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### **Basic Scholarship Requirement Questions**

**1. Q: Must students meet all requirements to earn the scholarship?**

A: Yes, students must meet **both the academic and non-academic requirements** to earn the scholarship.

**2. Q: What are the academic requirements of the New Century Scholarship?**

A: Students must graduate from high school with a minimum GPA of 3.5 **AND** must complete an Associate's degree from an eligible Utah Higher Education institution by the date they graduate from a Utah high school. **OR**, alternatively, complete the approved Math and Science Curriculum with a minimum GPA of 3.0 by the date they graduate from a Utah high school. Students should work closely with their high school and college counselors to ensure they take the appropriate courses required by the institution where they will complete their Associate's degree.

**3. Q: Are students who are home schooled or have completed high school through an on-line high school eligible for the New Century Scholarship?**

A: Yes, students who are home schooled or completed their diploma through an online high school, must complete all the requirements for an Associate's degree or the approved Math and Science Curriculum with a minimum GPA of 3.0 **and** earn a composite score of 26 or above on the ACT test by June 15<sup>th</sup> of the year their peer group graduates from high school.

**4. Q: Where do students get information on the Math and Science Curriculum?**

A: The Math and Science Curriculum form is available on the website under the forms section ( <http://www.utahnewcentury.org/> ). Students who are planning to go into one of the STEM majors (Science, Technology, Engineering or Math) may want to consider this option. It requires very specific courses that better prepare students planning to major in one of these areas.

**5. Q: What are the non-academic requirements for the New Century Scholarship?**

A: To be eligible for the New Century Scholarship, students must be a United States Citizen, or a non-citizen eligible for federal financial aid. Students cannot have a criminal record other than a minor traffic violation. Students must enroll full-time (12 or more credit hours) for the fall semester immediately following high school graduation at an eligible 4-year institution in a Bachelor's degree seeking program and meet all application deadlines.

**6. Q: From which Institutions can students earn their Associate's degree?**

A: Students can only earn their Associate's degree from the institutions in the Utah Higher Education System: Dixie State College, USU-CEU, Salt Lake Community College, Snow College, Southern Utah University, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, the University of Utah, and Weber State University.

**7. Q: Do all the Utah Higher Education institutions offer Associate's degrees?**

A: No, the University of Utah does not offer an Associate's degree. However, they do offer an equivalency program. If students complete their course work at the University of Utah, the institution will provide the student with an Associate's Degree Verification Form which states they have completed the correct courses for an equivalency certification; this will be accepted in lieu of the Associate's degree.

**8. Q: How do students determine which courses to take for an Associate's degree?**

A: Students should meet with an early college counselor at the institution where they choose to earn their Associate's degree. Most of the institutions offer orientation meetings and will also meet with students personally to create a course plan to ensure students complete the correct courses by the time they graduate from high school.

**9. Q: Do students have to take all their courses at the higher education institution where they plan to earn their Associate's degree?**

A: No, most students earn credits in a variety of ways such as, concurrent enrollment courses, AP courses, online courses, and through attending summer semester at an institution ,etc. Students often take courses at more than one institution but, they should contact their early college counselor to make sure the course(s) at the other institution will count towards their degree. Students will be responsible to make sure any course(s) they take at other institutions are transferred to the institution where they will earn their degree; this usually requires that they send an official transcript from the institution in which the course was earned to the institution in which the degree will be granted.

**10. Q: Can the requirements of the scholarship change?**

A: Yes, the scholarship was created through legislation, and is therefore subject to review and may change. Funding amounts are determined annually and are dependent on available funding and number qualified participants and when the participant is enrolled in college. Award amounts will be announced in April of each year at which time participants as well as applicants will be notified of funding amounts. Students, parents and high school counselors are encouraged to check our website (<http://www.utahnewcentury.org/>) for the most current information.

**11. Q: Can students receive other scholarships and still receive the New Century Scholarship?**

A: Yes, students can receive this scholarship along with other scholarship awards with the exception of the Regents' Scholarship. By law students cannot receive both the New Century Scholarship and the Regents' Scholarship.

