



THE AYERS  
LEARN · GROW · SUCCEED  
FOUNDATION

# Tennessee Promise Student Handbook

2020-2021



The Ayers Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for the people of Tennessee. We believe this is best accomplished by positively affecting the fields of Education, Conservation and Social Welfare. The Ayers Foundation provides grant and scholarship money to further its goals and to ensure they are carried out in perpetuity.

# Steps to Participate

- o Step 1: Apply to be a Tennessee Promise Scholar.
- o Step 2: November 1 Application Deadline.
- o Step 3: Attend 1<sup>st</sup> mandatory meeting with your Ayers Foundation Counselor.
- o Step 4: File your FAFSA by February 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.
- o Step 6: Complete community service by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 (Fall Semester).
- o Step 7: File your FAFSA by February 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 for your second year.

## Purpose of this Handbook

This handbook is your resource for Tennessee Promise. As you read through this handbook please take note of the dates and tasks that you must complete to remain Tennessee Promise eligible. The Ayers Foundation will serve as your Tennessee Promise partnering organization. Not only is your Ayers Counselor here to help during high school, they will also be there step by step during your post-secondary enrollment!

# Ayers Foundation Scholars Program Contact Information

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**LAWRENCE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**1800 Springer Road, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464**

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COUNSELOR	<b>BECKY METHVIN</b>
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COUNSELOR	<b>CHARLES LONG</b>
EMAIL	<a href="mailto:charles.long@theayersfoundation.org">charles.long@theayersfoundation.org</a>

**LORETTO HIGH SCHOOL**  
**525 2nd Ave South, Loretto, TN 38469**

PHONE	931.231.8850
COUNSELOR	<b>ANISSA MASHBURN</b>
EMAIL	<a href="mailto:anissa.mashburn@theayersfoundation.org">anissa.mashburn@theayersfoundation.org</a>

**SUMMERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL**  
**411 E College St., Summertown, TN 38483**

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# Tennessee Promise Overview

Tennessee Promise is both a scholarship and mentoring program focused on increasing the number of students that attend college in our state. It provides students a last-dollar scholarship, meaning the scholarship will cover tuition and fees not covered by the Pell grant, the HOPE scholarship, or state student assistance funds. Students may use the scholarship at any of the state's 13 community colleges, 27 colleges of applied technology, or other eligible institution offering an associate degree program.

While removing the financial burden is key, a critical component of Tennessee Promise is the individual guidance each participant will receive from a mentor who will assist the student as he or she navigates the college admissions process. This is accomplished primarily via mandatory meetings that students must attend in order to remain eligible for the program. In addition, Tennessee Promise participants must complete eight hours of community service per term enrolled, as well as maintain satisfactory academic progress (2.0 GPA) at their institution ([tennesseepromise.gov](http://tennesseepromise.gov)).

## Student Eligibility

To be eligible to receive a Tennessee Promise Scholarship, a student must:

- Be a Tennessee resident
- Graduate from an eligible Tennessee high school, complete a Tennessee home school program, or, prior to reaching 19 years of age, obtain a GED or HiSET diploma.
- Enroll in an eligible college and attend full time the fall after graduation (students attending TCAT may enroll the summer following their high school graduation).
- Complete the Tennessee Promise application at [www.tennesseepromise.gov](http://www.tennesseepromise.gov)
- Meet all deadlines and requirements.

# Community Service

Semester	Deadline	Timeframe for Completing Hours
Summer 2020*	April 1, 2020	11/2/19-4/1/20
Fall 2020	July 1, 2020	11/2/19- 7/1/20
Spring 2021	December 1, 2020	7/2/20-12/1/20
Summer 2021*	April 1, 2021	12/2/20-4/1/21
Fall 2021	July 1, 2021	12/2/20-7/1/21
Spring 2022	December 1, 2021	7/2/21-12/1/21
Summer 2022*	April 1, 2022	12/2/21-4/1/22
Fall 2022	July 1, 2022	12/2/21-7/1/22

\*Summer semester is for students enrolling in a TCAT.

Community service may not be performed prior to November 2nd of the senior year, may not result in payment of any kind, may not directly benefit the student's family members, and may be coordinated by or performed under the direction of a faith-based organization, but shall not include religion persuasion or proselytizing. You must ensure that you are volunteering and not being paid or receive a grade.

You must also be supervised by someone who is not your family member.

You may submit your community service at the following site [www.theayersfoundation.org](http://www.theayersfoundation.org) or directly to this link <https://www.tfaforms.com/4623720>.

