by submitting an updated College Choice Form to DSF. Complete the form online at www.denverscholarship.org. The DSF scholarship WILL NOT BE PAID for the winter/spring term unless we receive a College Choice Form by November 1.
 - i. **November 1** (for winter/spring term) – *NEW and RENEWAL APPLICANTS MUST **complete all financial aid requirements*** as defined by the financial aid office at the college they plan to attend. The DSF Scholarship WILL NOT BE PAID for the winter/spring term unless all financial aid requirements are met by November 1.
 - j. **November 1** (for winter/spring term) – *NEW and RENEWAL APPLICANTS MUST **enroll at least half-time at a participating, DSF-eligible college*** to ensure earliest possible scholarship payment. Scholarship payments may be delayed for students who enroll for the winter or spring term after November 1.

All documents that are mailed to DSF must be postmarked by the deadline.

All documents that are faxed or emailed to DSF must be received by 11:59 pm the day of the deadline.

All mailings, fax coversheets, or email messages should be sent to the attention of Scholarship Processing and MUST include the student's:

- Full name
 - Student ID number
 - Phone number
 - Email address
2. Apply for Additional Scholarships – NEW APPLICANTS must apply for a minimum of three (3) private or institutional scholarships in addition to the DSF Scholarship. Visit a DSF Future Center or www.denverscholarship.org/scholarshipdirectory to learn about other scholarship opportunities. Please note: the FAFSA is not a scholarship application and the College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipend is not a scholarship.
 3. Time Limit to Begin Postsecondary Coursework – Apply to DSF and begin college courses within one (1) year of high school graduation.
 4. Demonstrate Financial Need – Upon completion of all financial aid requirements, students must have an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) less than or equal to twice the value of the maximum EFC for Pell grant qualification, also known as the Pell Limit. In other words, a student's EFC must be between 0 and two times the Pell Limit, a federally determined number, to qualify for a need-based scholarship from DSF.

Scholarship Award Information:

1. DSF scholarship amounts are determined by students' EFC, as determined by the FAFSA, and the college the student attends. The scholarship amounts detailed in the following table are annual flat rates for students who enroll full time for the entire academic year (August – May or September – June). *DSF Scholarship award amounts may change annually.*

DSF Scholarship Award Amounts for the 2009-2010 Academic Year			
Type of Postsecondary Institution	EFC 0 → Pell Limit	EFC Pell Limit → 2x Pell Limit	EFC Above 2x Pell Limit
Technical College	\$1,650	\$2,050	Students with an EFC of more than twice the Pell Limit do not qualify for a DSF Scholarship.
Community College	\$2,050	\$2,500	
State College	\$2,900	\$3,300	
State University	\$4,150	\$5,000	
Private	\$4,150	\$5,000	

*The Pell Limit refers to the maximum EFC that qualifies for the federal need-based Pell grant. The federal government may change the Pell Limit annually. For the 2009-2010 academic year the Pell Limit is 4,617.

- Class of 2007 graduates from Abraham Lincoln, Montbello and South High Schools who participated in DSF's pilot program and received a DSF Scholarship during the 2007-08 and/or 2008-09 academic years will receive DSF Scholarship award amounts for their remaining years of eligibility based on the award chart below

DSF Scholarship Award Amounts for DSF Pilot Scholars			
Type of Postsecondary Institution	EFC 0 → Pell Limit	EFC Pell Limit → 2x Pell Limit	EFC Above 2x Pell Limit
Technical College	\$2,000	\$2,500	Students with an EFC of more than twice the Pell Limit do not qualify for a DSF Scholarship.
Community College	\$2,500	\$3,000	
State College	\$3,500	\$4,000	
State University	\$5,000	\$6,000	
Private	\$5,000	\$6,000	

*The Pell Limit refers to the maximum EFC that qualifies for the federal need-based Pell grant. The federal government may change the Pell Limit annually. For the 2009-2010 academic year the Pell Limit is 4,617.

- DSF Scholarship payments will be made directly to a student's college. Scholarship payments will be prorated and paid on a per-term basis upon verification of enrollment, completion of all financial aid requirements, satisfaction of GPA and Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements and verification that the student is not in default on a federal student loan and does not owe repayment on a government grant. The annual scholarship amount will be divided into equal portions for each term during the academic year (two equal portions for semesters, three equal portions for quarters, etc.).
- To maintain ongoing scholarship eligibility, students must earn a **cumulative 2.0 GPA** and must meet the requirements to **maintain SAP** as defined by the college they attend. If an enrolled student does not meet the SAP and/or GPA requirements, students are given a one term grace period and placed on DSF probation. Students may still receive a scholarship award if they are on DSF probation and meet all other requirements. If an enrolled student fails to meet the academic requirements for two or more consecutive terms, the student will be placed on DSF suspension. Students must meet all requirements BEFORE a suspended DSF scholarship will be reinstated.
- DSF Scholarships cannot be used for summer enrollment.
- DSF Scholarships will be prorated based on enrollment level. If students enroll less than full time or if they do not enroll in each term during the academic year, they will receive less than the annual maximum scholarship amount.
 - Full time:** Students enrolled in twelve (12) or more credit hours will receive the full scholarship award amount for the term.
 - Part time:** Students enrolled in nine (9) – eleven (11) credit hours will receive three-fourths of the full-time scholarship award amount for the term.
 - Half time:** Students enrolled in six (6) – eight (8) credit hours will receive one half of the full-time scholarship award amount for the term.
- Unused portions of the maximum scholarship amount cannot be rolled-over or transferred to any other academic term or year.