**12. Q: If students qualify for the New Century Scholarship, how do they receive their award?**

A: The scholarship payment is sent directly to the college or university where the students are enrolled and applied directly to their account. If the student's tuition has already been paid, the institution will refund the excess amount to the students.

### **Scholarship Application Questions**

**13. Q: When do students apply?**

A: Students apply by February 1 of their high school senior year. The application is available in early November of their senior year.

**14. Q: How do students apply for the New Century Scholarship?**

A: The application process has two steps. The first step is to complete and submit the New Century Scholarship by the February 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The second step is to submit all supporting documentation by the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**15. Q: How do students know what supporting documents to submit?**

A: A list of the required supporting documents will be posted with the application. This checklist is available in the forms section of the website (<http://www.utahnewcentury.org/>).

**16. Q: Where can students find the application?**

A: Students can access the scholarship from the website at <http://www.utahnewcentury.org/> then scroll down and click on the application "click here" indicator.

**17. Q: When is the application deadline?**

A: The application deadline is February 1<sup>st</sup> of the student's high school senior year; the application must be postmarked by this date. **Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed and will not be considered.**

**18. Q: How will students know if their application was received?**

A: Students will receive a confirmation letter telling them we received their application; along with a checklist of the supporting documentation they must submit **after** they graduate from high school and have earned their Associate's degree.

**19. Q: When is the supporting documentation deadline?**

A: The supporting documentation deadline is September 1<sup>st</sup>. **Late submissions will not be considered.**

**20. Q: Will students be notified if information is missing from their file?**

A: **No**, it is the student's responsibility to ensure they have submitted all the supporting documentation by the deadline. The information must be complete and accurate. To help students track which documents they have submitted, there is an application checklist available on the website (<http://www.utahnewcentury.org/>).

**21. Q: Can Students fax in their documents?**

A: No, we do not accept faxes for either the application or supporting documentation. Students must mail in all of their documents.

**22. Q: When must students begin attending college?**

A: Students must begin attending college by enrolling the fall semester immediately after graduation. Proof of full-time enrollment (12 or more hours) is part of the supporting documentation that must be received by September 1st.

**23. Q: What if students are planning to serve a religious mission, provide humanitarian service, go into the military or for health reasons cannot enroll and attend the Fall semester after high school graduation? Or have other extenuating circumstances?**

A: If students are not enrolled by the fall semester after High School graduation, they must apply for and be approved for a deferral. The Deferral Application is available under the forms section on the website (<http://www.utahnewcentury.org/>). A deferral may be granted for reasons such as Medical/Health problems, Military Service, and Humanitarian/Religious Service. The Deferral Application along with a detailed letter and any supporting documentation (such as doctor's letter or mission call letter) must be received by the September 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. **NOTE: If students apply for a deferral for religious service and their birthday is November 1<sup>st</sup> or later the students will be required to attend fall semester. Therefore, students will need to arrange their departure for their religious service to begin after fall semester ends.** For specific questions regarding a student's individual circumstances please call our office.

**24. Q: Can students put their scholarship on a deferral to attend an out-of-state school or a non-eligible institution?**

A: No, students must attend an eligible 4-year institution in a bachelor's degree seeking program. The purpose of the scholarship is to help students earn their Bachelor's degree within a few years of high school graduation. If students choose to attend an out-of-state or an ineligible Utah institution they will forfeit the scholarship.

**25. Q: At which institutions can the New Century Scholarship be used?**

A: Students can use the New Century Scholarship at the following 4-year institutions: Dixie State College, Southern Utah University, the University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, Weber State University, Brigham Young University (Provo), and Westminster College.

**26. Q: Can student's parents call and check the status of their scholarship information?**

A: Only if the students complete and submit the Confidential Release Form available under the Forms section of the website (<http://www.utahnewcentury.org/>). Once students turn 18, they are protected by FERPA which is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student's education records. By sending in the Confidential Information Release Form students are giving us permission to share information to specific individuals.

