

bridging GAPP is the gap to college access and affordability

Steps to Apply

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and list all GAPP participating institutions you may attend.
2. Create a Maryland State Aid Account through the Maryland Central Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) - <http://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us>.
3. Contact the financial aid office of a GAPP participating institution and complete the application, if applicable, for a matching GAPP award.
4. For more information visit [Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access \(GA\) Grant](#) or call the MHEC Office of Student Financial Assistance at (800) 974-0203.

GAPP Participating Institutions



For more information visit www.micua.org/resources



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2025 - 2026

Guaranteed Access Partnership Program

GAPP

*A Grant That Matches Maryland's GA
Grant Award Up to a total of \$36,000!!**



How to Apply

Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) or State financial aid application for undocumented students (formerly MSFAA) through the new [MHEC One-App](#). Contact the financial aid office of the GAPP participating institution.

Award Amount*

For the 2025-2026 academic year, the maximum Guaranteed Access grant for students was \$18,000 which was matched by MICUA schools for a total of \$36,000. The State of Maryland will set a maximum award level for the 2026-2027 academic year in April of 2026. Students who receive the Maryland Guaranteed Access (GA) grant will have their award doubled in value through the Guaranteed Access Partnership Program (GAPP). Students who receive a GAPP award may still receive other forms of need-based and merit-based financial aid. These funds cannot exceed the cost of attendance at the institution a student chooses to attend.

Who Can Apply

Eligible Maryland students who begin college within 6 years of completing high school or obtaining a GED and who plan to attend a participating Maryland independent college or university as full-time, degree-seeking, undergraduate students.

When to Apply

March 1 is the final deadline for students to submit the FAFSA or MHEC One-App. **July 15** is the deadline to submit all required documentation requested in MDCAPS.

Eligible Majors

All majors are eligible.

Renewing GAPP

A GAPP award may be renewed annually for three years for students who maintain eligibility.

The Guaranteed Access Grant maximum amount is calculated annually based on the approved State budget allocation.

All Guaranteed Access Grant awarding is contingent on the availability of funds.



GAPP Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the income eligibility requirements for the Maryland GA grant and demonstrate eligibility for institutional need-based assistance. Students must also:

- meet the GA requirements and be awarded a GA grant;
- be eligible for In-State tuition;
- meet the initial income requirements for the academic year;
- have completed high school or obtained a GED with a passing score of 145 per module;
- must begin college within 6 years of completing high school or obtaining a GED;
- apply to a participating Maryland independent college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking, undergraduate student; and
- be under the age of 26 at the time of receiving the first award.

Don't Miss Out on Federal Pell Grants!

Students who receive Federal Pell Grants can boost their award totals even further.