

Operational Update and Program News

November 27, 2024



2024-25 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2025



2024-25 Monetary Award Program (MAP)

- Fall term claim deadline date is Friday, December 6, 2024
 - See the August 28 e-Message for more details
 - <u>isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-0828.html</u>
- MAP suspense date is August 21, 2024
 - 2024-25 FAFSAs or Alternative Applications received on or after that date are in suspense status
 - See the August 15 e-Message for more information
 - <u>isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-0815.html</u>



2024-25 MAP Payment Processing

- A Dependent Residency Override function has been added to the MAP payment request process
 - This may be used when a school determines that a dependent student meets the Illinois residency requirement as defined in the General Provisions part of ISAC's 2024-25 Administrative Rules
 - A rule amendment was incorporated to address situations where a dependent student who is an Illinois resident resides with a parent who is also an Illinois resident, but the student was required to list an out-of-state parent contributor on the FAFSA
- For dependent students who have answered questions on the FAFSA or Alternative Application that result in them being considered provisionally independent, a "Z" code will be provided on the student record for dependency status
 - The "Z" code indicates that either a professional judgment must be done to determine if a dependency override is appropriate or parental data must be provided so that the correct dependency status can be determined



Illinois Residency Rule Amendment, Effective Beginning in 2024-25

From General Provisions, Section 2700.20 Definitions

"Resident of Illinois" -

A dependent student is a resident of Illinois if the parent of the dependent applicant, who is required by the instructions to complete the FAFSA or the Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid, physically resides within the State of Illinois, and Illinois is the parent's true, fixed and permanent home.

An independent student is a resident of Illinois if the applicant physically resides within the State of Illinois (at the time of application), and has so resided for a period of 12 continuous, full months immediately prior to the start of the academic year for which assistance is requested and Illinois is their true, fixed and permanent home.

When an applicant does not qualify as a resident of Illinois under the preceding 2 paragraphs and the applicant is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a foreign missionary, or is the dependent or the spouse of an individual who is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a foreign missionary, or is a dependent student required to list an out-of-state parent contributor on the FAFSA form, then the applicant's residency shall be determined in accordance with the following:

•••

An applicant who is a dependent student and physically resides in the State of Illinois with a parent but is required to list an out-of-state parent contributor on the FAFSA form may be considered a Resident of Illinois for the purpose of State financial aid programs. See Section 2700.50(e)(3).



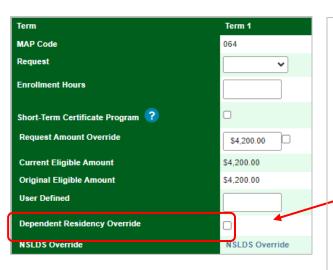
Illinois Residency Rule Amendment, Effective Beginning in 2024-25

From General Provisions, 2700.50(a)(3) – Determining Applicant Eligibility

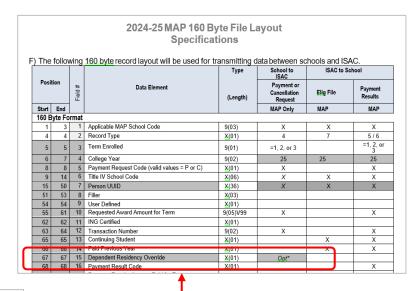
- 3) If the institution has information that a dependent student physically resides with a parent within the State of Illinois, but the parent contributor listed on the FAFSA physically resides in another state, the institution shall review the applicant's residency eligibility for ISAC gift assistance programs to determine whether it should be based on the Illinois resident parent.
 - A) The institution will make this determination on a case-by-case basis upon confirming that the dependent student and Illinois parent reside in the State as evidenced by documentation as outlined in subsection (e)(4).
 - B) The institution shall notify ISAC of the determination.
 - C) A student's maximum annual MAP award amount shall be based on the need analysis calculation using the data of the parent who is required to provide financial information on the FAFSA or Alternative Application, according to the instructions provided on the respective applications.



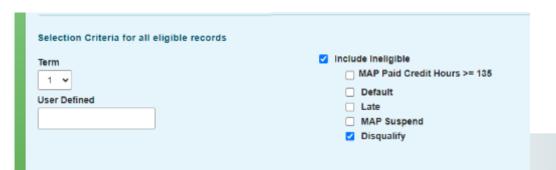
2024-25 MAP Payment Processing: Dependent Residency Override



Checking the box will override the MAP Disqualify code that will appear in the MAP system for dependent students whose parent contributor does not report Illinois as their state of residence on the FAFSA or Alt App/



Because the student record has a Disqualify code of 1, the school will also need to check the checkboxes for Include Ineligible and Disqualify when submitting the payment request.



Field #15 may be used to provide a Dependent Residency Override when submitting payment claims via FTP. The field should be populated with a **Y** to provide the override as part of the payment request process.

