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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A significant number of scholarship opportunities exist for South Dakota high school graduates who are interested in pursuing their postsecondary career in the state. The South Dakota Board of Regents manages four state scholarship programs (Opportunity, Dakota Corps, Jump Start, and Needs Based), and three endowed scholarships (Bjugstad, Haines, and Fowler/Kaden). Each of the six Regental institutions also has a unique set of scholarship opportunities that are designed to encourage graduates to attend a public institution immediately after high school graduation. Below you will find general information pertaining to each of these opportunities, with more detailed information available on the Board of Regents' website at www.sdbor.edu/student-information/Pages/Scholarships.aspx or by contacting us directly at: info@sdbor.edu



Through the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship (Deadline September 1 for the fall semester) students can receive up to \$6,500 over the course of their postsecondary career if they meet each of the following initial eligibility requirements:

- 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 required coursework in areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Fine Arts, and other areas depending on graduation date. Students are encouraged to review additional information specific to the coursework requirements at www.sdbor.edu/opportunityscholarship/sdos.htm.
- Complete course requirements listed above 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").
- Effective for those students entering into postsecondary education for the first time on or after July 1, 2013, the curriculum requirements specified in subdivision (5) are not required for any student who has received a composite score on the ACT of at least 28 and meets the ACT college readiness benchmarks scores equaling or exceeding 18 for English, 22 for Reading, 22 for Math, and 23 for Science



The Dakota Corps Scholarship (Deadline February 1) for high school and college students in South Dakota provides full tuition and generally-applicable fees to selected qualified applicants in critical need occupations that for the 2017-2018 academic year included:

- Teaching K-12 foreign language in a public, private or parochial school. (*Reinstated May 2015*)
- Teaching K-12 special education in a public, private, or parochial school.
- Teaching high school math or science in a public, private, or parochial school.
- Teaching high school career and technical education in a public, private, or parochial school.
- Working as a Registered Nurse.
- Working as an Accountant/Auditor
- Working as an Engineer (includes all fields *EXCEPT* mining)
- Working in Information Technology

The critical need occupations for 2017-2018 will be available by December 1, 2016 on the Dakota Corps Scholarship website at <http://www.sdbor.edu/dakotacorps/welcome.htm>.



As a result of the student's early graduation, if the student enrolls at any accredited postsecondary institution in South Dakota the student will be eligible for just over \$1,800 for the first year of college (Deadline September 1, 2016). To be eligible for the Jump Start Scholarship program, a student shall:

- Be a resident of South Dakota;
- Complete the requirements of the recommended high school program as established by the Board of Education pursuant to § 13-1-12.1, and be awarded a high school diploma by a public high school in three years or less;
- Have attended a public high school in South Dakota on a full-time basis for at least two semesters prior to graduating; and
- Within one year of graduating from high school, enroll in a participating postsecondary institution located in South Dakota.

Need Based Scholarship Program

The South Dakota Needs Based Grant Program (SDNBGP) was established with the passage of **Senate Bill 237**; whereby interest earned from a one-time investment of \$1.5 million in state monies will be used to fund the grant program.

No specific application form is required to receive funds; however to be eligible students will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA), and then work with Financial Aid Directors at the participating institutions who will use their information to determine those students on their campus that have the highest amount of unmet need after determining other grants/scholarship, tuition reductions, and expected family contributions. The scholarship program allows campus administrators to make awards of \$500 to \$2,000 to help lower the educational costs for students. Dollars will be allocated to each institution based on the percentage of Pell eligible students enrolled at that institution. In the future, the interest that is earned from the one-time investment of \$1.5 million will be used to fund the program. It is estimated that the interest from this fund will provide \$55,000 worth of scholarship funding each year, and when matched by participating institutions, it shall provide for approximately \$220,000 worth of need based funding.



The Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship (Deadline April 15) established under **Senate Bill 233** is for students attending a participating South Dakota postsecondary institution as an undergraduate enrolled in their final two years of postsecondary education who are fully admitted into an elementary or secondary education program that is preparing them to work in a critical need teaching area. The amount of the scholarship is determined by calculating the student's remaining financial need (which may not exceed the tuition and generally applicable fees for 30 credit hours at a public South Dakota postsecondary institution). The critical teaching needs areas for the 2017-2018 academic year included:

- Teaching K-12 special education in a public, private, or parochial school.
- Teaching high school math or science in a public, private, or parochial school.
- Teaching high school career and technical education in a public, private, or parochial school.
- Teaching secondary Language Arts
- Teaching secondary World Language

The critical teaching need occupations for 2017-2018 will be available by December 1, 2016 on the SDBOR scholarship webpage at <http://www.sdbor.edu/students/scholarships.htm>.

Endowed Scholarships (Deadline: February 26, 2017)

Ardell Bjustad Scholarship. This program is designed for freshman Native American students who are pursuing studies in agribusiness, agricultural production, agricultural sciences, or a natural resources degree at any postsecondary institution.

Annis Irene Fowler/Kaden Scholarship. This scholarship program provides funding to two first-time entering freshman at BHSU, DSU, NSU or USD and who will select elementary education as their major field. Special consideration is given to students with demonstrated motivational ability, a disability, or who are self-supporting.

