

FAQs about the GEAR UP Tuition & Fee Waiver

Q. What is the GEAR UP Tuition & Fee Waiver?

A. GEAR UP Waterbury students who are enrolled at Naugatuck Valley Community College, Manchester Community College, or Southern Connecticut State University will have their tuition and fees waived, meaning students can attend tuition and fee free. The waiver only covers the costs of tuition and fees and does NOT cover other costs of attendance such as books.

Q. What do I need to do to receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver?

A. To receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver, you must:

- ✓ Apply and be accepted to one of the three GEAR UP schools- Naugatuck Valley Community College, Manchester Community College, or Southern CT State University.
- ✓ Have a completed FAFSA on file. The FAFSA is available starting October 1st at fafsa.ed.gov
- ✓ Complete verification if selected. After completing the FAFSA, you may be selected for verification by the federal government, which means you will have to verify information on the FAFSA and submit additional documentation to your school. Please be sure to check your e-mail regularly to see if you are selected for verification and follow up with your school if you are selected.
- ✓ Notify GEAR UP that you plan on attending a GEAR UP school. This ensures that you are coded in the school's system as a GEAR UP student.

Q. For how long am I eligible to receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver?

A. The waiver applies for 2 years at Naugatuck Valley Community College or Manchester Community College and 4 years at Southern CT State University starting from the first year. If a student enrolls part-time, the waiver will be extended accordingly.

Q. If I transfer from a non-GEAR UP school to a GEAR UP school, can I receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver?

A. No, to receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver, you must enroll and start at a GEAR UP school (Naugatuck Valley Community College, Manchester Community College, or Southern Connecticut State University).

Q. Can I start off at Naugatuck Valley Community College and transfer to Southern CT State University and receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver at both schools?

A. No, the Tuition & Fee Waiver is for the first GEAR UP school attended.

Q. What if I take a semester off? Can I receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver again when I re-enroll?

A. No. If there is a gap in enrollment, you can no longer receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver.

Q. What if I am on academic probation? Can I still receive the tuition/fee waiver?

A. Academic probation does not automatically result in the loss of the Tuition & Fee Waiver. The school's policies and handbook govern. If, as a result of being on academic probation, you are suspended from the institution, you would not be eligible for the Tuition & Fee Waiver.

Q. I was conditionally accepted to Southern CT State University pending successful completion of the Southern Educational Opportunity Program (SEOP). Will GEAR UP pay for me to attend SEOP?

A. No, the Tuition & Fee Waiver does not cover the cost of SEOP as you have not been accepted yet to the university and GEAR UP does not cover the cost for you to attend SEOP. You should inquire with the school about other funding to help cover the cost of the SEOP program.

Q. Do I need to pay a deposit or any money to hold my spot or register for classes?

A. As long as you complete the aforementioned requirements, you do not need to pay any money towards tuition or fees. At Southern CT State University, you do not need to pay the enrollment deposit, but will need to pay the housing deposit if you wish to live on campus. In order to have the enrollment deposit waived, you must complete an Intent to Enroll Form. Please visit the GEAR UP office at your school or contact the GEAR UP Director for the Intent to Enroll Form.

If you have not completed the requirements for the Tuition & Fee Waiver, you will be responsible for paying tuition & fees. Once you have completed the requirements, any money paid will be reimbursed or applied to your outstanding bill.

Q. Am I still eligible for other financial aid?

A. Yes, students who are eligible will also receive the GEAR UP Connecticut Scholarship (please refer to separate GEAR UP CT Scholarship FAQ document). You also may be eligible to receive additional financial aid. The total amount of grant aid and waivers from all sources cannot exceed the cost of attendance.

Q. Is there a deadline to enroll in order to receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver?

A. You must enroll during the academic year following high school graduation (Class of 2018: 2018-2019 academic year; Class of 2019: 2019-2020 academic year).

Q. Can I defer my acceptance and still receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver?

A. As long as you enroll during the academic year following graduation, you can receive the waiver. Students in the Class of 2018 can defer until the spring 2019 semester and students in the Class of 2019 can defer until the spring 2020 semester.

If I apply for fall admission to Southern CT State University and am denied, can I re-apply for spring semester admission and receive the Tuition & Fee Waiver?

A. Yes, as long as it is the spring semester following high school graduation.

For
additional
questions and
information
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