MAP Payment Processing Reminders

- Adjustments can be made to previously submitted claims to change enrollment hours and award amounts
 - o The most recent claim overlays the last claim and updates the claim date
- If a payment request has been submitted for a term and the MAP code needs to be corrected or updated:
 - First, cancel the original request (just as you would do a cancellation for other reasons, such as a withdrawal)
 - Once the cancellation has processed, submit a new request using the alternate budget code
 - This can be done in GAP Access in the MAP system for individual adjustments to a student's record or it may be done using FTP
 - In either case, this would be a two-step process of cancelling the request and letting it process, and then submitting a new request after the cancellation has processed.
- Keep in mind claim deadline dates when making adjustments to ensure plenty of time to adjust a claim or cancel and submit a new claim
 - An upward adjustment to a previously-submitted timely claim after the deadline date will result in the claim being considered a late claim



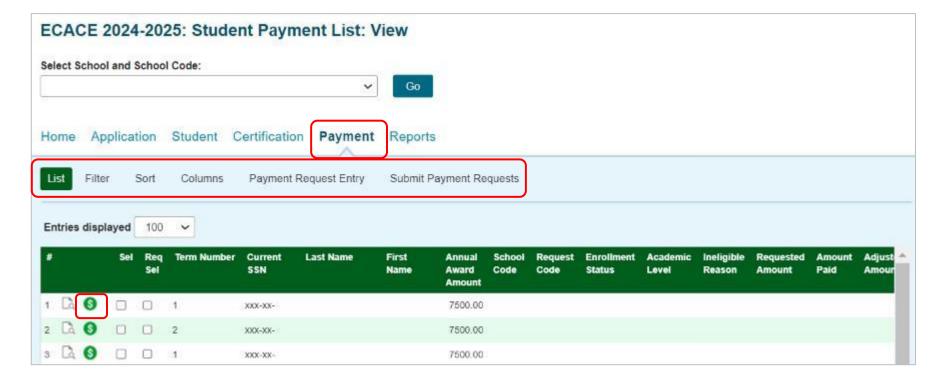
2024-25 ECACE Scholarship Program

- Program is now funded by the State of Illinois rather than with federal funding
 - Appropriation is \$5 million for the 2024-25 award year
- The maximum annual award amount a student may receive is \$7,500
 - ECACE Scholarship is last payer, and can be used for any cost of attendance component
- Awards are only available for the regular school year terms; no summer term
- All 2024-25 ECACE Scholarships were awarded to timely renewal applicants with an SAI of -1500
 - Funding was not sufficient to award to all applicants who met this criteria
 - o 2024-25 application is no longer available
- Colleges may submit fall term payment requests to ISAC
 - Fall-term claims are due on or before Tuesday, December 31, 2024



2024-25 ECACE Student Payment: View Screen

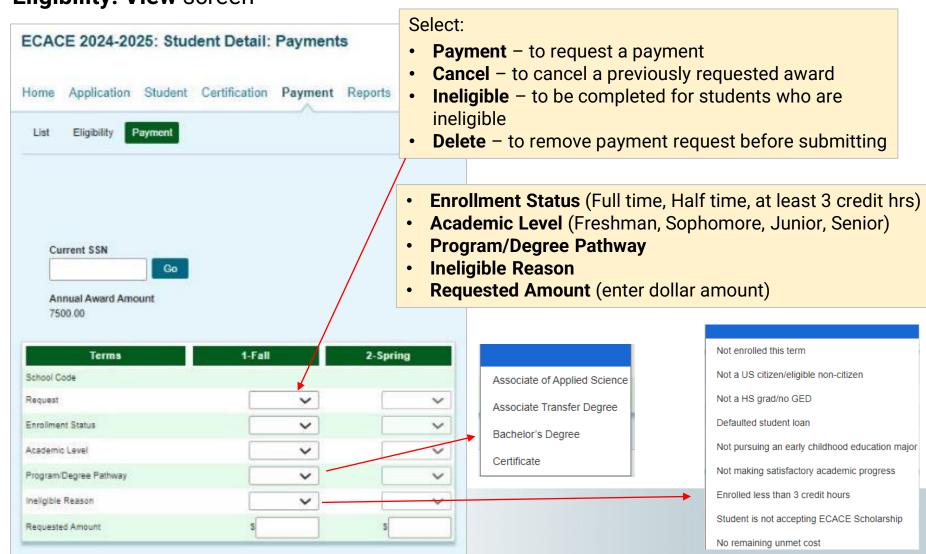
- The Student Payment List: View is accessed by selecting the Payment tab
- The following functions are available on the Student Payment List: View screen: View, Filter, Sort, Columns, Payment Request Entry, and Submit Payment Requests





2024-25 ECACE Student Detail: Payments Screen

This screen is accessed by clicking on the **dollar sign icon** on the **Student Payment List: View** screen or by selecting the **Payment** tab from the **Student List Eligibility: View** screen



2024-25 ECACE Ineligible Reasons

- The ECACE system will de-obligate/remove a student's full award if one of the following Ineligible reasons is selected during payment processing:
 - Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen
 - Not a HS grad/no GED
 - Student is not accepting ECACE Scholarship
- The system will not remove the award if any of the following Ineligible reasons is selected during payment processing:
 - Defaulted student loan
 - Not making satisfactory academic progress
 - No remaining unmet cost
 - Enrolled less than 3 credit hours
 - Not pursuing an early childhood education major
 - Not enrolled this term

