

# Walmart Associate Scholarship Program Guidelines

The maximum award amount for the Walmart Associate Scholarship is \$16,000 over a period of six years or until the degree or certificate that the scholarship was awarded for has been attained, whichever comes first. The process to renew the scholarship is flexible, allowing scholars to complete an online renewal agreement anytime within the Walmart Fiscal Year (Feb. 1–Jan. 31) when it works with their institution's schedule, up to the yearly cap on funding for their chosen degree or certificate.

The Walmart Associate Scholarship is for associates who have earned a GED or high school or home school diploma.

NOTE: Dependents of associates who will receive a GED or high school diploma by August 1, 2014, may apply for funding through the Walmart Dependent Scholarship program.

# **Applicant Eligibility**

The applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Legal Resident of the United States
- Must be employed with any division of Walmart for **at least six consecutive months** prior to the application due date for the award period in which the associate is applying
- Must have earned a high school diploma, home school diploma, or GED before any scholarship funds will be awarded
- Must have financial need and be able to demonstrate the need with required documents

**NOTE:** Associates with other funds that pay entirely for tuition, books, fees, and on-campus room and board are ineligible.

Associates are eligible to apply for and receive a Walmart Associate Scholarship for any degree or certificate pursued, as long as they meet all eligibility requirements. Only one Walmart Associate Scholarship can be awarded per degree or certificate.

#### **Academic Requirements**

An associate must have graduated high school/home school or obtained a GED before applying.

## **Application Periods**

There are 4 quarterly application periods in a single Walmart Fiscal Year (Feb. 1-Jan. 31).

Application Launch Date	Application Due Date (5 p.m., Central time)	Scholarship Award Notification Date
February 1, 2013	March 1, 2013	April 15, 2013
May 1, 2013	June 3, 2013	July 15, 2013
August 1, 2013	September 3, 2013	October 15, 2013
November 1, 2013	December 2, 2013	January 15, 2014

#### **Funding Levels per Award Period**

American Public University (APU)	Two-Year Institution (Community College/Certificate Program)	Four-Year/ Graduate Institution
3-6 credit hours = \$500	3-6 credit hours = \$500	3-6 credit hours = \$750
7-11 credit hours = \$750	7-11 credit hours = \$750	7-11 credit hours = \$1,125
12+ credit hours = \$1,000	12+ credit hours = \$1,000	12+ credit hours = \$1,500



## **Funding Limits**

- Certificate Program Undergraduate/Graduate: Up to \$1,500 within a single Walmart Fiscal Year
- Associate's Degree: Up to \$2,000 within a single Walmart Fiscal Year
- Bachelor's Degree: Up to \$3,000 within a single Walmart Fiscal Year
- Graduate Degree: Up to \$2,000 within a single Walmart Fiscal Year

#### **Renewal Support**

Beginning with the first full Walmart Fiscal Year, scholars must request funding at least 2 times during each fiscal year (Feb. 1–Jan. 31), until the degree or certificate is awarded, the funding limit has been reached, or the six-year time limit has lapsed, whichever comes first.

To be eligible to renew their scholarship, scholars **must**:

- Provide transcript or grade report showing a GPA of 2.0 or higher for the most recently funded term
- Provide evidence that they have successfully completed a minimum of 3 credit hours
- Provide proof of registration for at least 3 additional credit hours in an upcoming term
- To remain eligible: Beginning with the first full Walmart Fiscal Year, scholars must enroll in at least 2 award periods during each fiscal year (Feb. 1–Jan. 31). The scholar can continue to renew the scholarship until the degree or certificate is awarded, the funding limit has been reached, or the six-year time limit has lapsed, whichever comes first.

Associate scholars may receive only one Walmart Associate Scholarship per degree or certificate sought and may not be in receipt of two awards simultaneously. If a scholar completes a degree or certificate, or changes the degree type that he or she was pursing when they first received the scholarship, they must apply for a new award. Eligible associates may apply for scholarship support for an unlimited number of degrees or certificates in succession.

