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ABOUT THE APS

WHAT DETERMINES THE LEVEL OF SCHOLARSHIP EARNED?

Scholarship levels are based on a combination of the student's high school GPA and score on a college-entrance or career-readiness examination. For home-schooled students, or students at schools that do not award grades, the Department of Education & Early Development will develop alternate, equivalent requirements.

See also: What are the specific examination and grade point average requirements?

WHEN WILL I BE ABLE TO FIND OUT MY APS AWARD LEVEL?

If you have already submitted the FAFSA, you can log in to the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP), acpe.alaska.gov/asap, to securely access your APS eligibility information after August 1 of the academic year you plan to attend school. If your eligibility information isn't available, check back weekly, as high school eligibility data is uploaded to ASAP on an ongoing basis. ACPE will send an electronic notice to students when their high school eligibility data is received. Students may also communicate directly with the Financial Aid Office at their postsecondary institution of enrollment. Final award notification is made after the postsecondary education confirms qualifying enrollment.

HOW MUCH IS THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD?

There are three maximum award levels: $4,755 a year, $3,566 a year, and $2,378 a year. APS recipients may remain eligible for up to eight semesters of enrollment within six years of graduating from high school. In every case, award recipients must apply for and use any other non-loan aid they receive, such as state or federal grants or other scholarships, before the Alaska Performance Scholarship is applied toward payment of their remaining education costs. The recipient will not receive an APS in an amount that exceeds the remaining costs of attendance.

Note: The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) calculated based upon FAFSA data is considered self-help and does not reduce the APS amount a student may receive.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE UA SCHOLARS PROGRAM AND THE APS?

The UA Scholars Award is a program of the University of Alaska that awards a $12,000 scholarship to the top 10 percent of graduates from each qualified Alaska high school. The award may be used for attendance at any UA campus statewide. Students are designated by their high school based on their standing at the end of their junior year. The program does not require a specific GPA, test score, or curriculum. UA Scholars receive $1,500 per semester for up to eight semesters. The award amount is fixed and is not dependent on other financial aid received. Once enrolled, UA Scholars must maintain full-time enrollment status and a 2.5 cumulative GPA to remain eligible for the award. For more information on the UA Scholars program, go to www.alaska.edu/scholars/

The Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) is a program of the State of Alaska. It can be awarded to any Alaska high school graduate meeting eligibility requirements, including GPA, test scores, and curriculum. The award can be used for postsecondary training at a college or approved career and technical program in Alaska. A student's eligibility amount varies based on GPA and test scores. In addition, the amount a student can receive is limited by costs of attendance, as certified by the postsecondary institution the student attends, and other financial aid. A pro-rated APS award may be available for eligible students studying at least half-time.

All recipients must meet annual satisfactory academic progress.

CAN STUDENTS WHO ARE UA SCHOLARS ALSO RECEIVE AN APS?

Yes. However, in some cases, the amount of the APS award may be reduced. The APS amount may not exceed an award recipient's unmet costs of attendance after all other non-loan aid a recipient is eligible for has been applied.

QUALIFYING/ELIGIBILITY

WHO CAN GET AN APS?

An Alaska resident who graduates from an Alaska high school in or after 2011, and who meets the following requirements:

1. Completes a rigorous high school curriculum, as defined by regulations
2. Achieves a high school GPA of at least 2.5 or equivalent

3. Earns a minimum score on a college or career readiness test
4. Enrolls at least half time, and remains in good standing, in a certificate or higher program at a qualifying Alaska institution
5. Has qualifying unmet costs of attendance after considering all other non-loan aid
6. Has not yet received the maximum Alaska scholarship program aid (8 semesters)

This includes graduates from public and private schools, and home-schooled students who have taken the required courses. Students who hold GEDs are not eligible.

ARE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS GRADUATING IN DECEMBER ELIGIBLE FOR THE APS?