**27. Q: What can Students do if they think their application was reviewed incorrectly?**

A: An appeal may be filed once students receive a letter notifying them of the status of their application or in reference to their continued eligibility as an award recipient. Students have 30 days from the date reflected on the letter sent by the New Century Scholarship Review Committee to submit an appeal. Submission of an appeal does not guarantee a reversal of the original decision. The New Century Scholarship appeal form is available at <http://www.utahnewcentury.org/>.

### **Information for Students Who Have Received the New Century Scholarship**

**28. Q: Are students required to be continuously enrolled each semester?**

A: Yes, students must be enrolled full-time for the fall and spring semesters (fall and winter at BYU). Students do not need to enroll for the summer semester/term. If students are not continuously enrolled they will need to apply and be approved for a leave of absence. The Deferral/Leave of Absence Application is available under the Forms section on the website and must be submitted by the grades/schedule deadlines listed below.

**29. Q: Are students required to submit their grades and schedules each semester?**

A: Yes, students must send in their grades at the end of each semester and their new semester schedule by the deadlines listed below. Failure to comply with these deadlines will result in the loss of scholarship eligibility:

- Proof of enrollment in **Fall Semester**, and proof of completion of prior semester due **September 30**.
- Proof of enrollment in **Spring Semester**, and proof of completion of prior semester due **February 15**.
- Proof of enrollment in **Summer Semester**, and proof of completion of prior semester due **June 30**.

Deadlines for students attending Brigham Young University – Provo:

- Proof of enrollment in **Fall Semester**, and proof of completion of prior semester due **September 30**.
- Proof of enrollment in **Winter Semester**, and proof of completion of prior semester due **February 15**.
- Proof of enrollment in **Spring Semester**, and proof of completion of prior semester due **May 30**.
- Proof of enrollment in **Summer Semester**, and proof of completion of prior semester due **July 30**.

**30. Q: Are Students required to earn a certain GPA to remain eligible for the scholarship?**

A: Yes, students must earn a 3.0 or higher GPA each semester. If their GPA falls below a 3.0 for one semester, the students will be placed on probation; the next semester will still be funded. However, if student's GPA falls below a 3.0 for two consecutive semesters the students will forfeit the scholarship.

**31. Q: How many semester payments can students receive in an academic year?**

A: Students can only receive two payments per academic year.

**32. Q: Can students use the scholarship during the summer semester?**

A: Yes, however, if students choose to use the scholarship during the summer semester, they must enroll full-time and it will count as one of their two payments for the upcoming academic year. Students considering this option should contact the scholarship office.

**33. Q: How long does the scholarship last?**

A: The length of eligibility for the New Century Scholarship will be the shortest of: 4 semesters of full-time enrollment, 60 credit hours of enrollment, or completion of the requirements for a Baccalaureate Degree; all within the 5 years from the high school graduation date. Any breaks in enrollment other than the summer semester must be approved.

**34. Q: Can students have their parents call in to see if their grades or schedule have been received or check to see if funding has been sent?**

A: If students want anyone else to request or receive information about their scholarship, they must complete the Confidential Information Release form that is available under the Forms section on the website (<http://www.utahnewcentury.org/>). This form allows us permission to talk to specific people about the student's scholarship eligibility. Otherwise, FERPA, a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records, we cannot give out any information about their scholarship account to anyone other than the scholarship recipient.

# New Century Scholarship Program

## Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

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### Administrative Questions

**35. Q: Who administers the New Century Scholarship?**

A: The scholarship is administered by the Utah State Board of Regents which is the governing board for the public colleges and universities in the state of Utah.

**36. Q: How is the scholarship funded?**

A: The scholarship is funded through a state appropriation determined by the Utah State Legislature. As a result, award levels are determined on an annual basis and are subject to legislative funding and the number of qualified participants. Therefore, award amounts may be reduced, may vary from year to year, and are dependent on when the recipient is enrolled.

**37. Q: How will students know how much the award will be each year?**

A: Recipients as well as applicants will receive a letter each April that will alert them to the award amount for the upcoming Academic year and will include any program and requirement changes that may have been made to the scholarship.