GEAR UP
Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver Application Steps

☐ Complete the GEAR UP Parent Verification Application and submit to the site facilitator at your child’s high school.

NOTE: If you do not have a certificate or degree, you will receive a waiver eligibility letter from your child’s GEAR UP cohort. If you have a degree or certificate, your application will go to the advisory committee for review. If approved by the advisory committee you will receive a waiver eligibility letter from your child’s GEAR UP cohort.

☐ Submit an Admission Application to the ACCS college you plan to attend.

☐ Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the federal school code of the ACCS college you plan to attend.

Contact the site facilitator at your child’s school to obtain a GEAR UP Parent Verification Application.

If you have any additional questions, contact the GEAR UP Site Facilitator at your child’s high school or your local community college.
What is the GEAR UP Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver?

The GEAR UP Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver is a last-dollar waiver available to the members of the GEAR UP Alabama (GUA) and the GEAR UP Birmingham (GUB) cohorts who enroll no later than August of their 11th grade year, maintain active enrollment until successful completion of high school, and meet the specified criteria for college admission at any community or technical college within the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). The GEAR UP Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver is also available to the parent/legal guardian(s) of a GUA or GUB student.

How is the GEAR UP Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver Applied?

The waiver is a last-dollar, tuition only waiver. This means the dollar amount will be determined once all other financial resources have been exhausted. This includes federal/state grants, institutional scholarships, outside scholarships and any other gift aid.

If the total cost of tuition is covered by other financial resources, you will not be eligible to receive the tuition waiver.

If you have a “tuition only” (no fees) balance remaining once all financial resources have been applied, this waiver will cover the remaining cost of “tuition only” at the college.

What certificates or degree programs are eligible for the GEAR UP Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver?

You name it! You can use the waiver for any certificate or degree program offered at any community or technical college within the Alabama Community College System that is eligible for Title IV funding. Check with your local community college for information about what programs and certificates they offer.

I’m currently attending an Alabama Community College pursuing a certificate and/or degree. Do I qualify?

Yes, as long as you meet all of the eligibility requirements for the GEAR UP Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver. Follow the application steps on the back of this brochure to apply. If eligible, your waiver will only be applied from that point forward. The waiver will not be retroactively applied to already completed semesters.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be the legal guardian of a GUA or GUB cohort student currently enrolled in the GUA or GUB Program (verified by your child’s GEAR UP cohort).
- Must enroll in a public community or technical college in the state of Alabama no later than the fall semester after your child graduates high school.
- Must meet all admission requirements at the desired public community or technical college in the state of Alabama.
- Must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (fafsa.ed.gov).
- Must meet all Federal Financial Aid requirements (outstanding verification documents, SAP, default, etc.).
- Must demonstrate financial need (have a tuition (no fees) balance remaining once all federal/state grants funding, scholarships, and gift aid have been applied towards your tuition balance).
- Must be a resident of Alabama or Active Military with a child who is a member of the GUA or GUB cohort.

Note: If you have already earned a certificate or degree (associate, bachelors, or masters) an advisory committee will review your application to determine your eligibility.

Renewal

- Must remain in good standing with the institution you are attending.
- Must maintain continuously enrolled status unless granted an exception by the institution.
- Must maintain a minimum cumulative college GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Must have an updated FAFSA on file and continue to demonstrate financial need (have a tuition balance remaining once all federal/state grant funding, scholarships, and gift aid have been applied towards your tuition balance).