

Golden LEAF Two-Year Scholars Program

2025-2026



Eligibility Guidelines and Student Application

Student Eligibility Requirements

- Eligible students must (1) be a North Carolina resident, (2) demonstrate financial need and (3) reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (please see Qualifying Counties 2025-2026 list below). A scholarship recipient who resides in an eligible county upon initial award will retain eligibility and will be eligible for renewal awards as long as the student's place of residence is within the state of North Carolina.
- Eligible students may receive an award each year. Financial aid offices will determine their application procedures for receiving awards for subsequent terms. Selected students will be required to disclose all financial aid awards as dictated by college financial aid offices for award packaging. Golden LEAF Scholarships will not displace federal grants, e.g., Pell grants, for which the student may be eligible (may displace loan funds).

Curriculum Student Selection Criteria

Eligible students must:

- (1) Be enrolled at least full-time for fall and spring; Summer school students must be enrolled at least 6 credit hours. Grants for less-than-full-time students will be prorated based on hours of enrollment and pending availability of funds
- (2) Demonstrate financial need as determined by the FAFSA.
- (3) Be a resident of North Carolina
- (4) Reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (Please check with your financial aid office for Eligible Counties 2025-2026).

Golden LEAF Scholars Program 2025-2026 Eligible Counties

Alamance	Cherokee	Halifax	Montgomery	Sampson
Alexander	Chowan	Harnett	Moore	Scotland
Alleghany	Clay	Haywood	Nash	Stanly
Anson	Cleveland	Henderson	Northampton	Stokes
Ashe	Columbus	Hertford	Onslow	Surry
Avery	Craven	Hoke	Orange	Swain
Beaufort	Cumberland	Hyde	Pamlico	Transylvania
Bertie	Currituck	Iredell	Pasquotank	Tyrrell
Bladen	Dare	Jackson	Pender	Union
Brunswick	Davidson	Johnston	Perquimans	Vance
Buncombe	Davie	Jones	Person	Warren
Burke	Duplin	Lee	Pitt	Washington
Cabarrus	Edgecombe	Lenoir	Polk	Watauga
Caldwell	Franklin	Lincoln	Randolph	Wayne
Camden	Gaston	Macon	Richmond	Wilkes
Carteret	Gates	Madison	Robeson	Wilson
Caswell	Graham	Martin	Rockingham	Yadkin
Catawba	Granville	McDowell	Rowan	Yancey
Chatham	Greene	Mitchell	Rutherford	

This program is funded by the Golden LEAF Foundation.

**North Carolina Community Colleges
Golden LEAF Scholars Program – Two-Year Colleges
2025-2026 Student Application**

Application Deadline

September 26, 2025

Instructions: Complete this application and return the completed application to the college's Financial Aid Office. Eligible students must reside in a rural county that is tobacco dependent, or economically distressed, as determined by the Golden LEAF Foundation (Please see your school's financial aid office for a list of 2025-2026 Qualifying Counties).

Personal Information:

Full Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

NC County of Residence: _____

Length of residence in county: _____ less than 5 years _____ 5 – 10 years _____ more than 10 years
(To be eligible for this scholarship, your permanent residence must be in an approved NC county.)

Educational Information:

College you are attending: _____

Curriculum Student: _____ GPA _____ 1st semester _____ not enrolled

Program you are enrolled in: _____

Other Information:

Have members of your immediate family worked for or owned a farming or agricultural related business now or in the past? _____ yes _____ no

Have you or members of your immediate family been employed in traditional industries such as furniture, textiles, or tobacco manufacturing? _____ yes _____ no

Has anyone in your household lost their job in the past two years? _____ yes _____ no

Has anyone in your household transitioned from a full-time job to a part-time job? _____ yes _____ no

Please list all campus and community service activities you are currently involved in, if any. _____

Applicant Certification: I have read and understand the requirements for the Golden LEAF Scholars Program. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant Signature

Date

Please upload the completed application to the Financial Aid Office via eForms <https://cccccentral.etrieve.cloud/>

Go to: 2025-2026 Financial Aid Document Upload

Under Document Upload, select "other scholarship". Attach scholarship and submit.