



AREA STANDARDS:
NSCS Career Scholarship Program

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1. NSCS Legislative Authority

The Nebraska State College System is directed to:

- Allocate the General Funds among Colleges
- Determine Eligibility of Students
- Receive and Process Applications for Awards to Individual Students
- Disperse Awards directly to eligible students during the fiscal year

2. Eligible Programs

Career Scholarships are initially awarded to students enrolled in a program of study identified in LB1329 (2024):

- Business Administration
- Communication
- Computer Information Systems
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Industrial Technology
- Rangeland Management
- Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)

2.1. Chadron State College Eligible Programs

- Business Administration – all options/concentrations
- Communication Arts - all options/concentrations
- Education - all subject and field endorsement degree programs
- Justice Studies - all options/concentrations
- Rangeland Management - all options/concentrations
- Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)

2.2. Peru State College Eligible Programs

- Business Administration - all options/concentrations
- Criminal Justice - all options/concentrations
- Education - all subject and field endorsement degree programs

2.3. Wayne State College Eligible Programs

- Business Administration - all options/concentrations
- Computer Information Systems - all options/concentrations
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Education - all subject and field endorsement degree programs
- Engineering Technology
- Industrial Technology - all options/concentrations
- Mass Communication - all options/concentrations
- Speech Communication - all options/concentrations

2.4. Ongoing Assessment Requirement

Beginning with academic year 2024-2025, the NSCS will collaborate with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to evaluate which programs of study are needed to meet the workforce needs of the state.

3. Structure and Use of Scholarships

3.1. Maximum Amount

A scholarship award shall not exceed \$15,000 per year.

3.2. Awarding Framework

Each College will use existing scholarship awarding structures as a framework for awarding Career Scholarships.

3.3. Minimum Amount

Minimum scholarship awards will be set at \$2,000 per eligible student, with average awards to fall between \$4,000 and \$5,000 depending upon the academic performance characteristics for eligible applicants.

3.4. Other Awards

This scholarship can be combined with other awards.¹

3.5. Distribution

Disbursements of scholarship funds will be made via awards directly to eligible students' accounts during the fiscal year.

3.6. Eligible Alternates

Each College will maintain a list of eligible alternates who may become eligible for scholarship awards due to attrition, or current recipients failing to meet ongoing eligibility criteria.

3.7. Term Distribution

Award distributions will be made in equal installments during the Fall and Spring terms. Students enrolled in Summer session may be eligible for additional awards if funds are available at the conclusion of the Spring term. When available, students must enroll in coursework that begins prior to July 1st.

3.8. Scholarship awards can be used for:

- Tuition
- Fees
- Room
- Board

¹ Will need to understand the impact of these awards on other remissions, awards and grants and the priority by which they are applied to student accounts.

3.9. Ineligible Expenses

Funds from this program may not be used to cover the cost of textbooks or other instructional materials beyond required equipment and tools for specific degree programs.

3.10. Eligible Students

Students are awarded scholarships based on their enrollment in an approved degree program. Students may select another major and retain the scholarship award as long as the new degree path is an Eligible Program as defined in Section 2.

3.11. Transfer Students

Students are awarded Career Scholarships by an individual State College, and scholarships are not transferable across the State Colleges. Transfer students may be eligible for scholarship awards, but they must apply through each College’s established transfer scholarship application process.

3.12. Maximum Scholarship Length

Participation in the program is capped at a maximum of four (4) years.

4. Eligibility of Students

4.1. Eligible Student for Initial Award

- ACT Composite Score of 18 or higher (or equivalent score on other standard college admission test)
- First-Time Freshman or Transfer Student
- Be a Nebraska resident, or nonresident student who resides on campus or in Nebraska during the time of enrollment

4.2. Program Eligibility

Students must be enrolled in a program of study identified in LB1329 (2024). Current programs of study are:

- Business Administration
- Communication
- Computer Information systems
- Criminal Justice
- Education
- Industrial Technology
- Rangeland Management
- Reserve Officer’s Training Corps (ROTC)

4.3. Residence Hall Requirement

- Colleges may require students to live in a campus resident hall for up to two years and shall use existing processes for granting waivers for such requirement based on:
 - Geographic location
 - Transfer student status
 - Student age

5. Ongoing Eligibility Requirements

5.1. Renewable

Scholarship is automatically renewable if student continues to meet eligibility requirements of scholarship and remains eligible to enroll.

- To maintain ongoing eligibility in the program, students must maintain good academic standing within the designated academic degree program.
- Students must have successfully completed at least 24 credit hours of coursework the prior academic year. Exemptions may be granted for cause by the Vice President for Academic Affairs when circumstances arise that preclude students from meeting this credit hour requirement.

5.2. Career-Related Experience

Registration is required with the appropriate office at each College to obtain a Nebraska-based internship, apprenticeship, clinical position, or major-related field of employment prior to completion of the program of study.

- Chadron State College – Career Services and Internships Office
- Peru State College – Career Services
- Wayne State College – Executive Director for Cooperative Education & Industry Liaison (Growing Together) or Career Services

5.3. Major Changes

Students who change their major to one not included in the scholarship program will no longer receive the scholarship beginning the following semester.

6. Reporting

6.1. Reporting Deadline

Colleges will provide the following information on the scholarship program to the System office by November 15 each year, and then System data will be provided by NSCS by December 1 of each year, to the Clerk of Legislature and Governor

6.2. Data Requirements for Each Eligible Program of Study

- The total number of students enrolled in each eligible program of study in the immediately prior academic year and the total number of students enrolled in each eligible program of study for the current academic year, based upon official fall census data;
- The total number of scholarship recipients in each eligible program of study for the current academic year and the total number of such scholarship recipients who are newly enrolled in each eligible program of study for such academic year, based upon official fall census data;
- The total number of newly awarded scholarship recipients retained across all eligible programs of study from the immediately prior academic year to the current academic year and a comparison of the retention rates between those of the newly awarded

scholarship recipients and the state college's overall first to second year retention rate reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System for the same year;

- The total number of scholarship recipients who graduated during the immediately prior academic year and a comparison of the four-year graduation rates between the scholarship recipients who graduated and the state college's overall four-year graduation rate reported to the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System for the same year; and
- The number and percent of scholarship recipients who graduated during the immediately prior calendar year who obtained employment in a major-related field in the state.