# College Student Requirements

As you begin your first semester of college, keep the following TN Promise scholarship requirements in mind!

## **Enroll as a Full-Time Student Each Semester**

At a community college or four-year college, you must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours each semester. You must also maintain a full-time schedule throughout the semester. At a TCAT, you must be enrolled in a full-time program.

## **Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

At a community college, you must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. At a TCAT, the requirements to maintain SAP vary depending on your program. Check with your instructor to find out the requirements for your program.

## **Complete and Submit Eight Hours of Community Service Before Each Deadline**

Community service hours must be submitted by the established deadline prior to each semester/trimester.

## **Complete the FAFSA by February 1<sup>st</sup> Each Year**

Submit your FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If selected for FAFSA verification, you must complete financial aid verification before the deadline each year. This requires submitting all requested documents by August 1.

*Please note: The 2020-2021 FAFSA opened on October 1, 2019. Please call your Ayers Counselor for more information.*

## **Students Are Expected to Attend Classes from Start to Finish**

Failure to attend class, dropping classes or withdrawing from college completely may lead to the student owing money to the Federal Government or to the college. Students will not be able to re-enroll or have their transcript sent to another college until the bill is paid in full. If not paid, the college will turn the bill over to a collection agency.

# FAQs

## Who is eligible for Tennessee Promise?

Any high school senior, beginning with the Class of 2015, who graduates from an eligible Tennessee high school, completes a Tennessee home school program, or, prior to his or her 19th birthday, obtains a GED or HiSET diploma. Students will apply by November 2 of their high school senior year and begin working with a mentor and attending mandatory meetings in their counties by January.

## What information will students need to fill out the application?

For the Tennessee Promise application, students will need their full name, social security number, date of birth, full address, county, email address, home phone number, cell phone number, school name, graduation date, and an idea of which community college, college of applied technology, or eligible four-year institution they would like to attend.

## If students and their families haven't filed taxes by February 15, can they still file the FAFSA before the Tennessee Promise deadline?

Yes. Students can file the FAFSA anytime between January 1 and February 15 and still be eligible for Tennessee Promise. For students whose families have not filed taxes by February 15, they can use estimates when filing the FAFSA. Soon after filing taxes, students should go in and update their FAFSA with recently filed tax information.

Some students may also be asked to verify their FAFSA information. If a student is asked for verification, he or she should provide the necessary documentation to allow the institution to complete verification by August 1st to ensure timely receipt of funds.

## How long after high school graduation will students have in order to be eligible for Tennessee Promise?

To be eligible for the scholarship, a student must enroll in an eligible postsecondary program and attend full-time in the fall term following graduation from an eligible high school or homeschool program, or completion of a GED or HiSET diploma, provided that the HiSET diploma was earned before the student reached nineteen years of age.

## Are GED recipients eligible for Tennessee Promise?

Yes. Students who complete a GED or HiSET diploma must enroll full-time in an eligible postsecondary program in the fall after they receive their diploma, provided that the diploma was earned before the student reached nineteen years of age.

Promise application.

A student must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for which the student's U.S. citizenship or eligible non-citizenship status has been confirmed by the federal government.

Note: This option is only available for the following individuals:

- i. U.S. citizens
- ii. U.S. permanent residents (with an I-151, I-551, or I-551C permanent resident card); or
- iii. Individuals who have an Arrival/Departure Record (I-94) showing one of the following designations:
  - Refugee;
  - Asylum Granted;
  - Cuban-Haitian Entrant (Status Pending);
  - Conditional Entrant (Valid only if issued before April 1, 1980);
  - Victims of Human Trafficking (T-2, T-3, or T-4 visa); or
  - Parolee (who meets certain conditions)

## What other scholarships are available for students not eligible for Tennessee Promise, such as students who graduated prior to 2015?

Additional information on scholarships available to students who don't qualify for Tennessee Promise can be found at: [www.tn.gov/collegepays](http://www.tn.gov/collegepays)

Tennessee Reconnect is an adult initiative aimed at helping adults earn a postsecondary credential. As part of the Reconnect initiative, Tennessee adults can use the TCAT Reconnect scholarship to attend and earn a certificate at a Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) completely free of tuition and mandatory fees. For more information on Tennessee Reconnect and TCAT Reconnect, visit: [www.tnreconnect.gov](http://www.tnreconnect.gov).

