New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship

The New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship helps pay tuition expenses for New Mexico high school graduates (or GED recipients) who plan to attend an eligible New Mexico public college or university.

Students establish eligibility in the first regular semester immediately following their high school graduation and funding begins in the second college semester. To find out more about scholarships for the first regular semester, contact the NMJC Financial Aid Office.

How much is the award?

- Tuition only or an amount set by the state each year;
- Renewable if student maintains satisfactory progress and full-time status; and
- May receive scholarship for a total of seven (7) consecutive semesters at a NM state school, but no more than four (4) semesters at NMJC.

What are the eligibility requirements?

- New Mexico resident;
- Graduated from a New Mexico public high school, an accredited New Mexico private high school, or have obtained a New Mexico GED;
- Home schooled students are eligible only if they pass the New Mexico GED;
- Must be enrolled full-time and complete 12 credit hours at a two year institution and 15 hours at a four year institution, and obtain a 2.5 grade point average (GPA) at an eligible New Mexico public college or university, in the first regular semester immediately following high school graduation or receipt of New Mexico GED;
- Must be an undergraduate; and
- Must maintain full-time enrollment.

If ALL of the above requirements are not met, a student is not eligible to receive the New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship. Only military and medical circumstances that prevented the student from attending in the qualifying semester can be considered for extenuating circumstances and will require a written petition and supporting documentation for review of eligibility.

The Legislative Lottery Scholarship will be awarded for the second semester of attendance to students who have met all the eligibility requirements during the qualifying semester. The scholarship covers tuition only or an amount set by the state each year and does NOT cover mandatory student fees, course fees, housing, meals, books, etc. An award is made only during the fall and spring semesters.

Continuing Eligibility Criteria:

A student will remain eligible to receive the scholarship by completing 12 NEW credit hours in each consecutive fall and spring semesters at a two year institution and 15 NEW credit hours at a four year institution while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better – repeated courses do not count. GPA is the average of traditional letter grades; A, B, C, D, and F. The grade of CR counts towards the total credit hours completed but does not affect
GPA. Grades of F, NC, I, W, and audit and repeated courses do not count towards total credit hours completed but may negatively impact GPA.

A student who has met the initial eligibility requirements whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.5 or who does not complete the required full time credits each fall and spring semester will NOT be awarded the Legislative Lottery Scholarship for the subsequent semester. Students may re-establish eligibility by raising their GPA and/or completing missed credits. Fall deficits must be made up during spring or summer of the same academic year and spring deficits must be made up during the summer or fall semesters of the same calendar year. Although no awards will be made following a deficit semester, all terms are counted toward the maximum number of eligible terms. Once a deficit is made up the student MUST submit a written request for reinstatement of the Legislative Lottery Scholarship by the end of the 3rd week of the semester they are requesting reinstatement of the scholarship. If a student is not registered full time by the end of the 3rd week of classes, the student forfeits eligibility for the Scholarship.

Under certain highly restricted circumstances, qualified students may be approved for an exception to the continuing eligibility criteria. A written request for consideration of special circumstances and supporting documentation must be submitted to NMJC’s Financial Aid Office for consideration. Students will be emailed once a decision is determined or if additional documentation is needed.

**Legislative Lottery Scholarship: Students with Disabilities**

During the 2007 New Mexico State Legislative session, lawmakers passed a law that redefines “full time” for students with disabilities effective 2007 fall semester.

A student who self-identifies with the NMJC Special Needs Services Office, which serves students with disabilities, may request to take less than 12 credit hours; in no case however, shall a student take fewer than 6 credit hours. The student is still required to maintain Lottery eligibility with a 2.5 GPA and consecutive enrollment at a New Mexico public college or university.

There are three steps a student must take in order to take advantage of this opportunity:

**Students with Disabilities: Step by Step Procedure**

Step 1: Students must self-identify with the Special Needs Services Office which oversees students with special needs’ requests. The Special Needs Services Office is located in the Student Counseling area of the Ben Alexander Student Learning Center.

Step 2: Students must fill out the Legislative Lottery Scholarship Students with Disabilities Referral Form and have it signed by the Special Needs Services personnel that reviewed the student’s individual case.

Step 3: The form is then delivered to the NMJC Financial Aid Office. The Financial Aid Office will determine eligibility for the Legislative Lottery Scholarship based on the Referral Form. Generally the scholarship should be extended by one additional semester for each term where an exception is granted. However, further extensions may be approved on a case-by-case basis.

**Students with Disabilities: Please Note**

- Exceptions to “full time” may be granted during the qualifying semester;
- Eligibility for this exception is not retroactive; and
- The deadline to request a disability exception is the end of the 3rd week of classes for the semester.

Contact the Financial Aid Office at NMJC to inquire about the New Mexico Legislative Lottery Scholarship: financialaid@nmjc.edu or 575-392-5172.