

283—8.3(261) Eligibility requirements.

8.3(1) Applicants for the all Iowa opportunity scholarship program must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the date specified by the commission and any additional applications or documents required by the commission. In addition to completing the FAFSA, an applicant must be:

a. An Iowa resident who begins the initial period of postsecondary enrollment within two academic years of graduation from high school or within two academic years of completion of a high school equivalency diploma under Iowa Code chapter 259A; and

b. Enrolled for at least three semester hours, or the trimester or quarter equivalent, in a program eligible for federal student aid under Title IV of the federal Higher Education Act leading to an undergraduate degree, diploma, or certificate from an eligible college or university.

8.3(2) To maintain eligibility, recipients must maintain satisfactory academic progress as defined by the eligible college or university.

8.3(3) Individuals who have military obligations may delay the initial period of enrollment for up to four academic years beyond high school graduation and must begin postsecondary enrollment within two academic years of discharge. Exceptions for health or other personal reasons for delaying the initial period of enrollment will be reviewed by commission staff on a case-by-case basis.

8.3(4) If a scholarship recipient suspends enrollment at the eligible college or university after receipt of the scholarship due to military deployment; due to a temporary medical incapacity; in relation to the declaration of a national or state emergency; service in AmeriCorps, Volunteers in Service to America, or the federal Peace Corps; due to a period of religious missionary work conducted by an organization exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service; or other exceptional circumstances approved by the commission, the recipient must apply for a waiver. If the waiver is approved, the recipient is not required to continuously receive the scholarship during the period covered by the waiver.

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