Top 10% Tuition Scholarship

2013-2014

Top 10% - Tuition Scholarship Program 2013-2014 Conditions

All Students applying for the Top 10% must meet all the following nonnegotiable conditions:

1. All recipients of this scholarship must be a resident of SWIC District 522 at the time of graduation / receipt of GED and during attendance at SWIC.
2. A FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Aid) and a scholarship application must be filed and all FAFSA issues resolved for each year that the scholarship is requested. SWIC's school code is 001636.
3. Students need to submit a Top 10% application and required paperwork to the Financial Aid office by the second week of the first semester of attendance after high school graduation, after GED graduation or the completion of home schooling. Enrollment must begin during the academic year immediately following one of these occurrences. (Fall 08/30/2013, Spring 01/25/2014, Summer 06/15/2014)
4. High school students must be ranked in the top 10% of their graduating class. Proof must be provided by submitting an official 7th or 8th semester high school transcript to the admissions office rank will be determined at that time.
5. GED students must provide a non-returnable copy of their GED certificate, and have been identified by the Adult Basic Education Office by a letter as scoring in the top ten percent of their GED group.
6. Home-schooled students need to have an ACT composite score that scores them in the 90th percentile or higher on the ACT test and be at least 16 years old. A non-returnable copy of Official ACT scores must be provided.
7. The scholarship must be used within one academic year following high school, GED or home-school completion/graduation. There is no exception this will be evaluated at time of awarding.
8. If the student attends any other college, university, trade school, etc. after graduating from high school, obtaining a GED or completing home schooling before coming to SWIC, the student is not eligible to apply for the scholarship. Dual credit earned while the student is still in high school does not affect eligibility. No exceptions.
9. Students may receive the award for up to six semesters, or completion of an associate degree or certificate, whichever comes first.
10. Students must be continuously enrolled to maintain eligibility for the award. (Summer attendance is not required, but if the scholarship is used, it will count as one of the six semesters). If the student has a break in enrollment, the scholarship is terminated.
11. To maintain eligibility for the scholarship, a 3.0 GPA per semester and a cumulative completion rate of 67% is required for each semester of enrollment, regardless of the source of tuition payment. To find your cumulative completion rate, divide the hours earned by the hours attempted.
12. This scholarship may be superseded by any other tuition-only grant or scholarship received by the student.
13. The scholarship pays tuition only for classes that appear on the student's academic transcript. The scholarship does not pay fees, books, or tuition fee for proficiency examinations.
14. Students must intend to complete a degree or certificate at SWIC to receive Top 10%. The scholarship may be used for the summer semester immediately following high school graduation only if the student will continue to be enrolled for the next academic year.

Direct inquiries and all required information to:

Southwestern Illinois College

Financial Aid and Student Employment Office
2500 Carlyle Avenue - Belleville, IL 62221
Attn: Scholarship Coordinator

Top 10% - Tuition Scholarship Program 2013-2014 Application

Name _____ SWIC ID #_____

Street _____ City _____ State____ Zip _____

Telephone # (_____) _____

High School Attended _____ Graduation Date (Month/Year) _____

GED taken in (county)_____ GED Date (Month/Year) _____

Application Instructions

Complete the information requested above. Read and sign the statement at the bottom of this application. Return the application and required documents that apply to you, to the Scholarship Specialist, Financial Aid and Student Employment Office, Southwestern Illinois College (SWIC). **All materials must be received by the end of the second week of the first semester of enrollment.** You will receive an award letter if your application is approved and a denial letter if not approved. Tuition due prior to receipt of the award letter will be the responsibility of the student, but tuition paid will be refunded to the student after the scholarship has posted to the student's account.

- **High school students:** Send an official high school transcript for the 7th or 8th semester that provides the number of students in your class and your class rank to the Scholarship Coordinator in the Financial Aid and Student Employment Office at SWIC. The number of students in your class divided by your class rank must be 10% or less.
- **GED graduates:** GED graduates must send a non-returnable copy of their GED certificate to the Scholarship Coordinator in the Financial Aid and Student Employment Office at SWIC. Eligibility is confirmed by the Adult Basic Education Office.
- **Home-schooled students:** You must request that your ACT scores be sent to the Scholarship Coordinator in the Financial Aid and Student Employment Office at SWIC.
- **All applicants:** In addition to being a resident of Community College District 522, you must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year that you request the scholarship

Please read and sign the following statement.

