

Postsecondary Education is Affordable

South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship

Earn a reward (up to \$5,000) for taking the right courses!

- \$ Resident of South Dakota at time of high school graduation.
- \$ ACT composite score of 24 or higher or an equivalent score as determined by the Board of Regents on the SAT.
- \$ Complete course requirements listed below with no final grade below a C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and an un-weighted cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (grade of B).

Students Entering High School Prior to July 2010

- 4 units of English
- 3 units of social studies
- 4 units of algebra or higher mathematics
- 4 units of science, including 3 units of approved laboratory science
- 1 unit of fine arts
- ½ unit of computer science
- ½ unit of personal finance or economics
- ½ unit of physical education or health
- 2 units of same modern or classical language

Students Entering High School After July 2010

- 4 units of English
- 3 units of social studies
- 4 units of algebra or higher mathematics
- 4 units of science, including 3 units of approved laboratory science
- 1 unit of fine arts
- ½ unit of personal finance or economics
- ½ unit of physical education
- ½ unit of health or health integration (students entering high school after July 2013)
- 2 units of either of the following or a combination of the two
 - o Approved career and technical education courses
 - o Modern or classical language



- \$ Attend a university, college, or technical school accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) and that provides instruction from a campus located in South Dakota.
- \$ Enter into a program within 5 years of high school graduation. Beginning with the Fall 2013 term, students can also establish initial eligibility in the program by obtaining a composite ACT score of 28 (1250 on the SAT) and meeting college readiness benchmarks in the areas of English (18), Reading (21), Mathematics (22), and Science (24). This applies to students completing alternative instruction and high school graduates who have not met one of the above curriculum requirements.
- \$ Eligible recipients may participate in the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship program for the equivalent of four academic years (eight consecutive fall and spring terms), or until attaining a baccalaureate degree, whichever comes first. Students completing a technical or associate degree program are eligible for continued funding.

American Opportunity Tax Credit

Another opportunity to make postsecondary education affordable, the American Opportunity Tax Credit replaces what we have known as the HOPE Credit in 2009 and 2010. With the replacement come many improvements:

- The tax credit has increased to \$2,500 a year to cover higher education expenses.
- The cost of books and other course materials may be added to tuition and fees to determine your eligible expenses.
- The American Opportunity Tax Credit is valid for the first four years of college, while the HOPE was only valid for two years. This means a potential difference of over \$6,000 more returned to you.
- The income limits for eligibility are now much higher.

306 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 200
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2545

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Don't pass on these opportunities!

**Important information for students and
parents about preparing and paying for
postsecondary education**