#### **Scholarship Payments**

- Checks are issued by ACT, Inc.
- Checks are made payable to and mailed directly to the accredited school, college, or university last designated by the student.
- Checks will be issued after new scholars complete the online Scholarship Acceptance Agreement.
   Instructions, including deadline dates, will be emailed to winning associates.
- Scholars are required to enroll, and send ACT their proof of enrollment within 6 months of the date they
  were notified of their award to remain eligible. Proof of enrollment may be a class schedule or other
  document from the institution that includes the following information:
  - Scholar's first and last name
  - Name of institution where funds will be sent
  - o Course schedule
  - Total number of credit hours that will be funded for a specific award period

NOTE: The information above must be part of the original document and cannot be handwritten.

- To renew, scholars must complete the online Scholarship Renewal Agreement and submit both proof of registration for an upcoming term and a current transcript. Renewal funds will be issued only after all the requirements to renew the scholarship have been verified.
- It is the scholar's responsibility to notify ACT should the check not arrive at the institution within 30 days of the issue date.

Funds can only be applied toward postsecondary education expenses at an accredited institution offering technical or undergraduate/graduate certificate programs, or undergraduate or graduate degrees. Funding can be used for tuition, books, fees, and on-campus room and board. Funds may be applied to credit-bearing overseas study programs that are recognized by your home institution. Scholarship payments will be made to the home institution for study abroad programs.

## Winner Selection and Announcements

- ACT provides a Selection Committee, independent of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation, to ensure the impartial and confidential evaluation of applications.
- Up to ten percent of qualified associates are awarded based on financial need and community involvement.
- In addition to submitting the online application, the associate must send all required supporting documents to ACT, Inc.'s lowa City office (address below) so that they are <u>received</u> by the appropriate application due date (see the **Application Periods** chart above).
- All submitted documents become the property of the Walmart Foundation and will not be returned.



• Final notifications will be emailed to all associates by the award notification date for the appropriate award period (see the **Application Periods** chart above).

#### **Conditions of Award**

- The associate must be employed by a division of Walmart on the date that the award is announced.
- If the associate leaves Walmart after the award is given, the former associate remains eligible to renew that particular scholarship, provided all other eligibility requirements are met. The former associate may continue at APU if that is where the associate has been attending but will no longer be eligible for the Lifelong Learning Discount for the renewal periods after leaving Walmart's employment.
- If, at any time, an associate receives additional funding from another source that covers full tuition, fees, books, and on-campus room and board for the same award period covered by this scholarship, the student is no longer eligible to receive Walmart funding and will relinquish the scholarship.
- Barring illness, emergency, or military service, associates must be enrolled for a minimum of 2 award periods (beginning with the first full fiscal year) within a single Walmart Fiscal Year in order to retain the scholarship.

# College/University Eligibility

The institution of enrollment must be an approved accredited postsecondary educational institution listed on the official website of the U.S. Department of Education (<a href="http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx">http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx</a>). Scholarships cannot be applied to educational expenses at military academies.

## **Associate Responsibilities**

- The scholar must be employed within a division of Walmart at the time of the award.
- The scholar must be enrolled in a minimum of 3 credit hours per term for which they seek funding.
- Beginning with the first full fiscal year after the scholarship award date, the scholar must be enrolled in at least 2 or more award periods per Walmart Fiscal Year to remain eligible.
- Scholars are required to enroll and provide proof of enrollment to ACT within 6 months of the date they are notified of the award to remain eligible. Scholars are responsible for notifying ACT immediately of term progress, changes in institutions or contact information.
- Scholars will receive an email when the award check is mailed to the institution.
- It is the responsibility of the associate to contact the educational institution to make sure the funds have been received and notify ACT if the funds have not been received within 30 days of mailing.
- The winning associate must maintain an active email address and keep ACT informed of any email address changes. This is the method that ACT, Inc. will use to communicate with the student regarding renewals.

The Walmart Foundation reserves the right to alter or discontinue this program at any time without notice.

#### **Contact Information for Additional Questions**

Contact Us online (https://www.act.org/walmart/contact.html)

Phone: 877-333-0284

All supporting documents must be **received** by the deadline date at the appropriate Iowa City address below. Forms sent to any other address will not be forwarded and the application will be disqualified.

# **Mailing Address**

(regular U.S. mail)

Walmart Associate Scholarship PO Box 4030 Iowa City, IA 52243-4030

## **Shipping Address**

(overnight courier, such as FedEx or UPS)

Walmart Associate Scholarship 101 ACT Drive Iowa City, IA 52243

Phone: 877-333-0284