



[www.SelectDakota.org](http://www.SelectDakota.org)

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A significant number of scholarship opportunities exist for South Dakota high school graduates who are interested in pursuing their postsecondary career in the state. The South Dakota Board of Regents manages four state scholarship programs (Opportunity, Dakota Corps, Jump Start, and Needs Based), and three endowed scholarships (Bjugstad, Fowler/Kaden, and Scarborough). Each of the six Regental institutions also has a unique set of scholarship opportunities that are designed to encourage graduates to attend a public institution immediately after high school graduation. Below you will find general information pertaining to each of these opportunities, with more detailed information available on the Board of Regents' website at <https://www.sdbor.edu/student-information/Pages/Scholarships.aspx> or by contacting us directly at: [info@sdbor.edu](mailto:info@sdbor.edu)



Through the South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship (Deadline September 1 for the fall semester) students can receive up to \$6,500 over the course of their postsecondary career if they meet each of the following initial eligibility requirements:

- Resident of South Dakota at time of high school graduation.
- ACT composite or superscore of 24 or higher or an equivalent score as determined by the Board of Regents on the SAT.
- Complete required coursework in areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Fine Arts, and other areas depending on graduation date. Students are encouraged to review additional information specific to the coursework requirements at <https://sdos.sdbor.edu/require/Pages/Curriculum-Requirements.aspx>
- Complete course requirements listed above with no final grade below a "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and an un-weighted cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (grade of "B").
- Students earning a composite or superscore of 28 or higher AND meets the ACT college readiness benchmark scores (equaling or exceeding 18 for English, 22 for reading, 22 for math, and 23 for science), are not required to meet the curriculum requirements (see previous two bullet points)
- Effective beginning Fall 2019 Homeschool students are now also eligible for the SD Opportunity Scholarship with the same requirements as traditional students.



The Dakota Corps Scholarship (Deadline February 1) for high school and college students in South Dakota provides full tuition and generally-applicable fees to selected qualified applicants in critical need occupations that for the 2022-2023 academic year included:

- Teaching K-12 foreign language in a public, private or parochial school. (*Reinstated May 2015*)
- Teaching K-12 special education in a public, private, or parochial school.
- Teaching high school math or science in a public, private, or parochial school.
- Teaching high school career and technical education in a public, private, or parochial school.
- Working as a Registered Nurse.
- Working as an Accountant/Auditor
- Working as an Engineer (includes all fields *EXCEPT* mining, Chemical, biomedical, and computer hardware)
- Working in Information Technology

The application form and any revisions to the critical need occupations are typically made available in mid-December every year on the Dakota Corps Scholarship website at <https://www.sdbor.edu/dakotacorps/Pages/welcome.aspx>.



As a result of the student's early graduation, if the student enrolls at any accredited postsecondary institution in South Dakota the student will be eligible for \$1,500 for the first year of college (Deadline September 1). To be eligible for the Jump Start Scholarship program, a student shall:

- Be a resident of South Dakota;
- Complete the requirements of the recommended high school program as established by the Board of Education pursuant to § 13-1-12.1, and be awarded a high school diploma by a public high school in three years or less;
- Have attended a public high school in South Dakota on a full-time basis for at least two semesters prior to graduating; and
- Within one year of graduating from high school, enroll in a participating postsecondary institution located in South Dakota.

## Need Based Scholarship Program

The South Dakota Needs Based Grant Program (SDNBGP) was established with the passage of **Senate Bill 237**; whereby interest earned from a one-time investment of \$1.5 million in state monies will be used to fund the grant program.

No specific application form is required to receive funds; however, to be eligible students will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA), and then work with Financial Aid Directors at the participating institutions who will use their information to determine those students on their campus that have the highest amount of unmet need after determining other grants/scholarship, tuition reductions, and expected family contributions. The scholarship program allows campus administrators to make awards of \$500 to \$2,000 to help lower the educational costs for students. Dollars will be allocated to each institution based on the percentage of Pell eligible students enrolled at that institution. In the future, the interest that is earned from the one-time investment of \$1.5 million will be used to fund the program. It is estimated that the interest from this fund will provide \$55,000 worth of scholarship funding each year, and when matched by participating institutions, it shall provide for approximately \$220,000 worth of need based funding.



(current high school students are not eligible for this scholarship – see below)

The Critical Teaching Needs Scholarship (Deadline April 15) established under **Senate Bill 233** is for students attending a participating South Dakota postsecondary institution as an undergraduate **enrolled in their final two years of postsecondary education who are fully admitted into an elementary or secondary education program** that is preparing them to work in a critical need teaching area. The critical teaching needs areas within a public, private, or parochial school for the 2020-2021 academic year include:

- Teaching K-12 Special Education
- Teaching High School Math or Science
- Teaching High School Career and Technical Education
- Teaching Secondary Language Arts
- Teaching Secondary World Language
- Teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) or English Language Learners (ELL)
- Teaching K-12 Vocal or Instrumental Music

The application form and any revisions critical teaching need occupations are typically made available in mid-December every year on the SDBOR scholarship webpage at <https://www.sdbor.edu/student-information/Pages/Scholarships.aspx>.

## Endowed Scholarships (Deadline: February 25, 2022)

**Ardell Bjugstad Scholarship.** This program is designed for freshman Native American students who are pursuing studies in agribusiness, agricultural production, agricultural sciences, or a natural resources degree at any postsecondary institution.

**Annis Irene Fowler/Kaden Scholarship.** This scholarship program provides funding to two first-time entering freshman at BHSU, DSU, NSU or USD and who will select elementary education as their major field. Special consideration is given to students with demonstrated motivational ability, a disability, or who are self-supporting.