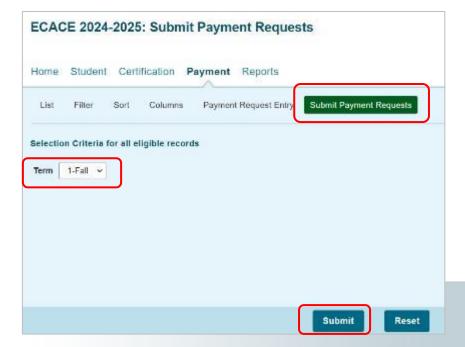


2024-25 ECACE Submit Payment Requests Screen

- The Submit Payment Requests screen allows you to submit payment requests to ISAC for processing
- The payment request records will be submitted based on the Term selected
- After payment requests have been submitted by clicking on the Submit button, a message will be displayed indicating how many payment requests were submitted

ECACE User Guide - <u>isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/ECACE-User-</u>

Guide-Aug2024.pdf





2024-25 Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI) Scholarship Program

- Several rounds of awarding have taken place
 - Awarding will continue as schools complete outstanding certifications and provide information on ineligible awardees through the payment request process
 - Colleges are encouraged to continue certifying eligibility throughout the year to ensure that your students will be included in any future rounds of awarding
- Schools may submit fall term payment requests through the MTI system
- To be considered timely, first-term payment requests must be submitted on or before Tuesday, December 31, 2024
- All certification records available in the MTI system should be completed, regardless of whether the college certifies a student as eligible or ineligible and regardless of whether the student is currently enrolled



2024-25 Golden Apple (GA) Scholars

- Fall term (first-term) payment requests continue to be accepted through the Golden Apple system in GAP Access
- To be considered timely, first-term payment requests must be submitted on or before Tuesday, December 31, 2024
- The Annual Award field in the GA system shows the Annual Award Amount To Date
 - The Golden Apple Foundation only certifies/awards a student for one term at a time
 - For example: If it is the beginning of the Fall term, the 'Annual Award Amount To Date' is reflecting the Fall term amount only, not the entire year award
 - If the same student is certified/awarded for Spring, you will see an increase in the 'Annual Award Amount To Date' to include the Spring award

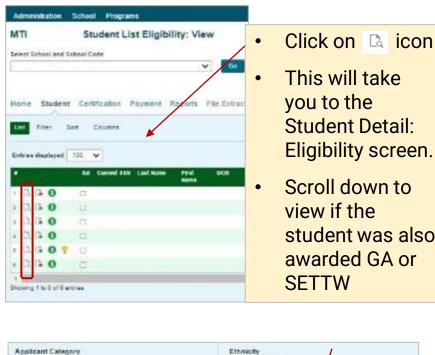


Dual-Awarding Students Eligible for SETTW, MTI and/or Golden Apple

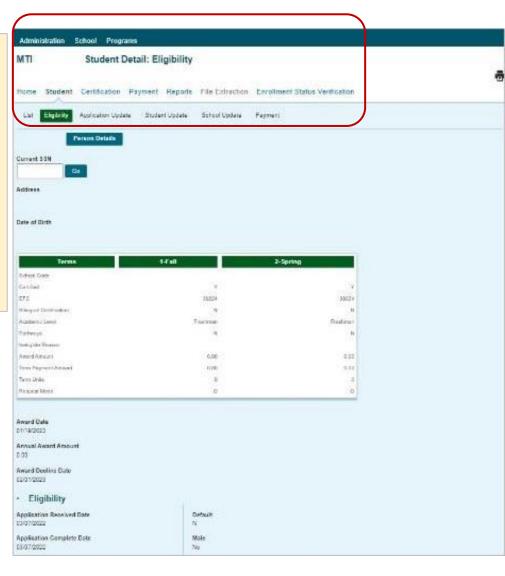
- If a student qualifies for SETTW, MTI and/or Golden Apple in the same award year, the student must choose which program they would like to use.
 - o A student cannot receive the benefits of two of these programs in the same award year.
 - o ISAC will send the student a letter asking them to choose which program they want to accept.
 - These letters include a deadline date to return the form.
 - o The ECACE Scholarship may be used with one of these programs, and ECACE would be last payer
- If a student decides to change which program benefit, he/she wants to receive:
 - First confirm that the student has been awarded the other program before cancelling a payment request/claim that may have already been made.
 - For example, make sure that the student was awarded funds for MTI before cancelling a payment request for Golden Apple.
- Program teaching obligations:
 - o SETTW requires two-year teaching commitment.
 - o Golden Apple requires a five-year teaching commitment.
 - o MTI has a one-year teaching commitment for each year that the scholarship is received.
- See ISAC's website for specific program information:
 - o <u>isac.org/e-library/administrative-rules/index.html</u>
 - o <u>isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/index.html</u>
 - isac.org/gap-access/#guide



