The Golden LEAF Scholars Program 2015 - 2016

The Golden LEAF Scholars Program is designed to assist current high school seniors and North Carolina community college transfer students. Recipients must be from certain rural counties and demonstrate both financial need and merit to attend qualified North Carolina colleges and universities in the fall of 2015. The scholarship is funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation through a grant to the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority. The scholarship provides $3,000 a year for up to 4 years to high school seniors and $3,000 a year for up to 3 years to community college transfer students. The number of years of scholarship support depends on the degree sought and the number of credits transferred.

Before you apply for the Golden LEAF Scholars Program, please review the detailed eligibility criteria below.

Who may apply?

To be considered for this award, a student must:

- Be a North Carolina resident for tuition purposes.
- Be a high school senior enrolling full-time as a first-year student or a community college transfer student enrolling full-time at any participating North Carolina college or university in the fall of 2015.
- Be a resident of a rural county that is economically distressed and/or tobacco dependent. Click here to view the eligible counties.
- Have financial need as determined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

How do you apply?

1. By March 1, 2015, submit the electronic Golden LEAF Scholars Program application.

2. By March 1, 2015, complete the 2015-16 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov (available after January 1st). Estimated income, tax, etc. information may be used to meet the scholarship deadline. Estimates will be confirmed with verified data prior to scholarship disbursements. Once submitted and processed, the results of the FAFSA will be sent automatically to SEAA and matched with your scholarship application.
3. By March 1, 2015, submit a copy of your most recent academic grade transcript:

- For current high school students: If your public high school participates in the electronic transcript program with CFNC, you may request your transcript to be sent to NCSEAA using the Transcript Manager. If using the Transcript Manager, make sure you select "NCSEAA" in the "college/university" list. If your high school does not participate in the CFNC Transcript Manager, please request that your transcript be submitted directly from the counseling center to SEAA via email (preferred) to information@ncseaa.edu, via fax to 919.248.4687 or via mail to the address listed below.

- For current community college students: Please request an official academic transcript from your community college be submitted via email (preferred) to information@ncseaa.edu, via fax to 919.248.4687 or via mail to the address listed below. Transcripts must be submitted directly from the college authorities.

4. Check the SEAA Student Portal to review the status of your application. The Student Portal can be accessed at www.cfnc.org/seaastudent. Once the completed application is received the status of your application will be posted to your SEAA Student Portal. When additional information is posted, an email will alert you to visit the portal. We also encourage you to visit the portal periodically for updated information.

*Please do not send transcripts or paper scholarship applications to the Golden LEAF Foundation in Rocky Mount, NC. All materials related to the Golden LEAF Scholars Program must be sent to NCSEAA. The address is noted below.*

The deadline for receipt of the application, transcript and FAFSA is March 1, 2015.

**Optional Leadership Program**

Students awarded Golden LEAF Scholarships are also eligible to participate in the Golden LEAF Scholars Leadership Program (subject to the availability of funding). The program is only available to Golden LEAF Scholarship recipients. It provides Golden LEAF Scholars with leadership training at the Center for Creative Leadership, one of the nation’s leading leadership development organizations. Participating students also have the opportunity for paid internship opportunities in rural NC communities. Students who participate in all four years of the program (freshman – senior) can earn up to $8,830 in stipends. The Center for Creative Leadership developed and manages the leadership program. For more information about the leadership program, visit [http://www.goldenleaf.org/files/GLSLP12-5-14.pdf](http://www.goldenleaf.org/files/GLSLP12-5-14.pdf).

**What happens next?**

You will be notified of the selection decision by May 1, 2015. An email will be sent to you informing you to check your application status on the Student Portal.

**Mailing Address:**

NCSEAA  
Attn: Golden LEAF Scholars Program  
PO Box 13663  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3663  

Phone: 1-800-700-1775, option #1  
Email: information@ncseaa.edu  
Student Portal: [http://www.cfnc.org/seaastudent](http://www.cfnc.org/seaastudent)