High school seniors graduating a semester early (in December) can receive the APS if they meet all eligibility requirements. However, it is important to note that they are still considered part of their graduating class. For example, a student who graduated in December 2013 was required to meet the curriculum requirements for the class of 2014. APS awards for December graduates will not be available until after the completion of the school year. Therefore, they may not receive any award for postsecondary study before the start of the next academic year, even if they graduate in December and begin a postsecondary program of study prior to the end of the high school year.

IS A STUDENT WHO DOESN'T RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA ELIGIBLE FOR THE APS?

No. Students must graduate from an Alaska high school with a high school diploma, and meet all other eligibility requirements, to be eligible for the scholarship.

ARE HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR THE APS?

Yes, home-schooled students can qualify for the APS.

Home-schooled students participating in an Alaska school district program will have their eligibility information (GPA, entrance exam scores, curriculum) reported by the district office to the Department of Education & Early Development. Eligible students need only submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to apply.

Privately home-schooled students not enrolled in a public school program must submit the APS Private School Eligibility Determination Application to the Department of Education & Early Development. The

form requests information about the student's identification and education, as well as copies of transcripts and entrance exam score reports. The eligibility determination request form and required supporting documents must be received by July 15 for students to be considered for the APS. Students seeking determination must also complete the FAFSA no later than June 30 of the year in which they plan to use the award.

ARE PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR THE APS?

Students attending private schools accredited under 4 AAC 04.300 can qualify for the APS.

Private school students need to submit the APS Private/Homeschool Eligibility Determination Application to the Department of Education & Early Development. The form requests information about the student's identification and education, as well as copies of transcripts and entrance exam score reports. The eligibility determination request form and required supporting documents must be received by July 15 for students to be considered for the APS. Students seeking a determination must also complete the FAFSA no later than June 30 of the year in which they plan to use the award.

ARE STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA THROUGH A PROGRAM LIKE THE ALASKA MILITARY YOUTH ACADEMY OR JOB CORPS ELIGIBLE FOR THE APS?

Yes, certain private high school completion programs in Alaska offer high school diploma programs, in addition to GED programs. Although students who receive a GED are not eligible for the scholarship, those who receive an Alaska high school diploma through such programs may be eligible as long as they meet all other requirements. Such students must submit the APS Private/Homeschool Eligibility Determination Application to the Department of Education & Early Development to determine if their high school credential is equivalent to a qualifying Alaska diploma, for purposes of determining scholarship eligibility.

CAN STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR THE APS USING WORKKEYS SCORES?

Yes. Students can qualify for a Career and Technical Education (CTE) APS award using WorkKeys Scores. The CTE APS award can be used for attendance at an approved career and technical education certification program, but not for a degree program. The CTE APS Curriculum requirements and award levels are the same as the collegiate APS award, with the determining factor for the level awarded being the student's GPA. A combined WorkKeys score of 13 (with no score lower than 4) meets the test score

requirements for the CTE APS award. However, to qualify for an APS award that can be used for a collegiate program of study, students must take the ACT or SAT exam and achieve a qualifying score.

IS THE CHILD OF AN ALASKA RESIDENT, WHO GRADUATES FROM A HIGH SCHOOL OUTSIDE OF ALASKA (FOR EXAMPLE, DUE TO MILITARY ASSIGNMENT) ELIGIBLE FOR THE APS?

No. The statute governing the APS states that students must graduate from an Alaska high school.

CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

WHAT DOES A "RIGOROUS HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM" MEAN?

Alaska regulations define "rigorous high school curriculum" by listing specific high school courses. Students have two curriculum options available:

1. **Math and Science**

   Four years of math, four years of English, four years of science, and four years of social studies. However, one year of the four years of social studies can be substituted with one year of foreign language, Alaska Native language, American Sign Language, fine arts, or cultural heritage.

2. **Social Studies and Language**

   Three years of math, four years of English, three years of science, four years of social studies, and two years of the same foreign language, Alaska Native language, or American Sign Language.

