



2024 - 2025 Top 20% Tuition Scholarship

To be eligible for the 2024-2025 Top 20% Tuition Scholarship Program, students must:

1. Be a resident of Community College District 522 at the time of high school completion AND during attendance at SWIC.
2. Be eligible to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Illinois Alternative Application for Student Aid.
3. Achieve Top 20% of one of the following categories:

Class Rank

High school graduate ranked in the top 20% of the graduating high school class on the final high school transcript.

Test Scores

High school or homeschool graduate placed into the 80th or higher percentile on the ACT or SAT examination.

- Required SAT score: 1190 or higher
- Required ACT score: 25 or higher

SWIC GPA

High school or homeschool graduate earning a 3.5 or higher SWIC GPA for 8 or more hours of dual credit or dual enrollment coursework completed prior to high school graduation.

High School Equivalency

High school equivalency completers that score in the top 20% of their equivalency group on GED or other high school equivalency test.

Frequently Asked Questions

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 your residency, contact SWIC Enrollment Services.

Can I use the Top 20% 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, student is degree/certificate seeking at SWIC, and continues enrollment into the next semester of the next academic year. The student is subject to all of the academic requirements listed in the conditions section of the application.

If I graduate from high school early, can I attend SWIC in the spring? You may use the scholarship for the first SWIC semester that begins after your documented high school completion.

Can I go to another college in the fall, transfer to SWIC 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 20% Scholarship Program.

Can I receive the Top 20% 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 the academic year following high school completion. If you attended Southwestern Illinois College in the fall and do not complete application requirements by the 2nd week of the fall term you will be ineligible for the scholarship. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

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 enrolls, following high school completion. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Can a 7th semester high school transcript be used to apply for the scholarship? Although the Top 20% program is based on the 8th semester high school transcript, early graduates can use the 7th semester transcript.

I can't complete the FAFSA. Can I still apply for the Top 20% scholarship? Students unable to complete the FAFSA or Illinois Alternative Application for Student Aid for any reason are not eligible for the Top 20% scholarship.

Can somebody help me complete my FAFSA? Students and their parent(s) or guardian(s) can get help completing their FAFSA through the SWIC Financial Aid Office during regular business hours.

Who can I ask about the scholarship or my eligibility? Please direct questions to the Financial Aid, Veteran Services, & Student Employment Office at fin_aid@swic.edu or (618) 235 – 2700, ext. 5288.

2024-2025 Top 20% Tuition Scholarship Program Conditions

PLEASE NOTE: High school completion refers to high school graduates, high school equivalency completers, and homeschool graduates. Homeschool graduates must be 16 years of age or older.

All applicants must meet all of the following non-negotiable conditions. Failure to do so will result in loss of the scholarship for which there is no appeal process to regain.

1. All recipients of this scholarship must be a resident of Community College District 522 at the time of high school completion and during attendance at SWIC.
2. Every new academic year, students must renew the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) prior to the start of the fall term. A student's financial aid file must be complete with an official financial aid award prior to receipt of the scholarship. The deadline to complete all necessary FAFSA required paperwork and scholarship application is the 2nd week of the 1st semester of attendance. SWIC's school code is 001636.
3. A complete Top 20% Application (including all required application information) must be submitted by the second week of the first semester of attendance following high school completion.
4. The scholarship must be used toward enrollment within the academic year immediately following high school completion: Fall (8/17/2024), Spring (1/11/2025) or Summer (6/2/2025). The scholarship may be used for the summer semester immediately following high school completion only if continuously enrolled in the fall semester of the following academic year and attends the fall semester. This will be evaluated at the time of awarding and will be based on the first high school credential received.
5. High school graduates ranked in the top 20% of their graduating class must provide an official final high school transcript including the number of students in the class and the individual class rank or official record of a qualifying ACT/ SAT score. If the official transcript has already been sent to Enrollment Services, please notify the Financial Aid Office.
6. High school equivalency completers must be ranked in the top 20% of their equivalency group. Proof must be provided by submitting a non-returnable copy of their high school equivalent certificate and official letter from the Adult Basic Education Office identifying them as scoring in the top 20% of their equivalency group.
7. ACT or SAT scores for high school graduates or homeschool graduates must have a composite score of 25/36 or higher on the ACT test or 1190/1600 or higher on the SAT test. Proof must be provided by submitting a non-returnable copy of official test scores or scores must be documents on official high school transcript.
8. If the student attends any other college, university, trade school, etc. after high school completion, prior to attending SWIC, the student is not eligible to apply for the scholarship.
9. Students may receive the scholarship for up to six semesters of continuous enrollment. Summer attendance is not required, but the scholarship will be awarded unless otherwise requested in writing. Students must enroll in consecutive fall and spring semesters. A gap between fall and spring terms will result in loss of the scholarship (excluding summer semester).
10. To maintain continuous scholarship eligibility, students must maintain a 3.0 semester GPA and a cumulative completion rate of 67%, regardless of the source of tuition payment. Cumulative completion rate may be calculated by dividing total hours earned by total hours attempted.
11. The Top 20% scholarship pays tuition only for classes that appear on the student's academic transcript. It does not pay fees, books, fees associated with proficiency examinations, or fees for dropped classes that are not on transcript (tuition cost).
12. Students must be degree or certificate seeking at SWIC to receive the scholarship.

2024 - 2025 Top 20% Tuition Scholarship Application

Application Instructions: Complete all required sections of this application. **All required application 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.

Name _____ SWIC ID # _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I am a: High School Graduate Homeschool Graduate High School Equivalency Completer

Graduate Date _____ High School Name (or GED County) _____

I have submitted a 2024-2025 FAFSA and completed all verification items.

I meet the following qualification for the top 20% scholarship and will provide the appropriate documentation as verification:

Class Rank: Official final high school transcript showing rank and total number of graduates in the class.

Test Scores: Official ACT or SAT score report or official high school transcript showing placement into the 80th or higher percentile on the ACT or SAT examination.

- Required sat score: 1190 or higher
- Required act score: 25 or higher

SWIC GPA: GPA of 3.5 or higher earned for 8 or more hours of dual credit or dual enrollment coursework completed prior to high school graduation. (Final grades must be posted.)

High School Equivalency: Non-returnable copy of the high school equivalent certificate and official letter from the Adult Basic Education Office identifying rank.

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.

B. Renewal requires a student to maintain a minimum 3.0 semester GPA and a cumulative completion rate of at least 67%.

C. All scholarship requirements must be met to receive and maintain the scholarship. There is no appeal process to regain the scholarship once lost.

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

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Direct all inquiries and required application information to:
Southwestern Illinois College
Financial Aid, Veteran Services, & Student Employment Office
2500 Carlyle Avenue Belleville, IL 62221
Attn: Scholarship Coordinator
Email: fin_aid@swic.edu or Fax: (618) 235-3827