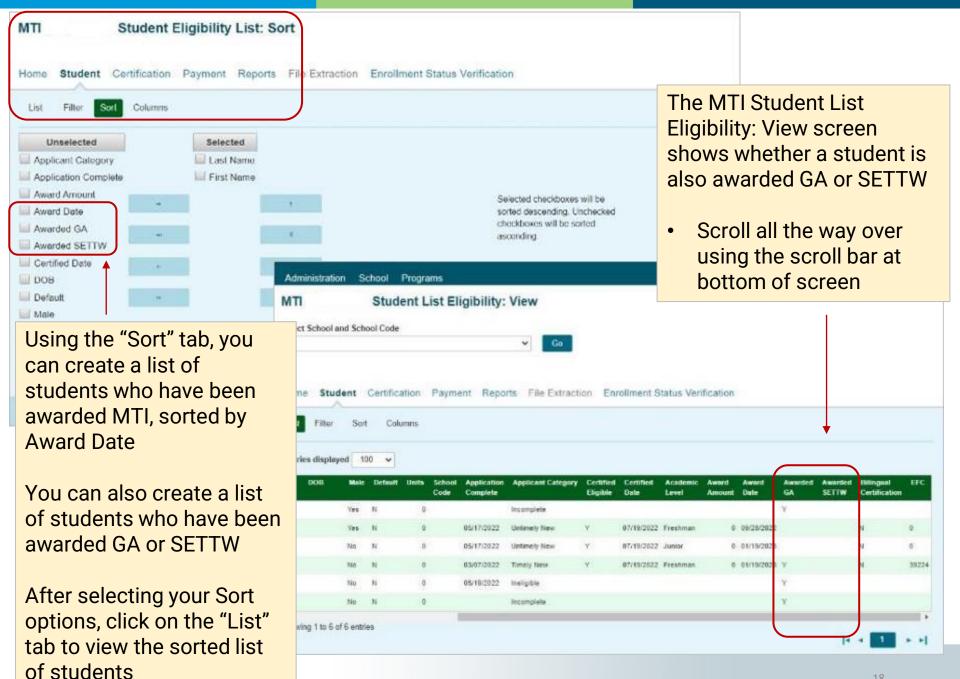
Ways to View Students Awarded GA, SETTW & MTI