The option used to meet the "rigorous high school curriculum" requirement does not limit how an APS award can be used. For example, students who fulfill the Math and Science curriculum do not have to pursue a math or science program of study in college.

For information about specific course titles that can be used in each subject area, refer to the APS requirements specific to your class graduation year for details. Students who are independently home schooled or who attend private schools must provide information about their courses and grades to the Department of Education & Early Development through the APS Private/Homeschool Eligibility Determination Application to be considered for eligibility.

CAN A CHALLENGED COURSE BE USED TO MEET THE APS CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS?

Yes. Alaska Statute 14.03.073 provides the opportunity for secondary school students to challenge a course by demonstrating mastery in mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, and world languages at the level of the course challenged. A school district shall give full credit for a course to a student who successfully challenges that course. It is up to the local district to establish an assessment tool and a standard for demonstrating mastery.

A student who successfully challenges a course and receives full credit can use that course to meet the APS curriculum requirements, if the course is an approved standard or additional course as determined by the district. This includes challenged courses in which a "pass/fail" assessment is used by the district.

WHAT CAN I DO IF MY SCHOOL DOESN'T OFFER ENOUGH COURSES TO MEET THE CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS?

There is no exemption from the curriculum requirements for each respective high school graduating class. Students are encouraged to discuss options available to them with their high school guidance counselor, such as distance education or dual-credit college courses.

TESTING & GPA

WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC EXAMINATION AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE REQUIREMENTS (GPA)?

A student's examination result and GPA determine the award level and scholarship amount:

1. For up to $4,755 a year – a GPA of 3.5 and a composite score of 25 on the ACT or a combined score of 1210 on the SAT*
2. For up to $3,566 a year – a GPA of 3.0 and a composite score of 23 on the ACT or a combined score of 1130 on the SAT*
3. For up to $2,378 a year – a GPA of 2.5 and a composite score of 21 on the ACT or a combined score of 1060 on the SAT*

Be sure to list your high school as a recipient of your SAT and ACT test scores. See: How can I make sure my high school gets my SAT and ACT scores?

**Students entering an approved career and technical education certificate program can substitute WorkKeys Scores.*

NOTE: The College Board introduced a new SAT in March 2016, which changed the scoring scale. In addition, beginning with the Class of 2013, the WorkKeys Score requirements are: a combined WorkKeys Score of 13 in the three WorkKeys tests, with no score lower than 4. If you need historical WorkKeys or SAT score scales, please send your request to ACPE@alaska.gov.

WHAT IF I HAVE A GPA QUALIFYING FOR A FIRST-LEVEL AWARD BUT EXAMINATION SCORES THAT QUALIFY FOR A LOWER AWARD LEVEL?

A student will be eligible for the award level for which he or she satisfies all eligibility requirements. In the situation described in the question, the student would qualify for the lower award level.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE FOR THE SAT AND/OR ACT?

Talk to your high school counselor or a teacher about academic or test preparation resources available through your school. Make full use of online resources such as Exam Focus (www.examfocus.com/), Khan Academy (www.khanacademy.org/), or Free Rice (https://beta.freerice.com/). Taking an online practice test gives you a good idea of what to expect on the exam and what areas to focus on when preparing for the test. You can find more resources at https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice and www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html.

HOW CAN I MAKE SURE MY HIGH SCHOOL GETS MY SAT AND ACT SCORES?

SAT and ACT scores **must** be received by your high school to be used in determining your APS eligibility. You should request that your scores be sent to the school when you register for the test.

ACT: If you register online, you must list the correct high school when prompted to do so and be sure to check the "YES" box authorizing ACT to release your scores to that high school. If you register by mail, you authorize reporting by listing the correct high school code on the registration folder. Your scores will be sent three to eight weeks after the test.

SAT: Whether you register online or by paper, be sure to include your high school code. Your official score report will be provided to you and your high school, if you included the code, about five weeks after the test.

If you already took the test and did not have the scores sent to your school, you can request additional score reports from SAT and ACT. There may be a fee for additional reports.

