GEAR UP
Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver Application Steps

☐ 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. Once submitted, you will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) via email from the Department of Education. Keep this document for the next step.

☐ Submit an ACCS Universal Waiver Application no later than June 1, 2021.

The universal waiver application can be found at: www.accs.edu/gearup

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

The GEAR UP Last- Dollar 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).

Do I have to be enrolled full time to receive the GEAR UP Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver?

Yes, to receive the GEAR UP Last- Dollar Tuition Waiver, you must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester. The waiver will pay up to 15 credit hours per semester.

If you choose to take more than 15 hours per semester, you will be responsible for the additional tuition expenses.

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

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

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

If you have a tuition and fee balance once all financial resources have been applied, the waiver will cover the remaining cost of tuition and institutional fees at the college.

The GEAR UP Last-Dollar Tuition Waiver can only be applied towards tuition and institutional fees. You will be responsible for room and board, transportation, books, and all other school-related expenses.

Eligibility Requirements

- Must graduate as an active member of a GUA or GUB cohort from a participating school.
- Must enroll full time (12-15 hours) at any community or technical college within the Alabama Community College System the fall semester following high school graduation.
- 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 balance remaining once all federal/state grant funding, scholarships, and gift aid have been applied towards the student’s tuition institutional fees balance).
- Must be a resident of Alabama/or active military with a child who is a member of the GUA or GUB cohort.

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 toward the student’s tuition and institutional fees balance).