



GEAR UP Scholarship 2010 Liaison Info Sheet and FAQs

To see which of your students are currently eligible for the GEAR UP Scholarship:

1. Log into www.gearupmedata.org
2. Go to Students > Group Forms > Post High School Planning
3. Scroll down to your current senior class

Eligibility Codes

- Did not file FAFSA
 - FAME has not yet received the FAFSA for this student either because they haven't yet filed, or because they filed so recently FAME hasn't received it yet. This can take up to three weeks.
- Student is eligible and awarded
 - At this time, the student appears to be eligible and the colleges listed on their FAFSA have been notified that he/she is eligible for the scholarship. At this point, the scholarship should be on their financial aid letter from their college. Only Maine colleges are notified automatically; if the student plans to go out of state, they need to contact FAME.
- Schools listed on FAFSA do not exist in EPIC at this time
 - This means that the student didn't apply to any in-state schools. If the student is planning to attend college out of state, they must contact FAME. (EPIC is what FAME calls their data system)
- Student is ineligible: Invalid EFC
 - This usually means that the student's FAFSA is incomplete or there is an error that needs to be corrected. Most often, it means that the FAFSA is missing a signature. The student will need to go to fafsa.ed.gov to make the corrections and re-submit. FAME will automatically receive the corrections, and their data will be updated in the gearupmedata.org site within a few weeks.
- Student is ineligible: Student not manually marked as eligible.
 - This means that FAME has not completed processing the student, but they should be updated the following week.
- Student is ineligible: Does NOT meet EFC cutoff
 - The student is not financially eligible at this time, meaning that their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) as calculated from the FAFSA is above \$7,500. Should this change, they may still be eligible in the future.

Senior Verification

Q: Some students are not listed as not having verified. Is it too late to do this?

A: No it is not too late, but they should do it as soon as possible.

Q: I have a junior who just found out she will be graduating this year. How can she verify?

A: Go to students > group forms > school year data and change her grade level to 12, and hit “post update”. Then, go to Reports > Senior verification accounts and see that she now has an account along with the other seniors. Re-download the file of senior letters via the link at the top of that page, and print out her letter only. Once she verifies, her name will be sent to FAME just like the rest of your seniors.

FAFSA

Q: Why are some of my students listed as not having filed a FAFSA when I know they did? What should I do?

A: If you think a student has filed the FAFSA but it is not showing up in the GU database, first check with the student to find out when they filed their FAFSA. If it has been more than three weeks, email their name, date of birth, and last four digits of their SSN to Emily.

Q: Why are none of my students listed as having filed a FAFSA?

A: If none of your students are listed, please contact Emily as soon as possible so we can sort it out.

Eligibility

Q: Why is the GU scholarship not shown in my students’ financial aid package? The database says they are eligible. What should they do?

A: The student should call the college financial aid office for an updated award letter. Most likely, they put together the financial aid package before they received notification from FAME that the student is eligible for the GEAR UP scholarship. If the college says the student is not on the GEAR UP list, the student should call FAME to find out if that college has been notified of their eligibility yet.

Q: Why aren’t siblings who are both enrolled in GU and have filed the FAFSA both eligible for the GU scholarship? (One is listed as being eligible and the other is not)

A: In most cases, siblings should match if their EFC is the same. Check to make sure all the information is accurate – did they both file a FAFSA with the same information?

Important contact information

- FAME: 800-228-3734 or education@famemaine.com
- Beth Lambert: 860-490-1271 or beth@syntiro.org