

Golden LEAF Two-Year Scholars Program

2026-2027

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 2026-2027 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 2026-2027).

Golden LEAF Scholars Program

2026-2027 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.



2026-2027 Golden LEAF Community College Scholarship Application



Complete this application and return it to the college's Financial Aid Office.

Application Deadline

September 18, 2026

STUDENT INFORMATION:

Full Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

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

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

NC County of residence: _____ How long have you lived in the county listed? _____

CITIZENSHIP STATUS: (Select one):

☐ U.S. Citizen/National

☐ Eligible Noncitizen: (Alien Registration Number/ A-Number required below)

☐ Neither U.S. citizen nor eligible non-citizen

Eligible noncitizens must enter A-number: **A** _____

Eligibility Statement: Applicants must be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or an eligible non-citizen to qualify for the Golden LEAF Community Colleges Scholarship. Applicants selecting 'Neither U.S. citizen nor eligible non-citizen' are not eligible for award consideration.

EDUCATION:

Community College attending: _____

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

Program you are enrolled in: _____

FAMILY & ECONOMIC BACKGROUND:

Have members of your immediate family worked for or owned a farming or agricultural related business? ☐ 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

APPLICANT CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE:

I have read and understand the requirements of this scholarship. I hereby declare that the information provided on this form, including my citizenship status, is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that providing false information may result in the forfeiture or repayment of scholarship funds.

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Colleges may set additional criteria to select students for the Golden LEAF Community College scholarship.

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

Go to: 2026-2027 Financial Aid Document Upload

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