



Beginning with the Class of 2015, the Tennessee Promise will provide Tennessee high school graduates the opportunity to attend a community or technical college free of tuition and fees.

Overview

The Tennessee Promise is both a scholarship and mentoring program that will begin in the fall of 2015. It will provide students a last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or TSAA. While removing the financial burden is key, a critical component of the Tennessee Promise is the individual guidance each participant will receive from a mentor who will provide guidance and assistance as the student enters higher education. In addition, students will be required to complete eight hours of community service per term enrolled, as well as maintain satisfactory academic progress (2.0 GPA).

Administration of Tennessee Promise

Tennessee Promise's scholarship component will be administered by the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC), while the mentoring and community service pieces will be coordinated by local, non-profit partnering organizations. County mayors will select which organization will partner with their counties by July 9, 2014. Once a student applies to the Tennessee Promise program through www.tnpromise.gov, his or her respective partnering organization will be responsible for reaching out regarding program requirements and mentorship connections.

Program Requirements

In order for students to participate in the program, they must meet several requirements and deadlines:

- November 1, 2014 Apply to the Tennessee Promise program at www.tnpromise.gov
- February 15, 2015 Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.gov
- By March 1, 2015 Attend first mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization
- By May 31, 2015 Attend second mandatory meeting coordinated by partnering organization
- June 30, 2015 Complete FAFSA verification
- Before start of term Apply to and enroll in a community or technical college (TCAT)
- Before start of term Complete 8 hours of community service by the first day of class

Once in the program, students must do the following to retain their scholarship:

- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (At a community college that is the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA).
- Complete 8 hours of community service per term enrolled, to be completed before the start of the term.
- Complete the FAFSA by February 15 every year that they are in the program.

Community Engagement

Partnering organizations will work with community leaders and local stakeholders to establish Tennessee Promise advisory councils that will perform several key roles: assist in recruiting volunteer mentors, educate students and parents about the program, and advocate for postsecondary education in their communities.