IF I TAKE THE SAT, ACT, AND/OR WORKKEYS IN THE SUMMER AFTER I GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, CAN I USE THOSE SCORES?

EED strongly encourages students to test between September and March – this is especially important for seniors. All APS eligibility requirements, including the test score, must be reported no later than July 15. Students are responsible for ensuring their test score is sent directly to their high school from the testing institution, as the high school must then report the score to the district office before the July 15 district reporting deadline. Note that according to SAT and ACT published information, it may take 6 to 8 weeks for score reports to be sent to the designated party. EED recognizes that students may wish to retest in the spring to improve scores; however, EED cautions choosing a June test date, as scores may not be available in time.

I TOOK THE SAT, ACT, AND/OR WORKKEYS MULTIPLE TIMES. HOW WILL MY SCORES BE REPORTED FOR SCHOLARSHIP PURPOSES?

Your scholarship eligibility status is based on the information your school district provides to the Department of Education & Early Development (EED). EED is relying on the districts to determine your scholarship eligibility level and they may do so based on their standard policy or practice. Use of composite SAT or ACT scores is not prohibited.

Similarly, for WorkKeys, the school district may determine a student's scholarship eligibility by combining scores in each of the three tests (locating information, reading, mathematics), even if the tests were taken on different dates.

CAN I TAKE THE WORKKEYS EXAM AT MY LOCAL JOB CENTER FOR PURPOSES OF QUALIFYING FOR THE APS?

There is nothing prohibiting this; however, your high school may not accept the exam scores. The high school must record and add the student's WorkKeys exam scores to their permanent student record at the school, and report the scores to EED. You should check with your high school before taking any qualifying exam outside of school-offered test dates. If students miss a test day at their high school, they need to reschedule the test with the school.

Remember that qualifying for APS solely based on WorkKeys scores (as opposed to an SAT or ACT score) means the student can only use the award for approved career and technical education certificate programs.

APPLYING

HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE APS?

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after October 1 for each year you plan to use the APS award. You can access the FAFSA through the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP). There is an APS Alternative Application available in ASAP for students attending participating Alaska schools that are not listed on the FAFSA.

Note that students graduating from private schools or who are privately homeschooled must submit the APS Private/Homeschool Eligibility Determination Application to EED, in addition to applying via the FAFSA or APS Alternative Application.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I MEET THE ALASKA RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS?

If you have been physically present in Alaska at least 30 days before you complete the APS application (the FAFSA), you are an Alaska resident for purposes of the APS program.

DOES THE EXPECTED FAMILY CONTRIBUTION (EFC), CALCULATED FROM THE FAFSA INFORMATION, AFFECT MY APS ELIGIBILITY?

No. The EFC does not affect your APS eligibility or the amount for which you may qualify. The APS is a merit-based scholarship. EFC is generally considered for need-based grants, so it's not factored into any calculation of your APS eligibility or level. Note: the actual award amount may be reduced if you receive additional non-loan aid (such as other grants and scholarships) that decreases your total cost of attendance, as certified by your school.

HOW DO I KNOW WHICH INSTITUTIONS RECEIVE FAFSA DATA, SO I KNOW IF I NEED TO COMPLETE THE FAFSA TO APPLY FOR THE APS?

To determine if the Alaska institution where you intend to seek admission receives data from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), go to fafsa.ed.gov and use the School Code Search to see if

it has a federal school code. If the institution has a federal school code, you must complete the FAFSA to receive an APS award at that institution.

A list of participating Alaska schools can be found here, or copy and paste this link your browser: (https://acpe.alaska.gov/Portals/3/APS/Pubs/APS-Approved-Institutions-and-Programs.pdf?ver=2019-09-04-150313-540).

IF MY SELECTED SCHOOL DOESN'T RECEIVE FAFSA DATA, HOW DO I APPLY FOR AN APS?

