

NEW CENTURY SCHOLARSHIP

2020-2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

REQUIREMENTS

1. Do I have to meet all requirements to earn the scholarship?

Yes, both the academic and non-academic requirements must be met to earn the scholarship.

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

- You must graduate from high school with a minimum GPA of 3.5 AND complete an associate degree earning a 3.0 GPA from an eligible Utah Higher Education institution by the date you graduate from a Utah high school.
- Alternatively, you can complete the approved Math and Science Curriculum, earning a high school GPA of 3.5 and a college GPA of 3.0.
- In addition, you must enroll at an eligible institution the fall semester immediately following high school graduation at an eligible 4-year institution in a bachelor's degree program and meet all application deadlines, or obtain an approved deferment. Note: In order to receive an award disbursement you must enroll in 12 credits.
- You should work closely with your high school and college counselors to ensure you take the appropriate courses required by the institution where you will complete your associate degree.

3. Are students who are home-schooled or have completed high school through an online high school eligible for the New Century Scholarship?

Yes, students who are home-schooled or completed their diploma through an online high school are eligible for the scholarship. They must complete all the requirements for an associate degree or the approved Math and Science Curriculum with a minimum college GPA of 3.0 and earn a composite score of 26 or above on the ACT test by June 15th of the year their peer group graduates from high school.

4. Where can one find more information regarding the Math and Science Curriculum?

Information regarding the Math and Science Curriculum is found in the 2020-21 Rules and Requirements on newcenturyscholarship.org.

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

To be eligible for the New Century Scholarship, the student must submit a FAFSA or meet provisions to opt out, be a United States citizen or a non-citizen eligible for federal financial aid and meet all application deadlines.

6. From which institutions can I earn my associate degree?

You can only earn your associate degree from the following institutions in the Utah Higher Education System: Dixie State University, Salt Lake Community College, Snow College, Southern Utah University, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, the University of Utah, and Weber State University.

7. Do all the Utah Higher Education institutions offer associate degrees?

No, the University of Utah does not offer an associate degree. However, it does offer an equivalency program. If you complete your coursework at the University of Utah, you must obtain a signed Degree Verification Form as part of your application materials. This form is available on newcenturyscholarship.org.

8. How do I determine which courses to take for an associate degree?

You should meet with an early college counselor at the institution where you will earn your associate degree. Most of the institutions offer orientation meetings and will also meet with you personally to create a course plan to ensure you complete the correct courses by the time you graduate from high school.

9. Do students have to take all their courses at the higher education institution where they plan to earn their associate degree?

No, most students earn credits in a variety of ways such as concurrent enrollment courses, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, online courses, and by attending summer semester at an institution. Students often take courses at more than one institution, but they should contact an early college counselor to make sure the course(s) they are completing will count towards earning an associate 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. Some institutions also require that students fill out a request for transfer credit evaluation, so check with the institution.

10. How do I demonstrate that I have earned my associate degree?

Students will be required to submit an official college transcript showing the associate degree earned and date of graduation. Each college/university sets deadlines to apply for graduation, so check with the college/university from which you plan to earn your associate degree to know when you need to apply for graduation.

11. Can the requirements and the award value of the scholarship change?

Yes, the scholarship was created through legislation and is therefore subject to change. Funding amounts are determined annually and are dependent on available funding, the number of qualified participants, the student's individual circumstances, and when the participant is enrolled in college. Award information is generally provided in April of each year at which time participants will be notified of funding amounts. Students, parents, and high school counselors are encouraged to check newcenturyscholarship.org for the most current information.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

12. When do I apply for the New Century Scholarship?

The New Century Scholarship application is available on www.newcenturyscholarship.org mid November of each year and the online application must be submitted by February 1 of your high school senior year.

13. How do I apply for the New Century Scholarship?

The application process has two steps. The first step is to complete and submit the New Century Scholarship online application by February 1 of your senior year. The second step is to submit all verification documentation by the September 1 deadline. Details regarding the verification documentation will be provided to you directly through your New Century Student Portal as you apply for the scholarship.