I certify the information reported on this application is true to the best of my knowledge. I have read the conditions of this scholarship as outlined in this application, agree to abide by them, and understand that:

A. The scholarship is renewable, and may be awarded for a maximum of six semesters of continuous enrollment or the attainment of a certificate or an Associate Degree (whichever comes first).
B. Renewal requires a student to maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA per semester and a cumulative completion rate of at least 67%. Cumulative completion rate is determined by dividing cumulative hours earned by cumulative hours attempted.

I also authorize the release of information concerning my tuition scholarship award to the media for general distribution.

I certify that I have read and understood the conditions of this scholarship.

Student's signature _____ Date _____

Return this application and all required information to:

Southwestern Illinois College

Financial Aid and Student Employment Office
2500 Carlyle Avenue - Belleville, IL 62221
Attn: Scholarship Coordinator

Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Who is considered a District 522 resident?**
   Students who reside in Madison, Monroe, St. Clair, Randolph or Washington counties and meet the residency requirements of the College. If you have any questions about residency contact SWIC's Enrollment Services.

2. **Can I use the Top 10% to attend SWIC in the summer?**
   Scholarships may be used for summer semesters if the application is complete and approved by the end of the second week of the summer term. The student is subject to all of the academic requirements.

3. **If I graduate from high school early, can I attend Southwestern in the spring?**
   You may use the scholarship for the first SWIC semester that begins after your documented high school graduation, receipt of your GED or completion of homeschooling.

4. **Can I go to another college in the fall, transfer to Southwestern in the spring and receive the scholarship?**
   No. SWIC must be the first post-secondary institution you attend. However, college credit earned while still in high school will not prevent a student from participating in the Top 10% Scholarship Program.

5. **Can I receive the Top 10% for spring if I didn't attend college in the fall?**
   Yes. As long as you are a first time college student, you may begin using your scholarship in the spring term. The scholarship must be used within one academic year following high school graduation, completion of the GED, or completion of home schooling.

6. **Is there a deadline to apply for the scholarship?**
   Yes. The application and all materials must be submitted by the end of the second week of the semester that the student requests the scholarship.
   (Fall 08/30/2013, Spring 01/25/2014, Summer 06/15/2014)

7. **Can an 8th semester high school transcript be used to apply for the scholarship?**
   Although the Top 10% program is based on the 7th semester high school transcript, if a student wishes to wait until finishing high school to apply, an eighth semester transcript could be used if it will be to the student's benefit. If your official HS transcript has already been sent to Enrollment Services, please notify the Financial Aid Office.

8. **What if I receive another scholarship while attending Southwestern?**
   If the other scholarship pays tuition *only*, it will be applied first. The Top 10% would then pay any remaining tuition at the in district rate.

9. **Will the Top 10% pay for my books and fees?**
   No. Books, fees, and proficiency examinations are not covered by this scholarship. Top 10% covers *tuition only*.

10. **How often do I have to apply for the scholarship?**
    You need to apply every academic year that you qualify for the scholarship by submitting a FAFSA and a scholarship application by the deadline.

11. **I don't meet all of the conditions, can I appeal?**
    There is no appeal process for this scholarship. You must meet all of the conditions to apply and for each semester thereafter.

Why attend Southwestern Illinois College?

Location…With three campuses, 26 extension centers and many online courses, Southwestern is convenient for everyone.

Quality…All classes are taught by highly qualified professionals in their areas of expertise.

Transferability…The Associate in Arts, Associate in Fine Arts, and Associate in Science degree programs are designed for you to achieve junior status at the senior institution of your choice. Several Associate in Applied Science degree programs transfer as well.

Affordability…At $105 per credit hour (rates subject to change); Southwestern offers a quality education at one of the lowest tuition rates in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

Financial Aid…If you qualify, Southwestern has financial support in the form of scholarships, loans, grants, part-time employment or any combination of these.

Service…Personal and career counseling, job placement, basic skills programs, and personal growth classes are only a few of the many services Southwestern provides to students and members of the community.