If your school does not have a federal school code, you need to use the APS Alternative Application, available through the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP). Non-FAFSA schools and their programs need to be approved for participation in the APS. All institutions and programs approved by ACPE and the Department of Labor and Workforce Development are in a drop-down list on the application. They can also be found here.

WHEN WILL I KNOW IF I'M ELIGIBLE FOR THE APS?

Students who have submitted the FAFSA can log in to the Alaska Student Aid Portal (ASAP) to securely access their eligibility information after August 1. If your eligibility information isn't available, check back weekly, as high school eligibility data is uploaded to ASAP on an ongoing basis. ACPE will also send a written award notice to students when their high school eligibility data is received. Students may also communicate directly with the Financial Aid Office at their postsecondary institution of enrollment.

USING THE AWARD

WHERE CAN THE SCHOLARSHIP BE USED?

The APS can be used at participating institutions in Alaska. The scholarship will be disbursed directly to the postsecondary institution.

The APS can generally be used for certificate and degree programs offered by participating regionally and nationally accredited colleges and universities located in Alaska, with rare exceptions. At participating career and technical institutions, the APS can be used for certificate and/or degree programs offered in Alaska and approved by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Note that students qualifying for the APS with WorkKeys scores can use the award for a career and technical education certificate program at either type of Alaska institution, but not for a degree program.

WHAT COSTS CAN BE COVERED BY THE SCHOLARSHIP?

Award recipients may use the funds for unpaid costs of attendance certified by the postsecondary institution. These costs may include tuition, fees, books, required tools and supplies, room and board and transportation, in accordance with the standard budgets published by the institution.

However, if APS recipients apply for other non-loan aid, such as state or federal grants or other scholarships, the sum of that other non-loan aid (including the UA Scholars award) will be deducted from their cost of attendance. Scholarship recipients will not receive an APS award that is more than the remaining cost. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) identified on completion of the FAFSA is does not impact the APS amount a student may receive.

APS-eligible students attending on a half-time basis may receive a pro-rated award based on the costs of attendance associated with the half-time program.

WHAT ARE "UNMET COSTS OF ATTENDANCE"?

Costs of attendance are expenses associated with your program of study. These costs may include tuition, fees, books, required tools and supplies, room and board and transportation, in accordance with the standard budgets published by the institution. "Unmet" costs of attendance are those costs that are not covered by non-loan aid for which the APS recipient may qualify, such as other grants or scholarships.

HOW ARE UNMET COSTS OF ATTENDANCE CALCULATED?

Costs of attendance are certified by the postsecondary institution. The cost of attendance may include tuition, fees, books, required tools and supplies, room and board and transportation. Costs of attendance are published in standard budges for each institution. All other non-loan aid (scholarships, grants, veteran's benefits, etc.) for which a student is eligible is deducted from the cost of attendance to calculate unmet costs of attendance. Scholarship recipients will not receive an APS award that is more than the remaining unmet cost. Work-study aid, loan aid, and the federal Expected Family Contribution (EFC) do not reduce a student's maximum APS amount.

IS FULL-TIME ENROLLMENT REQUIRED TO RECEIVE AN APS AWARD?

No. Although the enrollment level will affect the APS award amount, students enrolled at least half time, or for at least six semester credits or its equivalent, can receive scholarships. Half-time graduate students enrolled in at least five semester credits and half-time vocational students enrolled in programs meeting at least 30 hours per week for at least six weeks may also qualify for a scholarship award. The scholarship amount will be proportionally reduced. Note: each disbursement counts equally towards the maximum eight terms (four years) of APS awards a student can receive, regardless of enrollment level.

CAN I USE THE FOR STUDY ABROAD OR STUDY IN ANOTHER STATE AS PART OF AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM?

Yes, but only if the study outside Alaska is part of a formal exchange program with an Alaska institution. As long as the otherwise qualified student remains enrolled in a degree program through an approved Alaska institution, and the Alaska institution is the recipient of the scholarship funds during the student's participation in an exchange program, the award can be used towards costs of attendance for the exchange program.

