

## Maryland GEAR UP By Region

2016-2017 Academic School Year  
through 2020 graduation

### Baltimore City

- Carver Vocational Technical High School
- Digital Harbor High School
- Edmondson-Westside High School
- Frederick Douglass High School

### Dorchester County

- Cambridge South Dorchester High School

### Wicomico County

- James M. Bennett High School
- Parkside High School
- Wicomico High School

### Note to Baltimore City Public School Students:

If you attended Calverton Elementary/Middle School or Commodore John Rodgers Elementary/Middle School during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years, you may be eligible to apply. Please contact the GEAR UP Coordinator with Baltimore City Public Schools for additional information.



## For more information on Maryland's GEAR UP, contact:

### SCHOOL DISTRICT

### GEAR UP COORDINATOR

#### Baltimore City



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#### Dorchester County



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College and Career  
Readiness Transition Specialist  
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#### Wicomico County



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Wicomico County Public Schools  
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### Maryland Higher Education Commission

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Lieutenant Governor



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James D. Fielder, Jr., Ph.D., Secretary  
Anwer Hasan, Commission Chair

# MARYLAND

## GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE



# Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs



MARYLAND HIGHER  
EDUCATION COMMISSION





## WHAT IS THE GEAR UP SCHOLARSHIP?

In 2014, the U.S. Department of Education awarded a Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) grant to the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). GEAR UP, a six-year discretionary grant program, aims to increase the number of low-income, first generation students enrolling and succeeding in college.

In partnership with MSDE, using a portion of the funds awarded under the GEAR UP grant, the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) administers the **Maryland GEAR UP Scholarship Program**.

## HOW TO APPLY?

**Application forms** will be available from MHEC during the GEAR UP cohort students' senior year of high school. In the Spring of 2020, students should apply for the GEAR UP scholarship and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Priority consideration will be given to students who complete their FAFSA by the deadline.



## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS



The GEAR UP scholarship is calculated and awarded **after** other financial assistance has been determined, including:

- Expected Family Contribution (EFC);
- Pell Grant;
- Maryland State aid (e.g., the Howard P. Rawlings Educational Assistance Grant, Legislative Scholarships, the Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access Grant, etc.);
- Institutional assistance; and
- Any private scholarships or grants.

A student's GEAR UP scholarship award amount will be determined **after** his or her college or university financial aid package has been completed. The amount of the award will depend on several factors, including the following:

- 1) How many students apply each year of the six years for which the money is available;
- 2) The student's financial need (remaining after EFC is calculated) and the total financial need of all eligible applicants;
- 3) How much money remains in the scholarship fund; and
- 4) Other factors, such as changes to the federal guidelines.

The scholarship is awarded **before** federal Work Study and student loans. The sum of all financial awards cannot exceed the college's cost of attendance (that is, tuition, books, room and board, and other items as defined by the college or university).

## Renewal

Students must reapply to MHEC **each year** to renew the award scholarship. Students may be eligible to receive an award up to four years for full-time attendance and up to six years for part-time attendance, as long as the student maintains satisfactory academic progress.

## ELIGIBILITY

To receive a GEAR UP Scholarship, a student must:

- Have participated in GEAR UP activities at GEAR UP sites in Baltimore City, Dorchester, or Wicomico Counties during the grant award period (2014-2020);
- Be less than 22 years old at the time of the first scholarship award;
- Receive a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent;
- File a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and a Maryland GEAR UP scholarship application each year; and
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a program of undergraduate instruction at an accredited two- or four- year institution of higher education.

## STAYING CONNECTED



**MDGo4it** is MHEC's user-friendly website to encourage and support students as they navigate the path to college. The easily accessible and engaging website includes concise, relevant information structured to assist students in planning for their future. Information specifically targeted for the GEAR UP cohort is available for students and their parents.

**MDGo4it > Getting Started > GEAR UP**

[WWW.MDGO4IT.MHEC.MARYLAND.GOV](http://WWW.MDGO4IT.MHEC.MARYLAND.GOV)