14. When is the deadline to submit the verification documentation?

The supporting documentation deadline is September 1. Late documents or the submission of incomplete documents is not acceptable and such documentation will not be considered.

15. How do I know what I need to submit?

A checklist of required documents is provided in your New Century student account. The checklist will indicate if the document has been received. We encourage you to contact the New Century Scholarship office if you have questions regarding the status of your application.

16. Can I fax or email my documents?

No, we do not accept faxes or emails containing supporting documentation. The application is filled out online through your student account. Supporting documents, other than official transcripts, can be uploaded through your student account. You should consider sending the items that must be mailed via certified mail as a method of tracking the receipt of the documents.

ENROLLMENT AND AWARD DISBURSEMENT INFORMATION

17. Where can I use the New Century Scholarship?

You can use the New Century Scholarship at the following 4-year institutions: Dixie State University, Southern Utah University, the University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, Weber State University, and Snow College only if you are enrolled in a bachelor's degree program.

18. When must I begin attending college once I have graduated from high school?

- Students are required to enroll at an eligible Utah college or university Fall semester after high school graduation or receive of an approved deferment through the New Century Scholarship Office.
- Students are required to continue their enrollment during the traditional Fall and Spring semesters in order to remain eligible.
- If a student does not receive an award disbursement they are not required to meet the minimum enrollment and completion of credits of 12 credits nor the semester GPA requirements, but must remain enrolled in one class at an eligible institution or have an approved leave of absence from the college/university you are attending.

Example 1: You are enrolled in 12 or more credits and you received an award disbursement. You are required to complete 12 or more credits and earn a semester GPA of 3.3 or higher to remain in good standing.

Example 2: You are enrolled in less than 12 credits, but taking some classes. You will not receive an award disbursement. You must remain enrolled, but do not have to meet the minimum enrollment or semester GPA requirements.

19. What are the award conditions?

- Eligible students have 5 years from the date of high school graduation to use the award. A deferment or leave of absence does not extend the 5 year window.
- The award must be used for tuition and fees.
- It is not guaranteed that the award will cover the full cost of tuition and fees.

The New Century Scholarship is disbursed after other state aid is awarded. The financial aid office will evaluate the student's financial aid package to determine if they qualify for an award disbursement.

20. What are the enrollment conditions in order to receive an award disbursement?

- You may only receive an award disbursement if you are enrolled in 12 or more credits. If you receive an award disbursement but you complete less than 12 credits you will no longer be eligible for the scholarship.
- If you receive a disbursement you must enroll in and complete a minimum of 12 credits earning a semester GPA of a 3.3 in order to remain in good standing. If you earn less than a 3.3 GPA, you will be placed on probation. If you earn another semester GPA lower than a 3.3 will you no longer be eligible for the scholarship.

21. What if I am 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 what if I have other extenuating circumstances?

If you do not enroll fall semester after high school graduation, you must apply for and be approved for a deferment. The deferment application must be postmarked by September 1. Please refer to the Deferment Information on newcenturyscholarship.org.

22. Can I receive other scholarships and still receive the New Century Scholarship?

In general yes, a student can receive other scholarships (excluding the Regents' Scholarship), however, the New Century Scholarship can be used for tuition and fees and is awarded after all other state aid has been applied to your tuition and fees.

ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

23. Can my parents call and check the status of my scholarship information?

Only if you have submitted the Student Information Release form available on newcenturyscholarship.org. Once you turn 18, you are protected by FERPA, which is a federal law that protects the privacy of a student's education records. By sending in the Student Information Release Form, you are giving the New Century Scholarship office permission to share information with specific individuals. This form does not give permission for the third party to act on your behalf.

24. How is the scholarship funded?

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, the award amount may be reduced, may vary from year to year, and is dependent on when the recipient is enrolled.

25. How will I know how much the award will be each year?

The financial aid office at the college you are attending will evaluate your aid package to determine the award value each year that you are enrolled. The scholarship can be used for tuition and fees that are not already covered by other state aid.