8. Students are eligible for scholarship consideration for up to five (5) consecutive years following their high school graduation, and must apply to DSF and begin their college course work within one (1) year following high school graduation. The length of the eligibility period depends on the type of college in which students are enrolled.
- a. **Technical College:** Students enrolled in technical college are eligible for scholarship consideration for up to two (2) consecutive years (four (4) semesters or the equivalent), or until they complete the academic requirements for a certificate or diploma, whichever comes first.
 - b. **Community College:** Students enrolled in community college or junior college are eligible for scholarship consideration for up to three (3) consecutive years (six (6) semesters or the equivalent), or until they earn 70 semester credits (or the equivalent) or are awarded an associate's degree, whichever comes first.
 - c. **College/University:** Students enrolled in a public or private college or university are eligible for scholarship consideration for up to five (5) consecutive years (ten (10) semesters or the equivalent), or until they earn 145 semester credits (or the equivalent) or are awarded a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first.
 - d. **Transfer:** When students transfer schools, each year of eligibility that has already been used will count against the remaining years of eligibility for the new school.
 - i. Example 1: A student enrolled at a technical college for one year, who then transfers to a community college, would have two years of remaining eligibility.
 - ii. Example 2: A student enrolled at a community college for two years, who then transfers to a university, would have three years of eligibility remaining.
 - iii. Example 3: A student who studies for one year at a technical college, who then transfers to a community college for two years, and then transfers to a university, would have two years of eligibility remaining.
 - e. **Stop-Out/Not Enrolling:** Students may choose not to enroll (stop-out) for an academic term or more while retaining DSF Scholarship eligibility (as long as they meet all other renewal requirements). However, the time taken off from their college studies will be deducted from their remaining eligibility. For example, a student who begins studying at a state university during the Fall of 2008, who then takes the Spring 2009 and Fall 2009 semesters off, and re-enrolls in Spring 2010 will have three years of eligibility remaining upon completion of the Spring 2010 semester.
 - i. Stop-Out Form: Students planning not to enroll (stop-out) for an entire academic year may retain eligibility to renew their scholarship in future years by submitting a Stop-Out Form by April 1 instead of completing the entire renewal application process.
 1. Students who submit a Stop-Out form and do not complete a renewal application will forfeit the scholarship opportunity for the ensuing academic year, but may apply for the scholarship in future years, so long as they have remaining eligibility as described in 8a. – 8c., above. Students may stop-out for up to two consecutive academic years and maintain eligibility for future years.
 2. Scholarship eligibility for students who stop-out for more than two academic years is subject to approval through the DSF appeals process.
 3. Students who are unsure whether they will enroll during an upcoming academic year should complete a renewal application rather than the Stop-Out Form. Students who submit the Stop-Out Form will not be eligible for DSF Scholarship assistance for the entire academic year.
9. When transferring, changing enrollment level, stopping-out, or re-enrolling following a stop-out, students must notify DSF of changes in their enrollment plans by submitting an updated

College Choice Form online at www.denverscholarship.org. DSF must receive an updated College Choice Form by July 15 for the fall term and November 1 for the winter/spring term.

10. Colleges will return DSF dollars to DSF according to their institutional refund policy should a student withdraw.
11. DSF has appointed a “campus advisor” for each eligible Colorado college. The purpose of campus advisors is to ensure that DSF scholarship candidates are aware of resident retention programs and services. *All new applicants must* contact their designated campus advisor within 30 days of their first day of classes for the academic year to maintain their eligibility for DSF Scholarships. *All renewal students must* contact their designated campus advisor within 60 days of their first day of classes for the academic year. Visit www.denverscholarship.org/campusadvisors for a complete list of campus advisors and deadline dates.

To renew a DSF scholarship, students must:

1. Reapply for the DSF Scholarship and renew their FAFSA annually in accordance with DSF’s Application Deadlines.
2. Maintain at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA.
3. Meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy for financial aid at the college in which they are enrolled, as defined by the institution.
4. Enroll at least half-time at a participating, DSF-eligible college.
5. Meet with the designated campus advisor at their college within 60 days of their first day of classes for the academic year to maintain their eligibility for a DSF Scholarship.
6. Continue to meet criteria for initial award *EXCEPT* renewal applicants are *NOT* required to apply for three additional scholarships. Additionally, renewal students who submit a Stop-Out Form for an entire ensuing academic year are not required to meet initial award criteria for the period of withdrawal (see “Scholarship Award Information 8e. Stop-Out/Not Enrolling”).

Re-applying for a DSF Scholarship after loss:

Students who do not renew the DSF Scholarship according to this policy will forfeit their candidacy for the DSF Scholarship for the ensuing academic year. However, if after losing the DSF Scholarship opportunity for a year, former candidates and scholars have remaining years of eligibility (see #8 above), they may re-apply as renewal applicants if: (1) they have received DSF approval to stop-out; or (2) DSF has evidence that they attempted to apply for the DSF scholarship during the previous year.

Additional DSF scholarship requirements to enhance college success:

With proper notification (i.e. accompanying the notification of DSF Scholarship candidacy), DSF reserves the right to require a scholarship candidate to fulfill additional scholarship requirements at the recommendation of the relevant partner college. The purpose of such additional requirements must align with the goal of increasing chances of persisting and completing their college programs.