Marlin R. Scarborough Memorial Scholarship. The Marlin R. Scarborough Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a student who is classified as a junior at a public university at the time funding is received. Each South Dakota public university nominates one student for the scholarship.

Regental Institution Merit Based Scholarship Programs



The **Buzz Bonus Scholarship** is awarded upon admission to incoming freshmen who are 1) in the top 1/3 of their graduating class; and 2) have a minimum composite ACT of 21. Scholarship amounts vary depending on the students ACT score with annual awards of \$500 (21-24), \$750 (25-26), and \$1,000 (27 or higher) and are renewable for three years if the student maintains a 3.0 cumulative GPA and takes 30 credit hours per academic year. Homeschooled students, in lieu of class rank, must attain a 3.0 GPA along with a minimum ACT composite score of 21.



The **Dakota State University Champion Scholarships** are renewable up to four years if student maintains a cumulative DSU GPA of 3.0 or greater and is continuously enrolled with a minimum of 12 DSU credits per semester (fall/spring). Three scholarship exist including the Presidential Champion (\$2,150 per year for those with a 28-26 ACT), Merit Champion (\$1,650 per year for those with a 24-27 ACT), and Achievement Champion (\$500 per year for those with a 21-23 ACT). All three scholarships required a high school GPA of 3.0 or greater and no separate scholarship application is necessary.



Northern State University's **WolfPACT Scholarship** is the largest guaranteed scholarship in South Dakota. NSU is offering more money to college students when they need it most! The WolfPACT program is simple. Students with an ACT of 30 or higher are guaranteed \$12,000 over 4 years; ACT scores of 28 or 29 qualify for \$11,000 over 4 years; scores of 24 to 27 qualify for \$7,000 over 4 years; and score of 21 to 23 receive \$5,000 over 4 years. To apply for the WolfPACT scholarship, send a completed admission application, application fee, high school transcript and ACT score to the admissions office at NSU and be accepted for admission by March 1. The WolfPACT scholarship is for new freshman only. The scholarship website is <http://www.northern.edu/financialaid/Pages/wolfpact.aspx>.



All students who have been accepted for admission (not just applied), by the first business day in February prior to the fall semester they will begin attendance, are considered for scholarships on an academically merit-based system. Most prestigious for new students is the Surbeck - \$7,000 each year for 4 years. Departmental scholarships are determined at the discretion of individual academic departments and may be available to both incoming and continuing students. The scholarship website is <http://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/finaid/scholarships>.



The **Jackrabbit Guarantee** program is a commitment by SDSU to award a minimum of \$1,000 in academic scholarship aid per year for four years to eligible undergraduate students. In order to qualify, students must achieve a composite score of 24 or higher on the ACT or a 1090 on the SAT (math and verbal only), and be a first time freshman student attending the main SDSU campus in Brookings. Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA and complete a minimum of 30 credit hours from SDSU in each academic year (fall and spring semesters).



The **Coyote Commitment Scholarship** is a renewable program ranging from \$2,000-\$12,000 (\$1,000-\$3,000/yearly). Freshmen admitted as full-time students in Vermillion for Fall 2012 are automatically considered based on standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) and cumulative unweighted high school GPA. The scholarship is renewable for eight consecutive semesters at either a 2.5 or 3.0 GPA, determined by the individual scholarship, with March 15 as the priority date for full consideration. Class Valedictorians are eligible for \$500 the freshman year. All departmental and premiere academic scholarships are awarded via the USD Online Scholarship application at: <http://admissions.usd.edu/cost-and-aid/scholarships.cfm>.

Institutional Scholarship Programs

Each of the six Regental institutions have established specific merit-based scholarship programs that are designed to recruit students to remain in South Dakota by providing additional financial incentive for attending public universities. Each program has a set of criteria which are unique to the institutions, and the funds are awarded to accompany additional merit based funding a student might be awarded through state or discipline specific awards. Some institutions have specific deadlines to be eligible for these programs so students are encouraged to apply by the dates specified below for each institution to be eligible for funding.

Black Hills State University - <http://www.bhsu.edu>

Dakota State University - <http://www.dsu.edu/>

Northern State University (**March 1**) - <http://www.northern.edu/>

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (**First business day in February**) - <http://www.sdsmt.edu/>

South Dakota State University - <http://www.sdstate.edu/>

University of South Dakota - <http://www.usd.edu/>

Regents' Scholar Diploma Program

Effective in 2001, the Regents' Scholar Diploma program was established as an academic letter that school districts use to recognize graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence through the completion of coursework in the six content areas. Additionally, high school graduates designated as Regents' Scholars automatically are admitted to all six public universities. This is only a certification program, it does not offer funding. For students to be nominated as a recipient of the Regents' Scholar Diploma, the must have 1) graduated from a South Dakota high school; 2) completed the coursework identified in the six areas required; 3) receive a "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) or higher on all required coursework; 4) maintained an unweighted cumulative grade point average of a "B" (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) throughout high school.