

Michigan Competitive Scholarship
MICHIGAN FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS
“Paying for College in Michigan” Handbook
www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid

Michigan Competitive Scholarship (MCS)

This scholarship is based on both financial need and merit. Competitive Scholarship funds may be used at Michigan public and independent, nonprofit degree-granting postsecondary institutions. Awards are restricted to the cost of tuition and fees.

A student must take the ACT prior to entering college and achieve a qualifying test score. The ACT must be taken by December of the senior year of high school for priority consideration.

The qualifying ACT score for the Michigan Competitive Scholarship program is a cumulative score. This is the total of the four individual ACT scores, not the composite (average) score reported by ACT. The qualifying score is set each year

by the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority. Currently the qualifying summary score for high school graduates is 90 or above. Students may retest to obtain an eligible or higher score.

Students should contact their high school counseling office for information on ACT national test dates and how to sign up for the test. They may also contact ACT directly at www.actstudent.org for national test dates, sites, and test preparation information.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for the Competitive Scholarship, a student must:

- Demonstrate financial need.
- Achieve a qualifying score on the ACT.
- Achieve a high school diploma, GED certificate, or meet the institution’s Ability-to-Benefit standards.
- Qualify as a Michigan resident as of July 1 of the previous year.
- Be a U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or approved refugee.
- Enroll at least half-time at an eligible Michigan college or university.
- Maintain a minimum 2.00 grade point average (GPA).
- Meet the institution’s Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy.
- Not have a bachelor’s degree.
- Not attend an institution whose primary purpose is to prepare students for ordination or appointment as a member of the clergy of a church, denomination, or religious association, order, or sect.
- Not be in default on an educational loan.
- Not be incarcerated.



Application Procedure

Students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1. Priority in determining awards is given to students who apply by March 1. The student must complete the FAFSA every year to be reconsidered for an award.

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Award Amount

The maximum award amount is determined each year and approved by the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority. Currently the maximum award amount is \$1,300 per academic year. Awards are issued to eligible applicants based on demonstrated financial need. The award amount received by the student is the lesser of:

- Maximum award amount
- Tuition and required fees
- Financial need

For additional information about the Michigan Competitive Scholarship program, contact the Office of Scholarships and Grants at 1-888-4-GRANTS (1-888-447-2687), by email at osg@michigan.gov, or visit the Web site at www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid.