



WCC EARN SCHOLAR GRANT APPLICATION

Educate America Right Now (EARN) is a 501(c)3 New York State not-for-profit providing **free** multi-tiered support to hardworking adult students over age 25, who are returning to school to earn their first college degree. **Apply today!**

We have been supporting adult students since 2014. EARN Scholars become highly successful students!

We offer grants based upon your GPA, up to the cost of your WCC base tuition. The higher your grades, the higher your grant. We also offer no-cost tutoring in select subjects, and a supportive community where you will get to know other adult students like you. There are no racial, socioeconomic, ethnic, or gender restrictions.

**Become a part of the
EARN community! Turn
the page in this application
and turn a page in your life!**

Apply TODAY! The autumn deadline is **September 21st, 2022.**



Visit us at: www.EducateAmericaRightNow.org



EARN SCHOLAR GRANT STEP ONE: SEE IF YOU QUALIFY

- 1. You must be at least 25 years of age as of September 21, 2022.**
- 2. You must be matriculated in an Associate Degree program at Westchester Community College, taking at least 6 credits towards that degree in each semester that you receive an EARN Grant. You are expected to maintain your academic major and take the shortest path towards graduation as recommended by the college.**
- 3. You must remain matriculated and enrolled in all credits attempted, for the entire semester for which you wish to receive a grant.**
- 4. You must either, 1. be a United States citizen (proof of citizenship or naturalization required) and/or 2. have attended and graduated from a United States high school located within the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, or a United States territory (proof of diploma required).**
- 5. You must not have been conferred a post-secondary degree (Associate, Baccalaureate, or graduate), either in the United States or abroad. Previously earned undergraduate college credit, that did not lead to a degree, is acceptable.**
- 6. There are no racial, ethnic, gender, or socioeconomic restrictions for eligibility.**

ADDITIONAL GRANT INFORMATION (PLEASE READ)

- 1. The grant is awarded after the conclusion of the semester applied for, based upon your continued matriculated status and your semester GPA as verified by official transcript, which you will need to have sent directly to us from the Registrar's office (see Table 1 on page 2 for payout information).**
- 2. You must not withdraw from a course after the first half of the semester (WP or WF).**
- 3. We may require that you evaluate the grant process after you receive each grant.**
- 4. Completing this application does not guarantee acceptance. We may also ask to see proof in accordance with our stated grant requirements.**
- 5. EARN Scholars must be able and willing to attend the entire EARN Scholar Grant Ceremony each semester (currently on Zoom, otherwise in person at Hartford Hall at WCC), and participate in online mid-semester check-ins.**

FOR YOUR TAX PREPARER

Your award is intended to be excluded from gross income to the extent that you use the funds to reimburse your actual expenditures during the award period for qualified tuition and related expenses, such as expenses for fees, books, supplies, and equipment required for your courses, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 117 and the regulations promulgated thereunder. We suggest that you consider retaining receipts or other evidence that would substantiate your use of the award funds for qualified tuition and related expenses. You should consult your tax advisor regarding whether your grant may be excluded from gross income and the specific record-keeping and reporting requirements you should undertake to support your tax position.

AFFILIATION

EARN is a New York State incorporated 501(c)3 not-for-profit. We are neither affiliated with Westchester Community College nor with the State University of New York.

Table 1

Payout as a function of semester GPA based upon full-time enrollment. Part time enrollment is paid as a percentage of part time credit, currently \$197/credit.

2022-23 EARN GRANT PAYOUT SCHEDULE			
GPA	Percentage of tuition awarded to you based on full time enrollment		
4.00	100%		\$2365.00
3.80-3.99	90%		\$2128.00
3.60-3.79	80%		\$1892.00
3.00-3.59	70%		\$1655.00
< 3.00	0%		\$0.00

STEP TWO: COMPLETE THE THREE REQUIRED ESSAYS

Type each of the following three essays, double-spaced, in paragraph form. Use 1" margins, and Times New Roman 12-point font. We are interested in your story; hearing about your honest experience is important to us. Please use specific examples and details when writing. Each essay prompt should be written so as to distinguish you from other applicants; why should EARN choose you and not someone else? Proofread your work for spelling, grammar, and flow. Poorly proofed work will be downgraded. Each essay should not exceed 1000 words. PLEASE TITLE YOUR DOCUMENT, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE ALL THREE ESSAYS IN ORDER, AS Last Name_First Name_EARN Application_Fall_2022.

ESSAY ONE

Why do you want a college education? What has brought you to the point in your life where you are now attempting to get a degree? Some prompts: What will earning a college degree mean to you personally, or to your family (or partner, or children)? What is your history with academic learning? What has school been like for you? What has prevented you from earning your degree before now? Why is now the right time for you to earn your first college degree? Please be detailed.

ESSAY TWO

What are your most positive and unique qualities as an adult? What unique strengths and experiences will you bring to your classes and classmates, and then to your employers and co-workers? Provide specific examples of each quality listed. Then, discuss your greatest challenge or desire for growth. What will you need to do for yourself and what support will you need from others, to overcome this challenge or to grow in the ways that you desire? If you are not sure where to start, ask someone who knows you well for their honest answers to these questions, and ask for specific examples.

ESSAY THREE

EARN uses a unique pay-for-performance model to reward scholars for their academic success. Community is also an important part of the EARN experience. Past and current EARN Scholars are invited to attend the end of semester grant ceremonies (a requirement for current Scholars), and mid semester check-ins. Our Scholars have shared that this community has championed them and motivated them to show up for themselves and each other in part because of shared goals, experiences, needs and challenges. ***What specifically encouraged you to apply for an EARN Scholar grant? What role do you envision the pay-for performance model will play in your academic success? How important is community support to you as an adult returning to school? Where else has community support been important for you? Finally, what unique gifts are you able to offer the EARN Community of which you will be a part?*** Please be specific.



STEP THREE: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION

“Fall down seven times. Stand up eight.”

~Japanese proverb

Do not include your social security number in this application.

Today's Date _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Street Address (with apartment number if applicable) _____

City, State, Zip _____

Cell Phone with area code _____

E-mail _____

Year of birth _____ Name of High School _____ State _____

Name of degree program that you are enrolled in _____

Credits attempting (current semester) _____ Total credits previously earned _____

I certify that: I am over 25 years of age as of September 21, 2022, and that I meet all of the eligibility requirements outlined in this application. I am a matriculated degree student at WCC taking at least 6 credits for the current semester. I understand that if I drop to less than 6 credits, or to non-matriculated status during the grant semester, or if I withdraw from any courses (WP or WF on my transcript), or if I am not pursuing the shortest recommended path to a degree in my elected academic major, I may no longer receive the grant. I understand that if the college determines that I have plagiarized or falsified academic work during the grant semester, that I will not receive the grant. I agree to have the Registrar's Office send an official transcript to the address below, to be received by EARN within 15 days of the posting of grades for the semester of application. Completing this application does not guarantee acceptance.

Signature _____ Date _____

Sign and electronically send this completed application page and your essays to:

info@EducateAmericaRightNow.org

The autumn 2022 deadline is September 21st, 2022.

Your questions are welcome.