

The Bright Scholar of Iowa Award

The Bright Scholars of Iowa Award is a needs-based grant designed to help ensure that a selected number of outstanding Iowa high school seniors have the financial means to complete a two-year or four-year college education without debt.

Initiated in 2012, the award was made to three students, one each attending Iowa State University, University of Iowa, and University of Northern Iowa.

In 2013, five awards were made by each of the three state universities. In addition, five awards went to Des Moines Area Community College and Indian Hills Community College students.

Forty-eight students attending the five schools were Bright Scholarship recipients in 2014, bringing the total number of Bright Scholars to 72.

Southwestern Iowa Community College will bring to six the number of schools offering Bright Scholarships for 2015. The number of new Bright Scholars for this year will be announced later in the spring.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for a Bright Scholars of Iowa Award, a student must be accepted by one of the three state universities (Iowa State, Iowa, UNI) or these three community colleges (DMACC, Indian Hills, Southwestern Iowa), as well as meeting the following criteria:

1. Current senior attending an Iowa high school.
2. Outstanding academic achievement (top 10% or equivalent of high school graduating class, or ACT of 28 and above, or for regent university applicants 299 and higher RAI---Regents Admission Index).
3. Demonstrate a commitment to learning and community service, as well as success in the face of adversity.
4. Qualify for a Pell Grant as determined by filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
5. Maintain full-time enrollment.

Award Details

Preference is given to students whose parents have not graduated from an accredited four-year college or university.

Amount of the scholarship is equal to the cost of attendance, less other gift aid (including Pell Grants, institutional grants and scholarships, and private scholarships).

This award is renewable for up to three years, providing the student maintains a 2.50 cumulative GPA. Amount of the award each subsequent year is based on the same formula as the initial reward.

As a part of the application process, the student must submit an essay describing his or her success in the face of adversity. A summary of high school and community service activities, including leadership roles, is also required.

Award recipients will submit a summary of their year's college experience to the Bright Foundation at the end of each academic year.

Check the following institutions for their requirements and deadlines:

DMACC Indian Hills Community College Iowa State University

University of Iowa University of Northern Iowa Southwestern Iowa Community College