



Maryland Higher Education Commission
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2+2 TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP

2024-2025 Academic Year



Frequently Asked Questions

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General Questions about the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship

1. Q: What is the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship and what is the amount of the award?

A: The 2+2 Transfer Scholarship is designed to assist and encourage transfer students from Maryland community colleges to attend a 4-year institution within the state and complete their bachelor's degrees in a timely manner. Students must be enrolled in an eligible accredited Maryland postsecondary institution.

Recipients are eligible for \$1,000 annually for up to 3 years towards tuition and mandatory fees. Recipients enrolling in a science, teaching, engineering, computer science, mathematics, or nursing program are eligible for \$2,000 annually. The scholarship can only be used towards tuition and mandatory fees.

The 2+2 Transfer Scholarship is a need-based scholarship, and student with an SAI higher than 10,000 will not be eligible for the award.

2. Q: If I am eligible for the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship and apply, will I definitely get it?

A: Not necessarily. The 2+2 Transfer Scholarship is contingent on availability of funds, the student being certified by their enrolled institution and providing all required documentation within the appropriate timelines.

3. Q: I am an undocumented student, I am eligible to apply for the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: No.

4. Q: When do I need to graduate from my associate's degree program to be eligible for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: Students who graduated or will graduate with their associate's degree in Fall 2023, Spring 2024, or Summer 2024, and are transferring to a 4-year institution in Fall 2024 are eligible for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship, and will receive the scholarship for the full academic year.

Students who will graduate with their associate's degree in Fall 2024 and are transferring to a 4-year institution in Spring 2025 are eligible for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship, but will only receive it for Spring 2025, not the full academic year.

If a student's scenario does not fall within the above scenarios, they are not eligible for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship.

Questions about the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship Process and Timeline

5. Q: What is the timeline for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship? What is the deadline to apply for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship?

A: The 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship application will open in early May 2024. The deadline for initial applicants to submit an application on MDCAPS and have their FAFSA submitted is December 31, 2024. The deadline to submit requested documentation required for awarding is January 31, 2025.

Awarding happens on a rolling basis, contingent on available funding. The deadline to submit proof of associate's degree is March 15, 2025. Awards are not disbursed until after proof of associate's degree is provided.

6. Q: I graduate with my associate's degree within the eligible timeframe for the 2024-2025 2+2 Transfer Scholarship – when is the best time to apply?

A: Students who graduated or will graduate with their associate's degree in Fall 2023 or Spring 2024 are recommended to apply as soon as they are able to once the application opens. If they are awarded, they can ideally submit their proof of associate's degree quickly after being notified, enabling the award to be disbursed in a timely fashion.

7. Q: How quickly will I know if I received the 2+2 Transfer Scholarship, how will I know if I have received it, and how long do I have to accept the award?

A: Awarding occurs on a rolling basis beginning in late May 2024, after an applicant has submitted all requested documents and MHEC staff review them. On average, this takes 3-4 weeks. You will receive an email notification from MDCAPS or check your application status in MDCAPS. You will have two weeks from the time the email notification is sent to accept or reject the award in MDCAPS. If we receive no response from you after two weeks, your award offer is cancelled.

8. What is the timeline between accepting an award and it being paid to the institution? Why is the award not showing on my student account at my school yet?

The timeline can vary greatly depending on the actions of the student. After a student accepts a 2+2 Transfer Scholarship, they are required to provide proof they have received their associate's degree by uploading their final community college transcript with degree conferment date to MDCAPS. Students should do this as soon as they are able to after receiving their associate's degree.

Only after MHEC staff have reviewed and approved a student's proof of associate's degree, and proof of Selective Service Registration (if applicable), can the institution certify the student and request payment.

Once an institution receives payment, they have their own internal processes and procedures for an award to be applied to a student's account.

9. Q: I accepted the scholarship, but the status shows as Pending/it hasn't been disbursed yet – why?

A: The 2+2 Transfer Scholarship requires an awarded student to submit proof of their associate's degree before an award can be paid out, and for applicable individuals, proof of meeting the Selective Service System registration requirement. If these tasks have not been completed, the award will not be paid out.

Awards are paid out after an institution certifies a student. Institutions tend to certify students after their Census Date each semester – this is when the institution finalizes enrollment. For many institutions, this does not happen until sometime in September for the Fall term.

10. Q: I accepted the scholarship, but it was cancelled – why?

A: Generally, because something about an individual's eligibility status changed. This can be from the school providing us information, new FAFSA or MHEC One-App information coming in, new information provided, through our audit process or a combination of sources. Individuals can log into their MDCAPS account to view the award's status updates. If an initial 2+2 Transfer Scholarship awardee did not submit their proof of associate's degree by the deadline, their award will be cancelled.

11. Q: What is the renewal process?

A: Renewing recipients must complete the FAFSA each year, and their 4-year institutions will upload their previous academic year's GPA on the student's behalf. Students are required to maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA at their 4-year institution. Renewing recipients do not need to submit a new application. As long as a renewing recipient meets the criteria, and their 4-year institution certifies them, their scholarship will be automatically renewed for up to 3 years or 6 semesters, whichever is longer. Disbursement occurs.

Questions about Documentation and Appeals

12. Q: What documentation is needed for a 2+2 Transfer Scholarship application? How do I submit them?

A: For an applicant to be considered for awarding, they must submit their most recent community college transcript showing their cumulative GPA, and if requested, tax and income documentation.

Awarded students to be cleared for disbursement must submit their final community college transcript showing when their associate's degree has been conferred, and for applicable individuals, proof of Selective Service registration.

You may view a complete listing of the required documentation online through MDCAPS under the "Check Your Application Status" page. Students may submit required documentation to MHEC through their MDCAPS account via "File Upload".

13. Q: If I cannot get access to the 2022 IRS Tax Return Transcript, what other documentation can I submit?

A: Students selected for verification may submit a signed 1040 tax return from the 2022 tax year.

14. Q: What documentation should I submit if I did not file taxes but I earned income from work?

A: The student or parent must submit a copy of their W-2s or 1099s, and the MHEC Non-Filing Verification Form or the IRS Verification Non-Filing Letter.

15. Q: What documentation should I submit if I am unable to retrieve my W-2 from my employer?

A: If you're unable to retrieve the W-2 from your employer, you may request a 2022 IRS Wage and Earning Income transcript. The Wage and Earning Income transcript can be requested through the IRS by visiting www.irs.gov.

16. Q: Why was a documented I submitted rejected?

A: Documentation is rejected for a variety of reasons, depending on the type of documentation. You will be sent a notification when a document is rejected, which contains the specific reason why it was rejected. You must upload and submit a new document that corrects the issue. Common reasons for rejection include: incorrect year; missing signatures; incomplete or incorrect document; or unclear/blurry image.

17. Q: If I am deemed ineligible, are there appeal options?

A: Yes, there are certain categories of appeal available. Student can view allowable appeal options on the [Appeal webpage](#).