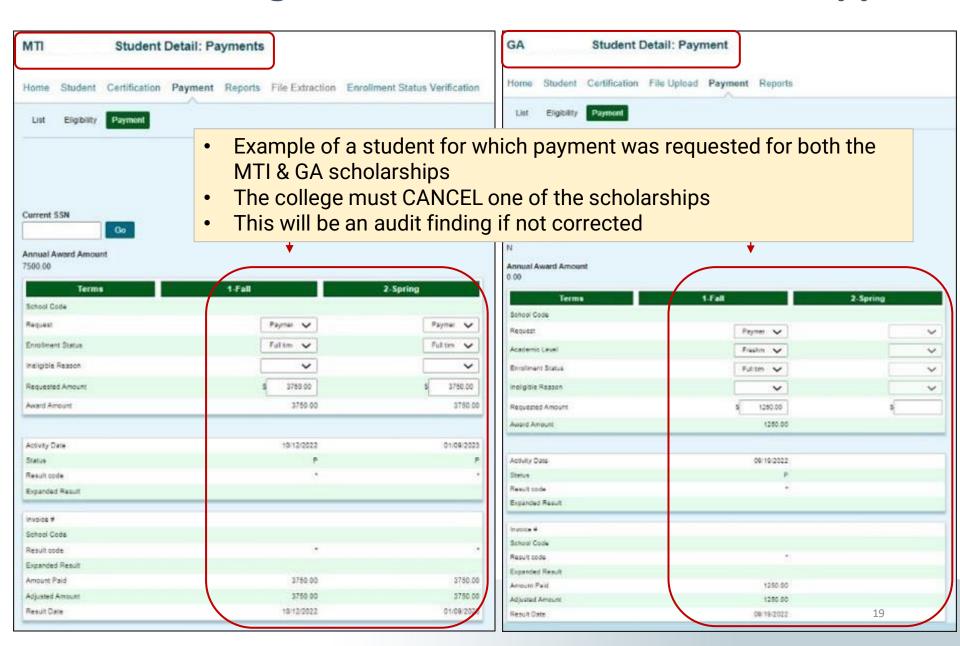








Dual-Awarding Students with MTI & Golden Apple

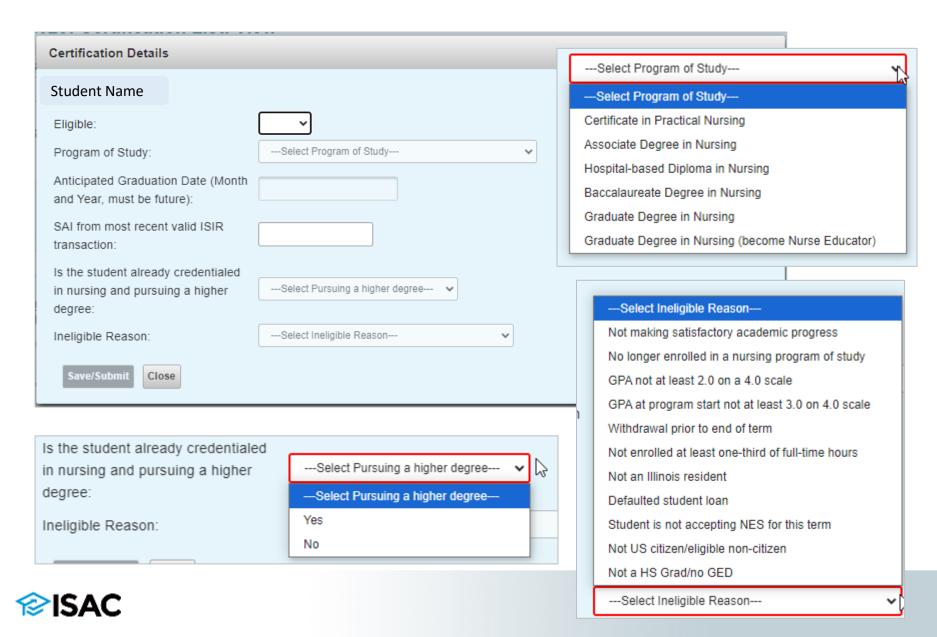


2024-25 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- Colleges are asked to complete the certification process for 2024-25 NES applicants in the NES system as soon as possible
- Certification must take place prior to awarding
 - All certification records must be completed, regardless of whether the college certifies a student as eligible or ineligible
 - As part of certification, colleges must provide:
 - Program of Study
 - Anticipated Graduation Date
 - Student Aid Index (SAI)
 - Information regarding current credentials (is student pursuing a higher degree)
 - Ineligible reason, if applicable
 - Certification data is needed for awarding prioritization when funding isn't sufficient for all applicants
 - Once a certification record has been saved and submitted, it can no longer be edited by the school
 - Contact School Services if changes are needed
- Further details are provided in an October 1 e-Message and the NES User Guide
 - o <u>isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/pdf/NESUserGuide.pdf</u>



NES Certification Details Screen



2024-25 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

- Scholarships will first be awarded to renewal applicants who continue to meet all of the program's eligibility requirements.
- An applicant is considered a renewal applicant for the program if they received NES funds during the previous academic program
- If funds remain after all qualified renewal applicants have been awarded, then awards will be made to eligible new applicants according to the degree type being sought.
 - NES Awarding Chart: <u>isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/NESP/awarding.html</u>
- If a recipient completed a certificate, diploma or degree program for which they received scholarship assistance, and they are now pursuing a higher level of education:
 - They will be considered a new applicant, and
 - Their maximum available years of assistance will be based on the maximum for the new degree being sought.
 - For example, a recipient now pursuing a baccalaureate degree after receiving assistance for an associate degree; the number of years of assistance previously received do not count toward the new maximum.



2024-25 Nursing Education Scholarships (NES)

 The certificate, diploma or degree being pursued by the student determines the NES maximum award amount and the maximum number of years the award may be received, and award amounts differ by type of college.

2024-25 NES maximum annual award amount is either \$9,023 or \$18,204

\$9,023 Maximum Award	\$18,204 Maximum Award
certificate in practical nursing * any school type * one year of assistance	associate degree in nursing * two-year private colleges or four-year colleges/universities * two years of assistance
associate degree in nursing * community colleges or nursing schools * two years of assistance	baccalaureate degree in nursing * four-year public or private colleges/universities or nursing schools * four years of assistance
hospital-based diploma in nursing * community colleges * three years of assistance	graduate degree in nursing * four-year public or private colleges/universities or nursing schools * five years of assistance
	graduate degree in nursing to become a nurse educator * four-year public or private colleges/universities or nursing schools * three years of assistance



2024-25 IVG & ING Grant programs

- ISAC's FY25 state appropriation includes funding of \$6 million to reimburse public universities for tuition and fees that are waived on behalf of students receiving Illinois Veteran Grants and Illinois National Guard Grants
- The state's FY25 budget also included a little more than \$4.2 million for the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) to reimburse Illinois community colleges for the costs associated with the IVG and ING Grant programs
- Reimbursement will be done at year-end, and will look at the total amount of timely claims submitted by the school to determine reimbursement amounts



2024-25 Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant

- Illinois National Guard (ING) Grant
 - Benefit usage data reporting for the Fall term 2024 must be submitted on or before Tuesday, December 31, 2024, to be considered timely.

Reminders:

- Students must re-apply each year
- There are no longer term deadline dates by which applications must be submitted each term
- Applications must be received by ISAC in time for eligibility to be determined
- The applicant will need to notify the college about their eligibility no later than the last scheduled day of classes for the first-term for which the student wants to receive benefits
- Members of the Illinois National Guard who have served at least 10 years in the Guard may be eligible to receive up to 180 Units (6 years) of eligibility for the ING Grant.



