

# Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Pilot Program (ATC) Frequently Asked Questions

## Eligibility and Application Questions

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Q: I am a teacher candidate so when can I apply to the Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship Pilot Program?

A: Enrolled teacher candidates must be formally admitted to the teacher preparation program and have started or will start program requirements (*coursework, field experiences, etc.*) before they can apply to ATC.

Q: I received an ATC award in the previous year, can I apply again?

A: Previously awarded students can apply again for the new academic year. The lifetime maximum award a student can receive is \$25,000 so if selected to receive an award, the award amount may be reduced.

Q: Should I still apply after the priority deadline has passed?

A: Applications will still be accepted after the deadline but eligible students may be placed on a waitlist depending on the availability of funds.

Q: I am an international student/undocumented non-Minnesota resident attending an eligible MN institution, can I apply?

A: Yes, and you must complete the MN Dream Act application which is the state financial aid application for undocumented students.

After you apply, please upload the requested tax documents through your MNAid Student Portal and send an email to [financialaid.ohe@state.mn.us](mailto:financialaid.ohe@state.mn.us) and the Financial Aid Office at your institution to clarify that you completed the MN Dream Act for the purpose of the Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship application.

Q: I am a Graduate student applying for ATC and will need to complete the MN Dream Act application. I will not qualify for the Dream Grant due to my enrollment status so do I need to submit all documents for verification?

A: No, Dream Act applicants who are Graduate students applying for ATC will only need to submit the requested tax documents for income verification.

After you apply, please upload the requested tax documents through your MNAid Student Portal and send an email to [financialaid.ohe@state.mn.us](mailto:financialaid.ohe@state.mn.us) and the Financial Aid Office at your institution to clarify that you completed the MN Dream Act for the purpose of the Aspiring Teachers of Color Scholarship application.

Q: What does “demonstrate financial need” mean?

A: Financial need is based on a combination of factors including the Student Aid Index (SAI), Cost of Attendance (*set by the institution*), and other awarded financial aid. This information will be provided by the Financial Aid Office at your institution.

You must complete the FAFSA or MN Dream Act application in order to determine if you demonstrate any financial need. *See Q: How it is the award amount determined? below for more details.*

Q: I made an error on my application, how can I get it fixed?

A: You can notify the Program Administrator at [diamee.xiong.yang@state.mn.us](mailto:diamee.xiong.yang@state.mn.us) to update your application.

Q: When will I hear back about my application eligibility status?

A: Students who completed their application by the priority deadline will be notified in early September. Notification to students who completed their application after the priority deadline will vary.

Q: Can I apply for other state grants and scholarships?

A: You can apply for and receive other state grants and scholarships. Please note that if eligible for multiple state aid programs, you may only be able to receive one depending on the awarding process of each state aid program.

## Awarding Questions

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Q: How do I know if I was selected for an award?

A: Awarded students will receive an award notification from the Office of Higher Education. *Please note* that awarding will not take place until after the priority deadline.

Q: Why did the ATC award amount changed from what was stated in the award notice?

A: Your award may be put on hold, reduced, or refunded if there are any changes to your enrollment level, financial aid information (*such as new scholarships or changes to your FAFSA*), or you are no longer meeting the eligibility requirements.

Q: How is the award amount determined?

A: The award amount is based on the student's unmet financial need which is determined by subtracting the Student Aid Index (SAI) and all other gift aid from the total Cost of Attendance.

Student Aid Index (SAI) is generated through the completion of the FAFSA or MN Dream Act application which is used to determine federal and state aid eligibility.

Gift aid is financial aid that does not require repayment, such as scholarships, grants, stipends, third-party payments and tuition waivers.

Cost of Attendance is set by the institution for financial aid programs and includes, but not limited to, tuition and fees, books, supplies, housing and food, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses.

Q: If I am awarded the scholarship, how will I get the scholarship?

A: The fund for the scholarship will be sent to your institution within the first few weeks of the semester start date, or the date of when you received your award notice, whichever is later. The funds will then be disbursed into your school student account.

Q: Can the scholarship be applied to other expenses other than tuition?

A: The fund for the scholarship will be disbursed into your school student account which will apply towards your school balance which may include dorm room expenses and other fees. Generally, if there are any financial aid remaining after your school balance is paid off, it will be available to you as a credit refund. Please reach out to the Financial Aid Office at your institution for more information.