CAN I BEGIN MY STUDIES OUT OF STATE AND THEN USE THE AWARD LATER IF I RETURN TO ALASKA TO COMPLETE MY STUDIES?

Yes, students who are eligible for the award, but choose to study outside of Alaska, can return to Alaska and be certified to use their award at a later time. It is important to remember the award may only be used within six years of high school graduation, and the students must qualify as Alaska residents.

CAN I USE THE APS FOR GRADUATE STUDIES OR A SECOND UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE?

Yes, the APS may be used toward graduate degree programs or a second undergraduate degree, as long as it is used within six years of the student's high school graduation date and the student has not received eight disbursements.

IF I'M ATTENDING A UNIVERSITY OUTSIDE ALASKA, CAN I USE THE APS AT A SCHOOL WHILE I'M HOME FOR THE SUMMER TERM?

Yes, but there are requirements. To receive the APS, the student must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a participating Alaska school. As long as you are admitted and enrolled in a degree or certificate program at the Alaska school, you can use your award. However, if you are

only taking a course(s) that will be applied to a degree or certificate program at an out-of-state school, you cannot use the award to attend summer coursework.

CAN I TAKE A YEAR OFF BEFORE OR DURING MY POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION?

Yes. The APS provides for up to six years in which to use the maximum eight semesters of aid. If you take time off before college, remember that you must complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1 for the academic year you plan to attend. If you take a year off while already in college, be sure to review the requirements for continuing eligibility. For example, as a first-year APS recipient, you are required to complete 24 credits and achieve a 2.0 GPA for the academic year. If you then take a year off and return the year after, you are considered a second-year recipient and must complete 30 credits and achieve a 2.5 GPA for continued eligibility.

WILL MY LEVELS EVER CHANGE?

No. The level earned when you qualified for the APS will remain unchanged.

DOES THE SCHOLARSHIP EXPIRE?

Yes. It must be used within six years of graduating high school unless the recipient qualifies for an extension, such as military service or an enrollment delay due to the availability of coursework that is beyond the student's control. The State Board of Education & Early Development sets allowable extensions in regulation through a public process (see 4 AAC 43.045 Extensions of eligibility period).

Example: A student is experiencing delayed enrollment in the UAA Nursing Program due to the availability of coursework. The student can submit a written request to the EED Commissioner for a scholarship eligibility extension. The request must be accompanied by a signed statement from the institution of higher learning in which the student is admitted or enrolled attesting that the student has experienced or is experiencing an enrollment delay due to the availability of coursework required by the degree program the student is pursuing, and that the enrollment delay is beyond the student's control. The eligibility extension request must be postmarked no later than 30 days before the student's period of APS eligibility is set to expire.

CAN A STUDENT, WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR DIFFERENT APS AWARD LEVELS, USE THEIR APS TO PURSUE BOTH A CTE CERTIFICATE AND A DEGREE PROGRAM?

Yes. In some cases, a student may qualify for two different levels of award based on different combinations of their GPA and test scores. For example, an eligible student might have a GPA of 3.5, an ACT score of 21, and WorkKeys scores totaling 15. In this case, a student is eligible for a level 1 award for pursuit of a career and technical education certificate program, but for a level 3 award for pursuit of a collegiate program such as an associate's, or bachelor's or graduate degree.

A student with two eligibility levels may elect to pursue either or both program types. However, they cannot be used simultaneously and the total APS aid received may not exceed a total of eight semesters. For example, a student could pursue a one-year certificate using two semesters of Level 1 aid, and then enter a bachelor's degree program to use up to six additional semesters of Level 3 aid.

A student in this situation could also use up to the four total years of APS Level 1 aid to receive multiple CTE certificates in sequence. Note – no more than one year of an award will be made for pursuit of the same career and technical certificate program, regardless of program length.

In either scenario, the student must still meet all continuing eligibility requirements to be eligible for an APS award for any subsequent certificate or term of study, including minimum GPA and credit accumulation requirements.