**Marlin R. Scarborough Memorial Scholarship.** The Marlin R. Scarborough Memorial Scholarship is awarded to a student who is classified as a junior at a public university at the time funding is received. Each South Dakota public university nominates one student for the scholarship.

## Regental Institution Merit Based Scholarship Programs



The **Buzz Bonus Scholarship** is awarded upon admission to incoming freshmen who are 1) in the top 1/3 of their graduating class; and 2) have a minimum composite ACT of 21. Scholarship amounts vary depending on the students ACT score with annual awards of \$500 (21-24), \$750 (25-26), and \$1,000 (27 or higher) and are renewable for three years if the student maintains a 3.0 cumulative GPA and takes 30 credit hours per academic year. Homeschooled students, in lieu of class rank, must attain a 3.0 GPA along with a minimum ACT composite score of 21.



The **Dakota State University Champion Scholarships** are renewable up to four years if student maintains a cumulative DSU GPA of 3.0 or greater and is continuously enrolled with a minimum of 12 DSU credits per semester (fall/spring). Three scholarship exist including the Presidential Champion (\$2,150 per year for those with a 28-26 ACT), Merit Champion (\$1,650 per year for those with a 24-27 ACT), and Achievement Champion (\$500 per year for those with a 21-23 ACT). All three scholarships required a high school GPA of 3.0 or greater and no separate scholarship application is necessary.



Northern State University's **WolfPACT Scholarship** is the largest guaranteed scholarship in South Dakota. NSU is offering more money to college students when they need it most! The WolfPACT program is simple. Students with an ACT of 30 or higher are guaranteed \$12,000 over 4 years; ACT scores of 28 or 29 qualify for \$11,000 over 4 years; scores of 24 to 27 qualify for \$7,000 over 4 years; and score of 21 to 23 receive \$5,000 over 4 years. To apply for the WolfPACT scholarship, send a completed admission application, application fee, high school transcript and ACT score to the admissions office at NSU and be accepted for admission by March 1. The WolfPACT scholarship is for new freshman only. The scholarship website is: <http://www.northern.edu/financialaid/Pages/wolfpact.aspx>.



To be considered for incoming freshmen scholarships at South Dakota Mines, prospective students must be accepted for admission to South Dakota Mines by the priority scholarship deadline of January 15 and have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA from high school. The Office of Admissions will consider a student's highest composite score (either ACT or SAT) by test date. Please note ACT Superscores (calculated by ACT) will not be considered. Most prestigious for incoming freshmen students is the Presidential Scholar - \$8000 each year for four years totaling \$32,000 over the four years! South Dakota Mines also has need-based scholarships and NSF S-STEM Culture and Attitude Scholarships available.

<http://sdmines.sdsmt.edu/finaid/scholarships>.



The **Jackrabbit Guarantee** is a commitment by SDSU to award a minimum renewable academic scholarship award between \$1000-\$4000 to qualifying students. No scholarship application is required to receive the Jackrabbit Guarantee amount. This financial promise is made upon admission to SDSU based on a student's qualifying high school GPA or a combination of high school GPA and ACT composite score, ACT SuperScore, or SAT composite score. Qualifying GPA and/or test score requirements can be found at the link below. Students must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA and complete a minimum of 24 credit hours from SDSU in each academic year (fall and spring semesters). Additional scholarship opportunities, details, and SDSU online scholarship application can be found here: <https://www.sdstate.edu/scholarships>



The **Coyote Commitment Scholarship** is a renewable program ranging from \$2,000-\$12,000 (\$1,000-\$3,000/yearly). Freshmen admitted as full-time students in Vermillion for Fall 2012 are automatically considered based on standardized test scores (ACT or SAT) and cumulative unweighted high school GPA. The scholarship is renewable for eight consecutive semesters at either a 2.5 or 3.0 GPA, determined by the individual scholarship, with March 15 as the priority date for full consideration. Class Valedictorians are eligible for \$500 the freshman year. All departmental and premiere academic scholarships are awarded via the USD Online Scholarship application at: <http://www.usd.edu/admissions/freshmen/scholarships>.

## ***Institutional Scholarship Programs***

Each of the six Regental institutions have established specific merit-based scholarship programs that are designed to recruit students to remain in South Dakota by providing additional financial incentive for attending public universities. Each program has a set of criteria which are unique to the institutions, and the funds are awarded to accompany additional merit based funding a student might be awarded through state or discipline specific awards. Some institutions have specific deadlines to be eligible for these programs so students are encouraged to apply by the dates specified below for each institution to be eligible for funding.

Black Hills State University - <http://www.bhsu.edu>

Dakota State University – <http://www.dsu.edu/>

Northern State University (**March 1**) – <http://www.northern.edu/>

South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (**First business day in February**) - <http://www.sdsmt.edu/>

South Dakota State University - <http://www.sdstate.edu/>

University of South Dakota - <http://www.usd.edu/>

## ***Regents' Scholar Diploma Program***

The Regents' Scholar Diploma program was established as an academic letter that school districts use to recognize graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence through the completion of coursework in the six content areas. Additionally, high school graduates designated as Regents' Scholars automatically are admitted to all six public universities. **This is only a certification program; it does NOT offer funding.**

The BOR has aligned the Regents' Scholar Diploma curriculum requirements with the SDDOE Advanced Academic Preparation Endorsement and the SD Opportunity Scholarship to include Modern/Classical Language, Career and Technical Education, or a combination of both to be include as an option for students to qualify for the Regents' Scholar Program. This took effect for the 2018-2019 graduating senior class.

Additional information and a full list of the requirements can be found on the BOR website at <https://www.sdbor.edu/teachers-counselors/Pages/Regent-Scholars.aspx>.