



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

Financial Aid Teacher Education Informational Session

ILLINOIS STUDENT ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (ISAC) TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS

GA

- Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois Scholarship

MTI

- Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship

SETTW

- Illinois Special Education Teacher Tuition Waiver

GOLDEN APPLE (GA) SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- The Golden Apple Scholars Program in Illinois is a teacher preparation and tuition assistance program for college students who have the determination and drive to be highly effective teachers in Illinois schools.
- The Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program recruits and prepares bright and talented Illinois high school graduates, as well as first and second-year college students for successful teaching careers in [high need schools](#) throughout Illinois.
- Eligibility criteria, application and awarding is handled by the [Golden Apple Foundation](#)

GA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for the GA program, an applicant must:

- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen or meet the undocumented student criteria of the RISE Act
- be a resident of Illinois (If dependent, both the student and parent/guardian must be residents of Illinois)
- Be a high school graduate or a recipient of a General Educational Development (GED) Certificate
- Not be in default on any student loan nor owe a refund or repayment on any state or federal grant
- Meet the satisfactory academic progress standards at the school
- be enrolled at a four-year institution designated by the Foundation as a participating Illinois University on at least a half-time basis as a freshman through a senior



GA ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

- be enrolled in a course of study leading to an initial teacher certification or taking additional courses needed to gain Illinois State Board of Education approval to teach, including alternative teacher licensure
- enter into a program agreement and promissory note with the Golden Apple Foundation and ISAC
- if enrolled at the sophomore, junior, or senior, have earned a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale

GA TEACHING REQUIREMENTS

- Scholars agree to teach for five years in an Illinois high-need school
- The five-year teaching commitment must start within two years after completion of the degree or certificate program for which the scholarship was awarded
- If the student is unable or unwilling to fulfill the teaching commitment, the award converts to a loan
 - The recipient must repay the entire amount of the award prorated according to the fraction of the obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5%
 - Interest begins to accrue on the date the repayment obligation begins
- Repayment is to be completed within 10 years after the assistance converts to a loan



GA SCHOLARSHIPS AMOUNT

The amount of each award is determined by the number of years the applicant has been a Golden Apple Scholar (“Year in the Program”)

- Maximum annual award for those in their 1st or 2nd year is \$2,500
- Maximum annual award for those in their 3rd, 4th or 5th year is \$5,000

Students can [apply online](#) directly to the Golden Apple Foundation.

MINORITY TEACHERS OF ILLINOIS (MTI) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The MTI Scholarship Program encourages academically talented minority students to pursue careers as teachers at nonprofit Illinois preschool, elementary and secondary schools. The program also aims to provide minority children with access to a greater number of positive minority role models.

MTI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Available to minority students enrolled in a teacher education program
 - Undergraduate or graduate student
- Requires a one-year teaching commitment for each year the scholarship is received
 - Converts to a loan if commitment is not met
- Maximum award amount is \$7,500 per year
- Can receive for a maximum of 8 semesters or 12 quarters (4 years)
- Can be used for tuition, fees, room and board or commuter charges

MTI ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To qualify for the MTI Scholarship, an applicant must:

- be a minority student or a qualified bilingual minority applicant
- be a resident of Illinois
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen or meet the “undocumented student” criteria of the Illinois RISE Act
- be a high school graduate or the recipient of a high school equivalency certificate

MTI ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CONTINUED

- be enrolled or accepted for enrollment on at least a half-time basis as an undergraduate student at an Illinois institution of higher education, and
 - be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a course of study which, upon completion, qualifies the student to be licensed as a preschool, elementary or secondary school teacher by the Illinois State Board of Education, including alternative teacher licensure; or
 - if already licensed to teach, be enrolled or accepted for enrollment in a course of study leading to an additional teaching endorsement or a master's degree in an academic field in which the applicant is teaching or plans to teach.

APPLYING FOR THE MTI SCHOLARSHIP

- MTI Application is made available in December each year
- The priority application consideration date is March 31 preceding the academic year for which a scholarship is being requested
- MTI applicants must also complete a FAFSA® or Alternative Application for the corresponding award year by the priority consideration date
- Applicants must re-apply each year to continue to receive the MTI Scholarship
- ISAC will send a letter to applicants acknowledging receipt of the application
- If the application was incomplete, the letter will identify the additional information that is needed
- The MTI Scholarship Program application can be accessed from the MTI Application page in the Students & Parents area or directly from the ISAC Student Portal.

MTI TEACHING REQUIREMENT

- MTI recipients must teach on a full-time basis one year for each academic year for which an award was received;
- The teaching obligation must be fulfilled at:
 - a nonprofit Illinois public, private or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school, at which no less than 30% of the enrolled students are minority students as certified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), or
 - if the scholarship was awarded to a qualified bilingual minority applicant, in a transitional bilingual education program or in a school in which at least 20 English learner students in the same language classification are enrolled;
- Teaching must begin within one year following termination from the program of study funded by the scholarship and continue until the teaching obligation is fulfilled.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER TUITION WAIVER (SETTW) PROGRAM

- The purpose of the SETTW is to encourage current teachers and academically talented students to pursue careers in the area of Special Education
- The SETTW exempts recipients from the payment of tuition and mandatory fees for up to four calendar years at any of the public universities in Illinois
- Recipients must make a commitment to teach in Special Education at an Illinois school for at least two of the five years following graduation
- UIS offer the SETTW for graduate students in the Learning Behavioral Specialist Certificate Program.

