

2023 WORTHINGTON SCHOLARSHIP AWARD AGREEMENT

Congratulations on becoming a Worthington Scholar! The Worthington Scholarship Foundation (WSF) Board of Directors and Staff are proud to be part of your higher education goals. This multi-year scholarship is subject to the signing of this award agreement and is contingent upon complying with the scholarship criteria throughout your scholarship eligibility period.

Beginning with the Fall semester, 2023, the award amount is up to \$17,000 for a bachelor's degree, payable over eight (8) eligible semesters. The award amount is up to \$14,500 for students beginning in community college who continue at an eligible 4-year college, payable over eight (8) eligible semesters. These amounts may be adjusted periodically. Details are shown in sections below.

1. ACCEPTANCE AS A WORTHINGTON SCHOLAR

You were selected for the Worthington Scholarship award based on financial need and merit as presented in your scholarship application. Certain conditions and responsibilities are required when accepting the Worthington Scholarship award as follows:

- Your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) shows an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$15,000 or less in the year of the award.
- You are accepted at a Worthington-eligible 4-year college and your high school cumulative GPA is the equivalent of a B- or higher or you are accepted at any Maine Community College and your high school cumulative GPA is the equivalent to a C- or higher.
- You will attend a Worthington-eligible 4-year college or Maine community college.
- You signed the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) form on your scholarship application, allowing your college to share your information with WSF.
 - You must maintain a valid FERPA at your college for the duration of your scholarship eligibility period.
- You established a *WorthingtonConnect* account with WSF. You agree to the terms of this award agreement by signing electronically through your *WorthingtonConnect* account.
 - In *WorthingtonConnect*, you indicated the college you are enrolled in and plan to attend for the Fall 2023 semester.
 - In addition, you must complete surveys and processes as required throughout your eligibility period.

2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Each semester, your college office must confirm that you meet the WSF eligibility requirements in a degree granting program at the college you plan to attend for the semester for which you are requesting an award payment.

You must:

- Enroll and attend your first Fall semester after high school
- Enroll in and earn 12+ credits* per semester (*Bates and Bowdoin College credit hour equivalency is 3+ credits per semester).
- Maintain a 2.0+ GPA throughout the entirety of the scholarship eligibility timeline

Automatic waiver(s)

If you fail to earn a minimum of 12 credit hours and/or fall below a 2.0 GPA, you will automatically forfeit your scholarship payment for that semester. You will not begin receiving scholarship payments again until you earn 12 credit hours in the previous semester* AND a 2.0 GPA in the previous semester. These unfunded semesters will continue until the credit hours earned and GPA requirements are met or until your eligibility timeline has been met based on your college path (see Eligibility Timeline section).

*Previous semester refers to a Fall or Spring semester or a Fall or Spring Long Semester or a Fall or Spring Semester I and Semester II. Other shorter semesters can be used to make up eligibility requirements. Most campuses offer these shorter semesters between the Fall and Spring semester, sometimes referred to as a Winter Semester, or between the Spring and Summer semester, sometimes referred to as a "May Semester," or between Spring and Fall semester, always referred to as a "Summer Semester." These shorter semesters can be used to increase credits earned and improve GPA as follows:

- You may take Winter Semester course(s) to make up earned credit hours to reach 12 and/or raise GPA to reach a 2.0 and be eligible to receive funding in the Spring semester.
 - If you did not earn 12 credit hours in the Fall and/or did not receive a 2.0 GPA in the Fall and have not taken a Winter Semester to meet the requirements, your funding will be waived for the Spring Semester. Semesters will continue to be unfunded until you meet the requirements, or your eligibility timeline is complete.
- You may take May Semester and/or Summer semester course(s) to make up earned credit hours to reach 12 and/or raise GPA to reach a 2.0 and be eligible to receive funding the Fall semester.
 - If you did not earn 12 credit hours in the Spring and/or did not receive a 2.0 GPA in the Spring and have not taken a May Semester or Summer Semester to meet the requirements, your funding will be waived for the Fall semester. Semesters will continue to be unfunded until the requirements are met, or your eligibility timeline is complete.

