



South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship

Background & History of Scholarship

The South Dakota Legislature authorized the Regents Scholarship Program in 2003 to allow South Dakota's most academically accomplished high school graduates to receive an affordable education at any university, college, or technical school in South Dakota that is accredited by the North Central Association (NCA).

In 2004, the Legislature renamed the scholarship the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship and authorized funding from the state of South Dakota's Education Enhancement Trust Fund, beginning with high school graduating classes in 2004.

Scholarship Amounts

The South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship provides \$5,000 over four years to a qualifying student who attends an eligible higher education institution in South Dakota:

\$1,000 – 1st year of attendance
\$1,000 – 2nd year of attendance
\$1,000 – 3rd year of attendance
\$2,000 – 4th year of attendance

One-half of the annual scholarship award will be distributed at the beginning of the fall semester and the other half distributed at the beginning of the spring semester.

NOTE: If the number of eligible recipients exceeds the amount of money appropriated for the scholarship by the South Dakota Legislature, the scholarship may be prorated and distributed to each recipient proportionately.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a resident of South Dakota at time of high school graduation.
- Have an ACT composite score of 24 or higher. If using a SAT score, the sum of the verbal and mathematics scores on the SAT must be at least 1070.
- Complete high school course requirements commonly known as the **Regents Scholar curriculum** with no final grade below a C (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (grade of B). The Regents Scholar curriculum is as follows:

4 units of English (courses with major emphasis upon grammar, composition, or literary analysis; one year of debate instruction may be included to meet this requirement).

3 units of social studies (such as history, economics, sociology, geography, U.S. or South Dakota government, American problems, and similar courses).

4 units of algebra or higher mathematics (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or other advanced mathematics, as well as accelerated or honors mathematics [algebra] at the 8th grade, shall be accepted). NOT INCLUDED are arithmetic, business, consumer, or general mathematics or other similar courses.

4 units of science, including 3 units of approved laboratory science (courses in biology, chemistry, or physics in which at least one regular laboratory period is scheduled each week). Qualifying physical science or earth science courses (with lab) shall be decided on a case-by-case basis.

½ unit of computer science (students will have basic keyboarding skills and have had experience in using computer word processing, database, and spreadsheet packages and in using the Internet or other wide area networks).

1 unit of fine arts (in art, theatre, or music. Such credit may be in appreciation, analysis, or performance).

2 units of the same modern or classical language (includes American Sign Language).

Note: 1 unit of high school credit equals 1 year of instruction.

- Attend a university, college, or technical school accredited by the North Central Association (NCA) and that provides instruction from a campus located in South Dakota.
- Enter into program within 5 years of high school graduation, or within 1 year of the student's release from active duty military service (if that release is within 5 years of the date of the student's high school graduation). **Eligibility is lost if the student attends full time (12 or more credit hours per term on a semester basis) an institution of higher education located outside South Dakota.**
- May participate in South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Program for the equivalent of four academic years (eight consecutive fall and spring terms), or until attaining a baccalaureate, associate, or technical degree, whichever comes first.

Continuing Eligibility Requirements for Scholarship Recipients

- Maintain a cumulative 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, calculated after the second semester and every semester thereafter.
- Complete consecutive spring and fall academic terms in order to remain eligible for continuation of scholarship from term to term. The scholarship does not apply to summer terms.
- Complete a minimum of 15 credit hours of instruction per term. (Remedial courses and repeated courses do NOT count toward the 15-hour requirement).
- Sit for and meet, on the first attempt, the minimum passing scores established by the Board of Regents on all sections of the BOR college proficiency examination. The proficiency examination is required in the Fall or Spring term after which the baccalaureate degree-seeking student has completed 48 credit hours.

Application Procedure

- ✓ Complete the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Application Form.
- ✓ Attach official high school transcript.
- ✓ If the student's official high school transcript does not show the ACT composite score or the sum of the SAT verbal and mathematics score, attach a copy of student's ACT or SAT Score Report.
- ✓ Turn in the application form to the university, college, or technical school admissions office. **It is recommended that the initial scholarship application and transcript be submitted by June 1, so that the financial aid office can begin to work with eligible students to package a scholarship award.**
- ✓ **The final due date for submission of the application form is September 1.**

For more information, contact:
South Dakota Board of Regents
South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Program
306 E. Capitol Ave., Suite 200
Pierre, SD 57501-2545
(605) 773-3455
E-mail: info@sdbor.edu
Web site: www.sdbor.edu

South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship Application Form

WARNING: Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or misrepresentation on this form shall be subject to prosecution to the fullest extent of the law.

1. Name of University, College, or Technical School to which you must send the completed application:

2. Student Name _____

3. Social Security Number* _____

4. Home Address _____
Mailing Address City State ZIP

5. Home Telephone _____

6. Name/Address of High School _____
Name of High School

_____ Mailing Address City State ZIP

7. Cumulative high school grade point average: _____ (A GPA of at least 3.0, or grade of B, is required.)
Attach copy of official High School Transcript to this form.

8. ACT composite or SAT verbal/math score: _____ (An ACT composite of 24 is required, or the sum of the verbal and mathematics scores on the SAT must be at least 1070.)
School officials must certify score by placing it on the student's official transcript or attaching a copy of the student's ACT or SAT Score Report to this form.

I authorize officials of the higher education institution at which I enroll access to any of my school records for purposes of verifying the validity of my application information. I authorize release of this information to the Executive Director of the South Dakota Board of Regents or his designee for purposes of awarding scholarship funds and auditing. I authorize officials of the South Dakota Board of Regents and the higher education institution at which I enroll to release directory information (name and hometown) from the application materials to the news media should I be awarded the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship. I hereby assign to the institution named above the right to receive all scholarship monies payable to me, provided that they be applied solely to defray tuition or fee charges levied against me.

Signature of Applicant Date

I hereby state the above information is true and has been verified. I certify that the above named student has met the Regents Scholar curriculum and academic requirements and is eligible for the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship.

Authorized Representative of Student's High School Date

Submit this application form as soon as possible, but no later than September 1, to the admissions office of the university, college, or technical school the applicant plans to attend.

*Disclosure of your SSN is voluntary, and if you decline to provide it to us, it will not affect your eligibility. The SSN will be used solely to keep accurate records, particularly in the event that you wish to transfer your scholarship from one participating institution to another, and to evaluate the program. The SSN is confidential information and will not be released to third parties without your consent.