SETTW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Student must be:
 - A U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen or meet the undocumented student criteria of the RISE Act;
 - An Illinois resident
 - Enrolled or accepted for enrollment as an undergraduate or graduate student in an area of special education
 - Must be enrolled within 10 days after the beginning of the term for which the waiver was initially awarded
 - Meeting school's satisfactory academic progress criteria
 - In attendance on a continuous basis for up to four years
- Student must meet one of the following:
 - Graduated (or scheduled to graduate) from an approved high school in the academic year in which the award is made and perform in the upper half of the graduating class
 - Graduated from an approved high school prior to the academic year in which the award is made and not hold a valid teaching certificate
 - Hold a valid teaching license that's not in the discipline of special education
 - Students who are General Educational Development (GED) Certificate recipients are not eligible for SETTW.

APPLYING FOR SETTW

- Applicants must complete the SETTW Application, which also serves as a promissory note
- The application is accessible online via the ISAC Student Portal
- Must be submitted to ISAC by the priority consideration date of March 1 prior to start of the academic year to be considered timely
 - Applicants must create an ISAC Student Portal account in order to complete the SETTW online application
- Applicants have the option of electronically signing and submitting the application (preferred method), or they may print and sign the application by hand and mail it to ISAC
 - Paper applications must be received with an original ink signature and cannot be submitted via e-mail or Fax

SETTW TEACHING REQUIREMENT

- Recipients must teach two years on a full-time basis in the field of special education
- The teaching obligation must be fulfilled at a nonprofit Illinois public, private, or parochial preschool, elementary or secondary school beginning within one year immediately following graduation or termination of enrollment and continuing for two of the subsequent five years
- If teaching requirements are not fulfilled, the assistance received converts to a loan
 - Recipient must repay the entire amount of the award prorated according to the fraction of the obligation not completed, plus interest at a rate of 5% and any reasonable collection fees
 - Interest begins to accrue on the date the repayment obligation begins
- Repayment is to be completed within 10 years after the assistance converts to a loan
- For SETTW recipients who were awarded prior to July 1, 2014, the repayment term is five years.

TEACH GRANT

- The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides grant funds to students who are enrolled in a TEACH Grant-eligible program of study, at a school that participates in the TEACH Grant Program;
- Students must agree to teach full time for at least four years in a high-need field at a low-income elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency.
- The TEACH Grant Program provides grants of up to \$4,000 a year to students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching.

TEACH GRANT AREAS OF HIGH NEED

- mathematics;
- science, including, but not limited to, computer science;
- foreign language;
- bilingual education;
- English as a Second Language;
- reading specialist;
- Language Arts
- Arts and Music Education
- Social Studies
- special education; or
- any other field that has been identified as high-need in the annual [Teacher Shortage Area Nationwide Listing \(Nationwide List\)](#).

TEACH GRANT AREAS OF HIGH NEED

UIS offers the TEACH grant to students majoring in the following programs:

- Elementary Education
- Middle Grades Education
- Secondary English Education
- Secondary History Education
- Secondary Mathematics Education

TEACH GRANT REQUIREMENTS

- To be eligible for the TEACH grant, students must complete:
- FAFSA
- TEACH Grant Initial and Subsequent Counseling at www.studentaid.gov
- An Agreement to Service
 - Each year, a new Agreement must be signed
 - The Agreement outlines the grant's terms and conditions.
 - Failure to meet obligations leads to grant conversion into a loan
- TEACH Grant Exit Counseling upon graduation or withdrawal

TEACH GRANT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a TEACH Grant, you must do the following:

- Meet the [basic eligibility criteria for the federal student aid programs](#).
- Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA®\) form](#).
- Be enrolled at a school that participates in the TEACH Grant Program.
- Be enrolled in a TEACH-Grant-eligible program.
- Receive [TEACH Grant counseling](#) that explains the terms and conditions of the TEACH Grant service obligation.
- Sign a TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve or Repay.
- maintaining a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25

TEACH GRANT SERVICE OBLIGATION

- To receive a TEACH Grant, you must sign a *TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve* in which you agree to :
 - Serve as a full-time highly-qualified teacher for four elementary or secondary school years at a school or educational service agency that serves low-income students;
 - Teach in a high-need field; and
 - Complete the required four years of teaching within eight years after you graduate from or otherwise cease to be enrolled at the institution of higher education where you received your TEACH Grants.

TEACH GRANT

- If you do not meet the requirements of your service obligation, all TEACH Grants you received will be converted to a direct unsubsidized loan.
- You must repay these loans in full, with interest charged from the date of each TEACH Grant disbursement.

COMPARISON CHART

Comparison of Teacher Education Programs

Program	Award Amount	Eligibility Requirements	Service Obligation
<u>Golden Apple Scholars</u>	Up to \$23,000	Aspiring effective teachers	Teaching in schools
<u>MTI Scholarship Program</u>	Up to \$7,500/yr.	Minority students in Illinois	Teaching in schools
<u>Federal TEACH Grant</u>	Up to \$4,000/yr.	High-need fields	Teaching in schools
<u>Illinois SETTW Program</u>	Tuition waiver	Students pursuing special education	Teaching in Illinois



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QUESTIONS?

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THANKS!

