



Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS)

An invitation to excellence,
extended to students, parents
and educators alike.



Alaska Performance Scholarship APS Step-Up

WHAT IS STEP-UP?

Step-Up is an opportunity for students whose initial APS eligibility was less than a level 1 to increase their level through demonstrating academic progress by achieving a higher GPA at their postsecondary institution.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR STEP-UP?

For the terms you receive an APS disbursement, to qualify for Step-Up you must take:

<i>Two consecutive full-time semesters</i>	UNDERGRADUATE	GRADUATE
	at least 15 credits each	11 credits each term
-OR-		
<i>Three consecutive full-time quarters or trimesters</i>	UNDERGRADUATE	GRADUATE
	at least 10 credits each	7.33/7.34 credits each term
-OR-		
<i>Complete two consecutive full-time certificates</i>	CAREER OR TECHNICAL SCHOOL	

If you take the required credits and achieve a **3.0 or 3.5 GPA**, you can **Step-Up to an APS Level 2 or 1 award**.

Students enrolled in a CTE program step-up one level each time they meet eligibility requirements.

It is important to know receiving an APS disbursement in any term and not taking the required credits will reset the terms that count towards Step-Up. If you are uncertain about receiving a disbursement this summer, please contact ACPE or your school's Financial Aid Office to discuss Step-Up.

EXAMPLE: If a 2024 graduate, who qualified for a level 2 APS award at the time of HS graduation, takes 15 credits the fall semester of 2024 and another 15 credits the spring semester 2025 and ends with a 3.5 GPA, they will qualify for a level 1 APS award for the following semester.



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HOW IS STEP-UP DETERMINED?

ACPE works with postsecondary institutions after each term a student receives an APS disbursement to determine the number of credits (or certificate completion for CTE institutions) completed and the GPA (if a credit-based school). Once a student completes the requirements listed above, ACPE will automatically increase the award level to the appropriate level.

HOW WILL I KNOW IF I WAS STEPPED UP?

1. Log into your Alaska Student Aid Portal account at <https://acpestudentaidportal.alaska.gov/ASAP/login.aspx>
2. Navigate to the Award and Eligibility Information tab
3. View your Current Award Level
4. You can also view your prior term levels by expanding the academic year details

WHEN I QUALIFY FOR STEP-UP, HOW SOON CAN I USE THE INCREASED AWARD?

Once you meet Step-Up requirements, your subsequent disbursements will be at the increased level. Prior disbursements will remain at the lower level.

WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW?

- Students can receive the annual max for highest APS level achieved in the academic year regardless of when in the year they achieved it. Terms before Step-Up was achieved remain at lower level.
- Once you meet Step-Up requirements, you cannot be stepped down unless you were stepped up in error.
- You can Step-Up more than once. If you graduate high school at a level 3 and are stepped up to a level 2, you still have the opportunity to Step-Up to a level 1.