GEAR UP Scholarship

FOR 2012 GRADUATES

The Nevada State GEAR UP Program was designed to significantly increase the number of students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The following questions and answers will provide an overview of some basic information needed to successfully receive a GEAR UP grant. There will be questions that are not answered here; and, for that reason, it is important that you seek assistance from your GEAR UP counselor or GEAR UP contacts.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO IN HIGH SCHOOL?

As a Nevada State GEAR UP High School graduate in 2012, you are eligible for a GEAR UP grant when minimal standards set by the Nevada GEAR UP State Council have been met:

- Attend a Nevada GEAR UP High School for at least two years, stay in school until high school graduation, make satisfactory progress and graduate with a diploma spring 2012*. Upon completion of high school, a student must have a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.0, weighted or un-weighted, on a 4.0 grading scale or whichever GPA meets the acceptance requirement of the institution the student plans to attend (UNLV & UNR minimum entrance requirement for the class of 2008 is 3.00 GPA). When calculating the GPA for GEAR UP grant eligibility, all high school credit bearing course work will be used.
- Be a resident of Nevada as defined by the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) for at least two years of high school.
- Participate in GEAR UP approved activities or services. One level one and two level two activities are required per year.
- Assist in evaluating GEAR UP by responding to surveys, questionnaires and interviews.
- Demonstrate good behavior with no NRS 392.466 offenses during school activities and pass the Nevada high school proficiency exams.
- Learn about other financial aid sources and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Enroll in college, (see below…"Where can I use the GEAR UP Grant?").

  *Certification of eligibility for the GEAR UP scholarship for high school graduates will be established by the list of graduates provided by the Nevada GEAR UP High Schools. Early GEAR UP graduates (2011) are eligible.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THE GEAR UP GRANT?

- The GEAR UP Scholars eligible for a GEAR UP Grant are Nevada 2012 high school graduates who participated in Nevada State GEAR UP high school activities for two or more years.
- Qualified students may receive a GEAR UP Grant during the six academic years following their high school graduation in 2012. Exceptions may be made for qualified students who serve on active duty in the United States Armed Forces.
- GEAR UP financial assistance will apply to undergraduate studies only and is limited to attainment of the first Bachelor's degree or multiple certificates or Associate degrees.
- GEAR UP students must be enrolled for 12 semester credits at one eligible institution per semester and must demonstrate satisfactory student progress by earning a 2.0 GPA or higher.
- Summer school students must register for a minimum of 6 semester credits with a 2.0 GPA or higher.

WHERE CAN I USE THE GEAR UP GRANT?

The GEAR UP Grant can be used at eligible Nevada institutions of higher education. Eligible institutions are:

- A university, state college or community college of the NSHE (Maximum of $10,000 over a 6 year period.)
- A nonsectarian institution of higher education in Nevada that provides a match to the GEAR UP grant monies and was originally established in, and is organized under the laws of the state, and is exempt from taxation pursuant to 26 U.S.C.501c3, and is accredited by the regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or an eligible Tribal College that may be located outside the state of Nevada.

WHAT IS A GEAR UP PARENT?

While the student is enrolled in a GEAR UP school, the parent/guardian agrees to:

- Support the Scholar's goals to complete high school and attend college.
- Learn about higher education and student financial aid programs.
- Participate in GEAR UP activities a minimum of two times per year:
  - Attending information sessions
  - Volunteering for program activities
  - Accompany student on field trips
  - Reading information packets provided by site coordinators
- Participation in studies of the effectiveness of the GEAR UP project by:
  - Completing questionnaires and participating in interviews about the Scholars and family participation in school and GEAR UP; questionnaire and interview answers will be kept strictly confidential by all GEAR UP personnel.
  - Allowing the GEAR UP school/district to monitor regularly the Scholar's school performance, including grades, attendance, completion of credit, and disciplinary records. Scholars and parent/guardian personal information will be kept strictly confidential by all GEAR UP personnel. Reporting of data will be completely anonymous.

GEAR UP GRANT

FOR 2012 GRADUATES

(Continued)

GEAR UP LEVEL ONE ACTIVITIES

Must be a rigorous academic class or college preparation (at least one per year)

- Tutoring
- Test preparation - high school proficiency, college entrance exams
- Summer school
- AVID
- Talent Search/Upward Bound
- Enrollment in Honors/Advanced Placement classes
- Dual credit college classes/Early Studies program
- Correspondence/Distance Learning classes
- Magnet schools/programs
- Foreign language class
- Upper level career technical education courses/ programs
- ROTC
- Service/community learning (minimum of 45 hours)
- Close Up with preparation class/club
- Supplemental programs, with approval by the GEAR UP State Office

GEAR UP LEVEL TWO ACTIVITIES

College preparatory supplemental activities (at least two activities per year)

- Co-curricular activities
- Academic, college and career counseling
- Mentoring
- Family and community engagement
- Peer support
- Cultural event
- Career fair
- College fair
- College counseling
- Parent/family meetings about college entrance and GEAR UP
- College visits
- Summer college camp
- Financial aid workshop
- Financial aid training
- Validated/approved academic plan
- Validated/active participation in school-sponsored extra curricular activities that require a minimum GPA above 2.0 for participation, including sports
- Internships/externships – school approved
- Community service or service learning
- High school orientation program
- Classroom GEAR UP presentation
- Girls State and Boys State
- Junior Achievement
- Supplemental programs, with approval by the GEAR UP State Office

NEVADA STATE GEAR UP HIGH SCHOOLS 2012

Clark County School District
- Basic HS
- Chaparral HS
- Del Sol HS
- Desert Pines HS
- Eldorado HS
- Las Vegas HS
- Legacy HS
- Mojave HS
- Rancho HS
- Valley HS
- CCSD CTE and Magnet Schools

Elko County School District
- Owyhee HS

Humboldt County School District
- McDermitt HS

Lyon County School District
- Yerington HS

Mineral County School District
- Mineral County HS

Nye County School District
- Beatty HS
- Gabbs HS
- Pahrump Valley HS
- Tonopah HS

Washoe County School District
- Hug HS
- Wooster HS
- Dean's Future Scholars

GEAR UP CONTACTS

Nevada State GEAR UP Office
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There are many types of financial aid available to assist you in offsetting the cost of attending college; the Nevada State GEAR UP Grant is only one of these. It is important that you contact campus financial aid offices as early as January of your senior year to explore the full range of financial assistance options available to you. The following are important contacts for you if you have additional questions:
- Your high school counselor
- The Admissions Office and the Financial Aid Office of the eligible institution you are considering
- Nevada GEAR UP State Office (775) 687-9150