2024-25 Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)

- Illinois Veteran Grant (IVG)
 - Benefit usage data reporting for the Summer and Fall terms 2024 is now available
 - Benefit usage data reporting for the Summer term must be submitted on or before Monday, September 30, 2024, to be considered timely
 - Benefit usage data reporting for the Fall term 2024 must be submitted on or before Tuesday, December 31, 2024, to be considered timely
 - o Application can be submitted any time during the academic year.
 - Students do not need to reapply each year only once to establish eligibility.
 - Applications must be received by ISAC allowing sufficient time to complete processing and for applicant to notify college about their eligibility prior to the last scheduled day of classes in the term for which a grant is requested.



2024-25 Illinois Graduate and Retain our Workforce (iGROW) Tech Scholarship Program

- FY25 appropriation is \$2 million
- The program was designed to recruit and retain individuals to work in technology jobs that have a high demand for new employees
- Scholarships will pay up to \$7,500 for tuition and fees, and room and board costs for each continuous academic year recipients meet eligibility requirements at Illinois public universities
- Colleges will be asked to complete a certification process (similar to what is done for the MTI and NES programs) prior to awarding
 - The certification functionality will be made available to schools in GAP Access during the week of November 4



2024-25 iGROW Tech Scholarship Program

- To be eligible, a student must:
 - be a U.S. citizen or an eligible non-citizen or meet the "undocumented student" criteria of the RISE Act
 - be an Illinois resident
 - have graduated from high school or have received a State of Illinois High School Diploma and have maintained a cumulative grade point average of no less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
 - pursue or intend to pursue a qualifying degree;
 - computer information sciences
 - information technology
 - information science
 - computer science
 - computer systems networking and telecommunications
 - computer and information systems security or information assurance, including cybersecurity; or management information systems
 - be enrolled at least a half-time basis, in a course of study necessary to secure a qualifying associate or bachelor's degree
 - o maintain satisfactory academic progress, as determined by your college



2024-25 iGROW Tech Scholarship Program

- The online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
- The priority application consideration date is November 30, 2024
- To be considered for the scholarship, an applicant will need to complete an Application/Work Agreement/Promissory Note
 - o Must submit a FAFSA or Alternative Application for the same year
- By receiving this scholarship, the recipient agrees to work in Illinois in a qualifying job for a period of no less than one year, or any portion of a year of scholarship assistance
- The recipient must begin employment with an employer in Illinois that is directly related to the field of study that qualified them for assistance under this program within one year following completion of the program
- If the commitment is not fulfilled, the scholarship converts to a loan, plus interest, and the entire amount received must be repaid

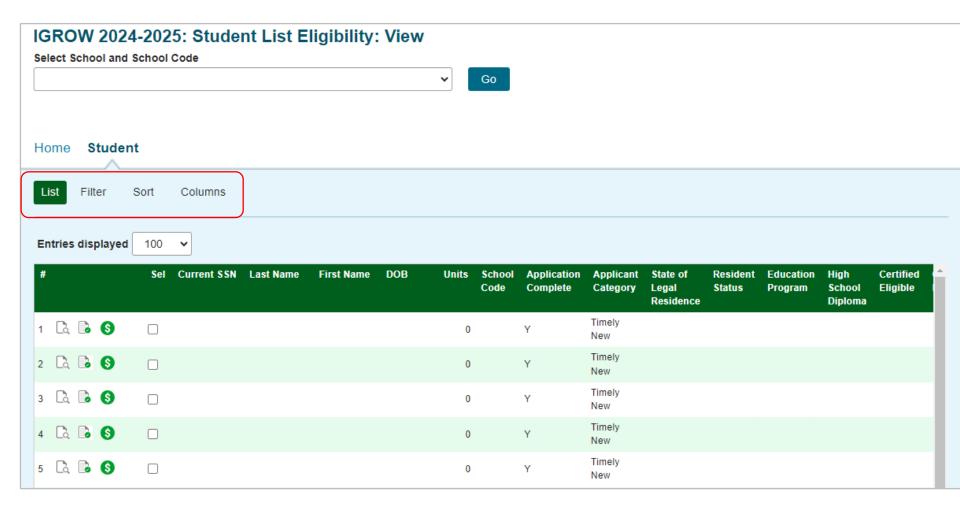


iGROW Tech Scholarship Program

- The total amount of funds awarded to a qualified recipient in a given academic year, when added to other financial aid available to student cannot exceed the cost of attendance.
 - If the amount of financial aid to be awarded exceeds the institution's cost of attendance, the iGROW Tech Scholarship shall be reduced
- If the recipient receives other assistance targeted specifically for tuition, fees, and room and board expenses, the combined assistance shall not exceed the total tuition, fees, and room and board expenses incurred by the student, and if it does, the institution shall reduce one of the awards accordingly
- If the recipient is eligible for assistance under the Monetary Award Program (MAP), the recipient may not be eligible for a full iGROW award because MAP must be factored into the financial aid package prior to receiving iGROW assistance
 - The institution may request an iGROW award to finance tuition and fees expenses not paid by MAP

