

Suffolk County Community College

Central Administrative Offices - Financial Aid

2025-2026 Excelsior Scholarship Disclosure Notice

New York State enacted a new scholarship program commencing with the 2017-18 academic year called the Excelsior Scholarship. The Excelsior Scholarship covers the cost of tuition at New York State public institutions of higher education, including Suffolk County Community College, for resident, income-eligible students matriculated in approved programs leading to an undergraduate degree.

The Excelsior Scholarship is administered by the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC), not Suffolk County Community College. HESC determines students' eligibility for the Excelsior Scholarship. Any questions concerning eligibility should be directed to HESC. To assist students at the College in understanding the conditions of the Excelsior Scholarship, the College is providing you with this disclosure notice. You should review the information provided by HESC at hesc.ny.gov/excelsior for the full terms and conditions of the Excelsior Scholarship, but please note:

- The Excelsior Scholarship only covers tuition. It **does not** cover other expense such as fees, meal plans, textbooks, transportation, etc.
- Excelsior Scholarship recipients must enroll in at least 12 credits toward their degree per semester (Fall, Spring) and must complete at least 30 combined credits per year following their start date applicable to their program of study. Non-credit and remedial courses **do not** count toward the credit requirements. Students may take courses during the winter or summer sessions to meet the 30 credit requirement, but the Excelsior Scholarship does not cover tuition for winter or summer session courses. Because of the 30 credit requirement, dropping or withdrawing from courses can render a student ineligible to receive the Excelsior Scholarship. **It is critical that students understand the 30 credit requirement and plan their schedules accordingly.** Note: Students covered under ADA must pass all college level credits attempted.
- Students must earn a passing grade and achieve the GPA necessary for successful completion of their coursework in order to maintain eligibility for awards.
- While students can change majors, a change of major could impact eligibility. Students must remain on track for timely completion in order to continue to receive the scholarship. Students who are no longer on track for timely completion will likely lose their eligibility.
- Except for a permissible interruption of study, a gap in enrollment renders a student ineligible to receive the Excelsior Scholarship.
- Students who lose eligibility cannot regain it.
- Tuition is deferred for Excelsior Scholarship recipients, in anticipation of payment of the Excelsior award. If the College determines that it is not possible for you to meet the 30 credit requirement such that you will no longer be eligible for the Excelsior Scholarship award, your tuition will not be deferred.
- The College is responsible for verifying enrollment status to HESC at the end of each semester. If it is determined that a student lost eligibility to receive the scholarship for that semester, the student will owe the College the tuition charge for that semester. Please note that because certification takes place after grades are reported, this would be past the deadline to apply for a federal Stafford loan to cover any outstanding balance.
- Students receiving Excelsior Scholarship awards agree to reside exclusively in New York State and to not be employed in any other state for a continuous number of years equal to the duration of the award they received within six months of receipt of their final Excelsior Scholarship award payment. Students who fail to fulfill this requirement will have their Excelsior Scholarship awards converted by HESC to a 10-year loan.

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the above information.

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Student ID#** _____