



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 qualified 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 and graduates!

We offer EARN Scholar Grants that are based upon your GPA, up to the Westchester Community College base tuition. The higher your grades, the higher your grant. We also offer no-cost tutoring in select subjects, limited academic counseling, and a highly supportive and caring community where you will get to know other adult students like you.

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 25th, 2023.**



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 25, 2023.**
- 2. You must be matriculated in an Associate degree program at Westchester Community College, taking at least six credits towards that degree in each semester for which you receive an EARN Grant. You will be 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 may be 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 may be 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.**

ADDITIONAL GRANT INFORMATION

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 any course after the first half of the semester (no 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 ask to see proof of high school diploma or citizenship in accordance with our stated grant requirements.
5. You must attend the full one-hour EARN Scholar Grant Ceremony each semester, and participate in our online mid-semester community check-ins.

FOR YOUR TAX PREPARER

Your grant 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 \$217/credit.

2023-24 EARN GRANT PAYOUT SCHEDULE			
GPA	Percentage of tuition awarded to you based on full time enrollment		
4.00	100%		\$2602.00
3.80-3.99	90%		\$2341.00
3.60-3.79	80%		\$2081.00
3.00-3.59	70%		\$1821.00
< 3.00	0%		\$0.00

STEP TWO: COMPLETE THE THREE REQUIRED ESSAYS

Please note that failure to adhere to these specific directions will downgrade your essays and application. Check off each bullet below to be sure that your submission is correct:

- Use only Times New Roman, 12 point font
 - Essays must be double-spaced, in paragraph form, with 1" margins
 - Proofread your work for spelling, grammar, and flow
 - Poorly written or poorly proofread essays will be downgraded
 - Get help from the Writing Center or the Academic Support Center if needed
 - Each essay should be no more than 1000 words
 - Type and submit all three essays in **ONE** document
 - Save the file exactly as: "Last Name_First Name_EARN Application_Fall_2023" in **PDF** form
 - If we are unable to open the file you sent, your essays will not be considered.
- Please check the accessibility of your essays by sending the application to yourself before submitting to us

Some helpful guidance for your essays: We are interested in your story. Please use specific examples and details that are connected to the specific essay prompt. Avoid broad, sweeping statements and oversimplifications. Be truthful about your experience and how it has impacted your educational journey. Each essay prompt should be written so as to distinguish you from other applicants; why should EARN choose you and not someone else? Integrity is of paramount importance. Do not submit the work of others or use AI software. Seeking assistance from the Academic Support Center at WCC is encouraged. Some pointers:

- Select examples that are unique to you and that you are passionate about. Your essays should be truly different from those of any other applicant.
- The EARN Board of Directors will be reading many applications. How will you use your genuine life experiences and unique personality to stand out from all of the other applicants?
- Use descriptive language: When using specific examples, it is important to use descriptive language that paints a clear picture for the reader. Use sensory details, such as sight, sound, taste, smell, and touch, to help bring your examples to life.
- Be honest: Personal essays should be honest and authentic. Don't be afraid to share your true feelings and experiences, even if they are not always positive.

ESSAY ONE

Why do you want a college education?

Prompts: What will earning a college degree mean to you personally, or to your family, or partner, or children? What has prevented you from earning your degree before now? What has led you to choose this time in your life to attempt this difficult task?

ESSAY TWO

EARN uses a pay-for-performance model to reward scholars for their academic success. The higher your GPA, the greater your grant amount. Why are you applying for this grant?

Prompts: There are many scholarships that don't encourage you to have high grades. Why do you think that this model might be a good fit for you? What do you know about yourself and what you need to succeed in college, and how do you think that the EARN model could help? What might you use the grant for?

ESSAY THREE

Community is an important part of the EARN experience. EARN Scholars attend mid-semester check-ins together and participate in grant ceremonies to celebrate each other twice a year. If you do poorly one semester and do not qualify for a grant, you will be encouraged to participate in community and gain the support you need to try again. In what ways might this model be important to you?

Prompts: In what ways has community been important to you? Do you tend to seek out community support or do you typically try to "go it alone"? In what ways would a community of adult peers be helpful to you? What unique gifts or personality traits might you offer the EARN Community of which you will be a part?



STEP THREE: COMPLETE THIS APPLICATION AND SUBMIT WITH YOUR ESSAYS

“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 25, 2023, 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 email 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 three essays to:

info@EducateAmericaRightNow.org

The autumn 2023 deadline is September 25th, 2023.

Your questions are welcome.