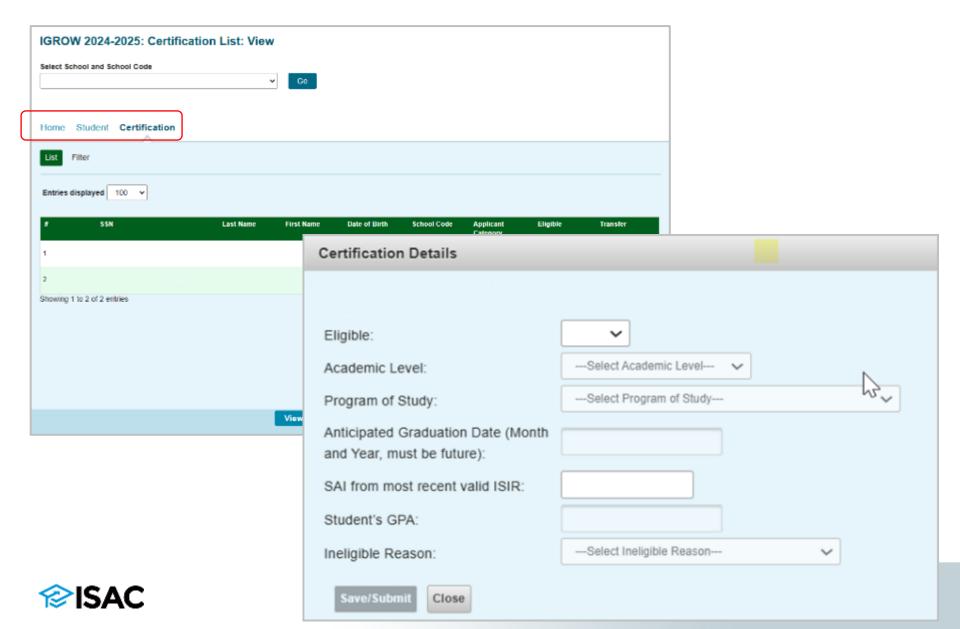


iGROW Student List Eligiblity Screen

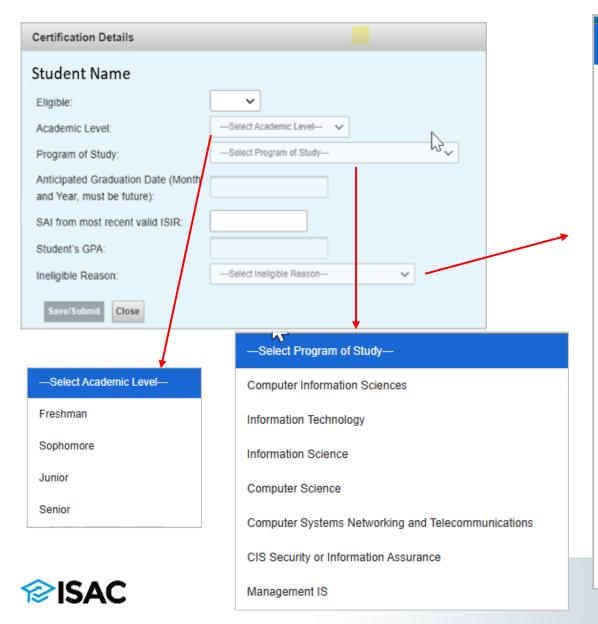




iGROW Certification Process



iGROW Certification Process

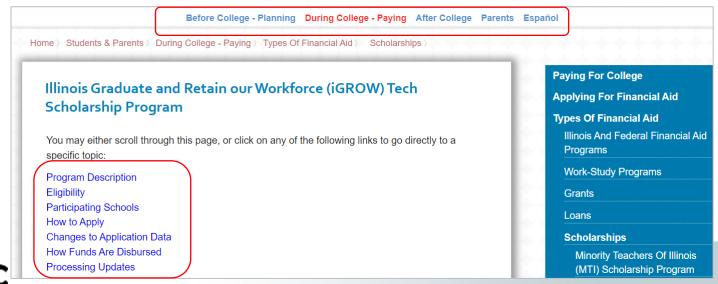


---Select Ineligible Reason---Not a US citizen/eligible non-citizen student Non-Resident Not an IL HS grad/recipient of IL HS diploma GPA less than 2.50 Graduate student No qualifying degree Not at qualifying institution Not making satisfactory academic progress No remaining unmet cost Not accepting iGROW Tech Scholarship Defaulted student loan Not enrolled Enrolled less than half-time

2024-25 iGROW Tech Scholarship Program

Resources

- Students-During College section:
 - isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/iGROW.html
- FAAs section:
 - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/iGROW/
- iGROW Administrative Rules:
 - isac.org/e-library/documents/administrative-rules/2023-24-ISAC-Rules/2750-iGROW.pdf
 - <u>isac.org/e-library/documents/administrative-rules/2024-25-ISAC-Rules/2024-25-Proposed-April-2024.pdf</u>



2024-25 Post-Master of Social Work School Social Work Professional Educator License Scholarship Program (SWSP)

- The priority application consideration date was September 30, 2024
- Complete applications submitted after that date will be considered only if available funding remains after all timely complete applicants have been awarded
- Payment requests for the fall term can be completed online and submitted electronically via the SWSP system.
- The priority payment request deadline for the fall term is Tuesday, December 31, 2024.