Freshman Year Rectification Opportunity

If you in your first semester Freshman year do not earn 12 credit hours and/or a 2.0+ GPA, you may receive funding in the Spring semester of your Freshman year if you enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours in the second semester of your Freshman year. Approval from WSF is required and you must put an academic plan in place to rectify insufficient GPA and/or credits earned.

Senior year/graduation circumstances

If in your expected final semester of college, fewer than 12 credit hours are needed to graduate, and there are eligible semesters remaining and your timeline is not exceeded, you may appeal to WSF regarding scholarship payment for your final semester. Appeals can be made by contacting julie@worthingtonscholars.org.

Special Circumstances

If a special circumstance occurs that affects your scholarship eligibility that is not covered in this award agreement, please contact WSF.

3. DISBURSEMENT AMOUNTS

Scholarship funds will be sent to each institution following the semester add/drop deadline.

- College/University
 - Four-year degree: \$2,125 per semester, payable for up to eight (8) qualified semesters
- Community College:
 - 1-year degree: \$1,500 payable over two (2) qualified semesters
 - 2-year degree: \$1,500 payable over four (4) qualified semesters
 - 3-year degree: \$1,500 payable over six (6) qualified semesters

NOTE: If you are a community college student transferring to a Worthington-eligible 4-year college, you may receive additional payments toward a bachelor's degree at the college/university rate (currently \$2,125) which is dependent on your eligibility timeline. Please contact WSF for additional information.

4. ELIGIBILITY TIMELINE

- One-year degree: awards renewed for a maximum of 2 semesters over a 2-year period
- Two-year degree: awards renewed for a maximum of 4 semesters over a 3-year period
- Three-year degree: awards renewed for a maximum of 6 semesters over a 4-year period
- Four-year degree: awards renewed for a maximum of 8 semesters over a 6-year period

Remaining committed funds

If you complete your program early and/or have not received the full amount of your WSF funding because of receiving other scholarships or other reasons, you may receive further

funding when enrolling in a more advanced program at one of our partner colleges while adhering to the Eligibility Timeline. Please contact WSF for approval.

5. DEFERRAL POLICY

Deferral/Leave of Absence

This policy is intended for Scholars who take time off from school, withdraw from school during a semester, intentionally enroll for fewer credit hours than eligibility criteria require, or for other reasons, and do not receive WSF funding in the deferred semester. To be eligible for a deferral/leave of absence, a Scholar must enroll and attend college their first semester after high school.

- Scholars in good standing, meaning they have met the earned credit hours and GPA requirements, may receive funding the semester they resume enrollment of 12+ credit hours.
- Scholars not in good standing, meaning they have not earned a minimum of 12 credit hours in the previous semester before taking a deferral/leave of absence and/or do not have a 2.0 GPA, must meet those requirements before funding will resume.

Eligibility timeline still applies and includes any deferred semesters.

Deferment does not exclude Scholar from completing any tasks required by the Worthington Scholarship Foundation. It is the Scholar's responsibility to keep WSF staff up to date with your plans and contact information.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- You must inform your college of this contingent award. WSF has an agreement with your college not to reduce grants, other scholarships or institutional aid in the financial aid package offered to you because you received this award. If there is any alteration, please contact WSF. If aid must be altered, please request that this scholarship be used to offset loans or work-study assistance.
- WSF has the right to refuse and/or retract any scholarship application or award during the awarding or post-awarding process. Refusal/retraction can be based on, but not limited to, untrue and/or incorrect information provided in the application, or failure to meet any of the requirements.
- If you decide to transfer to a different WSF eligible college, please notify WSF so that your eligible scholarship payments are not delayed.
- WSF has the right to amend this award agreement.
- Applications and documentation become the property of WSF.

- You give permission to use and publish your name, direct quotes, and/or photographs in conjunction with any publicity.

Your electronic signature on *WorthingtonConnect* indicates acceptance of this award agreement.