



# FAQ

## What is the Start Here Scholarship?

The Start Here Scholarship is for qualifying students who participated in College Credit Plus at Owens Community College or the Early Admit programs. The scholarship is available beginning in the fall after the student's immediate high school graduation.

## Who qualifies for the scholarship?

Students must have earned at least nine (9) credit hours at Owens Community while in secondary school. They must have an Owens GPA of 2.75 or higher, and a HS GPA of 2.75 or higher. Students must enroll in 15 credit hours in the fall semester immediately upon graduating high school. Students must have a completed FAFSA on file, and an official high school transcript dated on or after January 1 of their senior year. Students must be an Ohio resident who is admitted as a regular student with the intent to obtain a certificate or degree.

## How do I apply for the scholarship?

Students must submit a completed FAFSA and an official high school transcript dated on or after January 1 of their senior year. A completed FAFSA means the Expected Family Contribution was calculated upon submission. The deadline to submit these items is the fall financial aid freeze date. There is not a separate scholarship application.

## What VIP services are available to scholarship recipients?

Start Here Scholarship recipients have access to VIP services that provide direct support throughout each semester. VIP services include: priority registration, dedicated Advising and Oserve support between the hours of 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. every Wednesday, and various workshops on support services and student success.

## Do I need to re-apply to the College?

Yes. Students who participate in College Credit Plus at Owens must complete a new admissions application because they are graduating high school. The application is available online: [www.owens.edu/admissions](http://www.owens.edu/admissions). The Admissions Office can assist with any questions.

## Do I need to completed a FAFSA?

Yes. Students must have a completed FAFSA on file with Owens Community College. The Owens School Code is 005753. Please visit [www.owens.edu/financial\\_aid/apply](http://www.owens.edu/financial_aid/apply) for instructions. Start Here Scholars must have their completed FAFSA on file at Owens by the appropriate freeze date. For Fall 2020, the FAFSA must be complete and on file by September 9, 2020.

## When do I have to complete the nine credit hours?

Students must have completed the nine (9) credit hours by the end of their high school career. Hours taken during the spring semester may be counted for eligibility.

## What if I took CCP courses at another college?

We encourage you to transfer those courses; however, they will not count towards the nine (9) credit hours required for scholarship eligibility. You must earn nine (9) hours at Owens to be eligible.

## Can I use my articulated or CTAG credit with the scholarship?

Owens encourages all students to maximize all credit opportunities towards their programs. However, articulated credit or CTAG credit earned does not count towards the nine credit hours required for scholarship eligibility. The nine credit hours must be earned at Owens while enrolled in secondary school.

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### **How many credit hours must I take each semester?**

Students must enroll in 15 credits for the first fall semester, 12 credits for the first spring semester, 12 credits for the first summer semester (optional), and nine or more credits for the remaining semesters. Students must earn 27 credits by the end of the first summer semester. Students whose academic program does not allow for the required hours of enrollment should contact their Advisor for assistance.

### **Is there a registration deadline?**

Start Here Scholarship recipients must be registered by the financial aid freeze date of each semester.

### **Do I have to enroll in summer courses?**

Students are not required to enroll in summer courses. However, students may receive the Start Here scholarship in summer by enrolling 12 credits during the first summer or nine credits for subsequent summers.

### **Will I have priority registration?**

Yes! Students will receive priority registration for future semesters, starting with Spring 2021 registration.

### **Does the scholarship pay for developmental education credit hours?**

Yes, students may use the scholarship towards the instructional fees of developmental education courses.

### **How much money will I receive?**

The scholarship covers the instructional fees not covered by other scholarships, grants, and fee waivers. Student loans and federal work-study are not counted when determining the scholarship amount.

### **How is the money awarded and disbursed to my account?**

Scholarships will be automatically awarded to students who meet the eligibility criteria. Recipients will receive an award notice from the college. The award can be viewed in Ozone by visiting the Financial Info tab and selecting awarded financial aid in the Financial Aid Summary section.

The scholarship will be paid to the student's account starting on the first disbursement date of each semester as listed at [www.owens.edu/financial\\_aid/understanding](http://www.owens.edu/financial_aid/understanding).

### **Will I still have a bill?**

The scholarship covers instructional fees only. Students may be responsible for books, general fees, and any additional fees depending on the chosen program of study.

### **Do my credits earned at Owens transfer to local colleges?**

Yes! Many students start at Owens and transfer to a four-year college after graduation. There are many opportunities for students to plan ahead to ensure they are taking the courses that will count towards their future degree. Visit [www.owens.edu/student-services](http://www.owens.edu/student-services) to learn about Dual Admission Express Programs! Many local institutions maintain a presence on the Owens campuses. To talk with your transfer destination, call (567) 661-2387 to set up an appointment.

### **What do I need to do to remain eligible for the scholarship?**

To continue to receive the scholarship, the student must:

- 1.) Maintain a cumulative Owens GPA of 2.5 or higher
- 2.) Earn 27 credits by the end of the student's first summer semester of receiving the scholarship. The earned credit hours may include hours earned in developmental courses. This excludes the hours earned while still in high school.
- 3.) Be continuously enrolled each semester, except for summer, which is optional:
  - First fall semester: Enroll in 15 or more credit hours
  - First spring semester: Enroll in 12 or more credit hours
  - First summer semester (optional): Enroll in 12 or more credit hours
  - Second fall semester and onward: Enroll in 9 or more credit hours
  - Students whose academic program does not allow for the required hours of enrollment should contact their Advisor for assistance.
- 4.) Be continuously enrolled in fall and spring semester, with summer semester enrollment optional.
- 5.) Have not reached the limit of three years.
- 6.) Have not reached the maximum of 64 credit hours earned at Owens Community College.
- 7.) Remain an Ohio resident.
- 8.) Have a completed FAFSA on file. A completed FAFSA means the Expected Family Contribution was calculated upon submission.

### **What happens if I lose eligibility?**

Unfortunately, a student is not able to regain eligibility for the scholarship. If the student does not maintain the criteria to receive the scholarship, the scholarship no longer applies.

### **How long can I receive the scholarship?**

Students can receive the scholarship for up to 64 credit hours, or three years, whichever comes first. The earned hours include credit earned while in high school, transfer credit, CTAG credit, credit earned by examination, Advanced Placement credit, and credit earned through Prior Learning Assessment.



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