2024-25 Grant Programs for Dependents of Police/Fire/Correctional Officers (PFC)

- Application is available for students to download and print
 - Applicants must reapply each year
- The application deadline date for full-year consideration was
 October 1, 2024
- Other application deadline dates for partial-year consideration are:
 - March 1, 2025 2nd Semester and Summer Term consideration
 - June 15, 2025 Summer term only consideration
- Qualified applicants will be sent a Notice of Eligibility from ISAC
- Certification of Enrollment for Payment rosters have been emailed to schools with eligible applicants and are due back to ISAC by Friday, November 29



2024-25 Displaced Energy Worker Dependent Transition Scholarship

- The online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
- The application deadline date for full-year consideration is
 October 1, 2024
- Other application deadline dates for partial-year consideration are:
 - March 1, 2025 2nd Semester (2nd/3rdQuarter) and Summer Term consideration
 - June 15, 2025 Summer term only consideration
- A Certification of Enrollment for Payment roster will be sent to schools with eligible applicants



2024-25 Grant Program for Exonerees

- The online application is available in the ISAC Student Portal
- Students may use the 2024-25 application to apply for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 terms only
 - The grant is not available for Summer terms
- Applications are processed in date-received order ("first-come, first- served")
- Qualified applicants are sent a Notice of Eligibility letter from ISAC



2025-26 Award Year Fiscal Year (FY) 2026



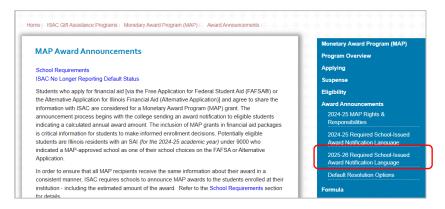
2025-26 MAP Start-Up Formula

- The 2025-26 MAP Start-Up Formula was approved at the September 19, 2024, Commission Meeting
 - o FY26 Start-up formula remains the same as FY25 Recompute formula:
 - 2021-22 reported tuition and fees
 - the 2021-22 Pell Grant Payment Schedule
 - a \$5,200 living allowance
 - an \$8,400 maximum award
 - Commission Meeting Agenda Book: <u>isac.org/about-</u> <u>isac/commissioners/2024-agenda-books/agenda-book-09-19-24.html</u>
- MAP eligibility information will be available to schools in the MAP system in early December



2025-26 MAP Start-Up

- The 2025-26 Required Award Notification Language is available on the Award Announcements page in the MAP section of isac.org for FAAs
 - o There were no changes made to the text other than the year reference
 - isac.org/isac-gift-assistance-programs/map/map-award-announcements/



• There have been no changes made to the 2025-26 MAP 160-byte file layout for 2025-26, other than the year references

 It can be found on the Electronic Tools page in the E-Library

isac.org/e-library/electronic-tools.html





2025-26 Alternative Application

- The 2025-26 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid has been updated to be consistent with the 2025-26 FAFSA, however, it has not been launched yet
- It is expected to be launched in early December



ISAC's Webinars for FAAs

Monthly Operational Update & Program News

- These webinars will provide operational updates about ISAC programs along with any federal or state updates and announcements
 - Last Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.
 - December 18, due to the holiday

Tuesday Training - Policies & Procedures

- These webinars focus on policies and procedures for ISAC programs and processes
 - Second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m.
 - ❖ December 10 A Review of ISAC's Loan Repayment Program

To participate in these webinars, visit the Partner Training page in the e-Library on the day of the training for the webinar link and presentation materials

isac.org/e-library/partner-training/index.html



Enrollment Status Verification Process

- Colleges that participate in the Special Education Teacher Tuition
 Waiver (SETTW) Program and the Minority Teachers of Illinois (MTI)
 Scholarship Program are being asked to provide 2023-2024 enrollment
 status verification data to ISAC for students who previously received
 funds from these programs
- Data should be submitted on or before Tuesday, December 31, 2024.
- Enrollment verification data is provided in each program's system within the GAP Access portal.



- See the November 4 e-message for more information
 - o <u>isac.org/e-library/partner-e-messages-and-newsletters/faa-e-messages/eLibrary-FAA-2024-1104.html</u>



ISAC's Student Engagement & Support Services

For inquiries from students, parents, and the general public

Phone: **800-899-ISAC** (4722)

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: isac.studentservices@illinois.gov Spanish-speaking counselors are available 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT



ISAC's Partner Services Department

- Provides training, program information, policy guidance and support to schools and other ISAC partners
- Partners with ILASFAA and other professional organizations
- Responds to school inquiries, both colleges and high schools

Phone: 866-247-2172

Fax: 847-831-8549

E-mail: isac.schoolservices@illinois.gov

Partner Services Staff

Kim Eck, <u>Kimberly.Eck@illinois.gov</u>
Daniela Rios, <u>Daniela.Rios@illinois.gov</u>
Sherry Schonauer, <u>Sherry.Schonauer@illinois.gov</u>



Questions/Comments





Thank you for attending today!