I ONLY TOOK THE WORKKEYS EXAM. HOW CAN I USE MY APS?

Eligible students who have achieved qualifying WorkKeys scores can use APS awards. The APS can be used to enroll in qualifying Career/Technical Education (CTE) certificate programs. NOTE: The APS cannot be used for Occupational Endorsement (OE) programs.

CAN THE APS BE USED DURING THE SUMMER?

Yes. Typically, the award is disbursed in two equal halves – one for the fall and one for the spring term. If a student has not yet used the full annual award in preceding terms, they may be able to receive an award for a summer term. If you know in advance that you want your award spread over three semesters, speak with your school's Financial Aid Office. Contact ACPE at ACPE@alaska.gov or 1-800-441-2962 to learn more.

I PLAN TO GRADUATE WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN THREE YEARS INSTEAD OF THE USUAL FOUR. CAN I GET ALL FOUR YEARS' WORTH OF APS IN A THREE-YEAR TIME PERIOD?

Yes. An APS recipient may request scholarship funds on an accelerated basis in which the standard four years/eight semesters of funding is compressed into a three years/six semester timeframe. An APS recipient electing to do so must meet accelerated credit completion requirements, including completion of 36 semester hours in the first year of enrollment and 45 semester hours in each of the next two years of enrollment.

See "Once Students Receive the Scholarship, What do They Need to do to Continue to Qualify?" below.
Or contact ACPE at ACPE@alaska.gov or 1-800-441-2962 to learn more.

CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY

ONCE I RECEIVE MY SCHOLARSHIP, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO CONTINUE TO QUALIFY?

To continue to receive the scholarship for a degree program, students need to:

- File a new FAFSA or approved alternate application each year
- Continue to be enrolled in a qualifying program of study
- Meet the annual satisfactory academic progress requirements, including number of credits earned and GPA applicable to your postsecondary grade level

At a minimum, satisfactory academic progress requirements include:

During your 1st year as an APS recipient:

- complete 24 semester credits or equivalent for full-time students (12 for half-time students receiving a prorated award)
- achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

During your subsequent years as an APS recipient:

- complete 30 semester credits or equivalent for full-time students (15 for half-time students receiving a prorated award)
- achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

As a graduate student:

- achieve and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale

You must also meet all requirements for satisfactory academic progress set by your institution, including requirements that may be higher.

To continue to receive the scholarship for a certificate program, students need to:

- File a new FAFSA or approved alternate application by the deadline each year
- Continue to be enrolled in a qualifying program of study
- Meet the annual satisfactory academic progress requirements, including number of credits earned and GPA applicable to your postsecondary grade level

At a minimum, satisfactory academic progress requirements include:

In a credit-based certificate program, earn:

- 24 semester credits for a full-time award
- 12 semester credits for a half-time award
- a 2.0+ cumulative GPA

In a non-credit based certificate program, attend:

- at least 30 clock hours per week for not less than 12 weeks for a full-time award
- at least 15 clock hours per week for not less than 6 weeks for a half-time award

You must also meet applicable satisfactory academic progress requirements of your postsecondary institution and program.

NOTE: Typically, only one year of an award will be made for a single career and technical certificate program, unless the certificate program is designed to be a longer program.

You may use the WorkKeys APS to complete consecutive certificate programs. An APS may be used for no more than eight semesters/12 quarters (four academic years), for full-time or half-time attendance.

To continue to receive an accelerated award, students need to:

In the first year of attendance, an accelerated APS-award recipient must:

- Complete 36 semester hours; and,

- Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

In each of the next two years of enrollment:

- Complete 45 semester hours; and,
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

IF I RETAKE A COURSE FOR A BETTER GRADE, WILL THE CREDITS FROM RETAKING THE COURSE BE COUNTED TOWARDS MY CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS?

No. Whereas the better grade may help you meet the GPA criteria for continuing eligibility, credits can only be counted one time.