



How Does Graduating as a NH Scholar Impact Money for College?



- Step 1:** Complete a rigorous course of study and graduate as a State Scholar.
- Step 2:** Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible after January 1st of your senior year. www.fafsa.ed.gov – it's FREE.
(Tip: Your parents should use estimates on this form – do not wait until their income taxes are completed. Deadlines are critical.)

Fact: The FAFSA is your application for State, Federal and Institutional financial aid. Every college will require this form.

Fact: The FAFSA will calculate how much they think you and your family can afford for college next fall (*EFC – Expected Family Contribution*).

The Good news: If your EFC is low enough, you will receive aid (free money) such as the Federal Pell Grant. If you are Pell Grant eligible, the FAFSA form will automatically ask you a few questions to determine if you are eligible for *more free money (aka: ACG – Academic Competitiveness Grant)*.

Step 3: By indicating that you have completed a rigorous course of study (NH Scholars Program), you will automatically receive the ACG.

Academic Competitiveness Grants: Given to 1st and 2nd year Pell eligible students who took a “rigorous” high school program of study and meet several other requirements.

- 1st year students can receive up to \$750
- 2nd year students must have a 3.0 college GPA and can receive \$1300
- Only **26.9% in NH** of those eligible for the ACG in '06 received it. That means 3,247 students got less money because they failed to complete a rigorous schedule.

National SMART Grants: Given to 3rd and 4th year Pell eligible students who have a 3.0 college GPA and major in math, science, or critical foreign languages.

- Both 3rd and 4th year students can receive up to \$4000

Potential Total: \$10,050 in additional financial aid

Becoming a NH Scholar has both academic and financial rewards.

- For more information about NH Scholars and how it impacts financial aid, please contact: **Scott Power, State Director, (603) 225-4199 x300 or spower@nhcuc.org**