## How do students renew the scholarship?

Once in the program, students must do the following to retain their scholarship:

- *Maintain a 2.0 GPA if at a community college or eligible program at a four-year institution or satisfactory academic progress at a TCAT*
- *Complete a renewal application at [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov) by July 1 prior to the academic year*
- *Complete 8 hours of community service per semester enrolled, to be completed before the start of the term*
- *Complete the FAFSA by February 15 each year the student participates in the program (see page 7 for FAFSA deadlines)*

Partnering organizations will work with students to ensure they get full information about renewing Tennessee Promise each year, including approval and verification of community service hours.



## Funding

### How does the last-dollar scholarship work?

Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship that funds any remaining tuition and mandatory fees at TCATs, two-year, and four-year schools offering associate's degrees once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have all been applied.

Students who attend a four-year public or independent university offering an associate's degree will receive a last-dollar scholarship not to exceed the average tuition and mandatory fees at Tennessee public community colleges. The average tuition at the public community colleges in 2014-2015 was \$3,985.

### What costs does Tennessee Promise cover?

Tennessee Promise only covers remaining tuition and mandatory fees after Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied. Tennessee Promise funds cannot be used for books or other indirect costs, such as transportation, books, living expenses, etc.

### Does Tennessee Promise cover remedial education?

Yes. Tennessee Promise will cover remedial classes if a student should need to take them.

### How will the funds be administered?

Students will never directly receive cash from Tennessee Promise. Once Pell, TELS, and TSAA have been applied, the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation (TSAC) will send the funds covering the remaining costs of tuition and mandatory fees directly to institutions for students who have met all eligibility requirements.

### How does Tennessee Promise change the HOPE Lottery scholarship award amounts?

Changes to the HOPE Lottery scholarship only affect students graduating with the Class of 2015 and beyond. For students attending a community college, the new award amount will increase from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per semester. Students attending four-year institutions will receive \$1,750 per semester as freshmen and sophomores and \$2,250 per semester as juniors and seniors.

## Institutions and Programs

### What institutions accept Tennessee Promise?

Students can use Tennessee Promise at any of Tennessee's 27 TCATs, 13 community colleges, or any HOPE eligible independent or public four-year university offering an associate's degree or certificate.

For a list of eligible institutions, please see pages 11, 12, and 13.

### Can Tennessee Promise be used toward a four-year program?

No. Tennessee Promise funds can only be used toward an associate's degree, diploma, or a certificate. However, the Tennessee Transfer Pathways ensure that students can apply credits from an associate's degree or certificate to easily transfer to a four-year program at a public institution without duplicative course requirements. To learn more about the Tennessee Transfer Pathways, visit: [www.tntransferpathway.org](http://www.tntransferpathway.org)

### Can students transfer to a four-year program or institution once they have completed their degree or certificate through Tennessee Promise?

Yes. The Tennessee Transfer Pathways ensure that students may follow a prescribed curriculum that is universally transferable, marked by clarity, and available for students to review on the first day of enrollment.

Currently, there are 49 approved transfer pathways, spanning 28 disciplines and accepted at all public institutions in Tennessee. Additionally, many private institutions accept these pathways. More information about participating institutions can be found at: [www.tntransferpathway.org/transfer-campus](http://www.tntransferpathway.org/transfer-campus)

# Tennessee Promise Institutions

## TENNESSEE COLLEGES OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY (TCATs)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Athens  
Athens, TN  
[www.tcatathens.edu](http://www.tcatathens.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Chattanooga  
Chattanooga, TN  
[www.chattanoogastate.edu/tcat](http://www.chattanoogastate.edu/tcat)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Covington  
Covington, TN  
[www.tcatcovington.edu](http://www.tcatcovington.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Crossville  
Crossville, TN  
[www.tcatcrossville.edu](http://www.tcatcrossville.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Crump  
Crump, TN  
[www.tcatcrump.edu](http://www.tcatcrump.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Dickson  
Dickson, TN  
[www.tcatdickson.edu](http://www.tcatdickson.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Elizabethton  
Elizabethton, TN  
[www.tcatelizabethton.edu](http://www.tcatelizabethton.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Harriman  
Harriman, TN  
[www.tcatharriman.edu](http://www.tcatharriman.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Hartsville  
Hartsville, TN  
[www.tcathartsville.edu](http://www.tcathartsville.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Hohenwald  
Hohenwald, TN  
[www.tcathohenwald.edu](http://www.tcathohenwald.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Jacksboro  
Jacksboro, TN  
[www.tcatjacksboro.edu](http://www.tcatjacksboro.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Jackson  
Jackson, TN  
[www.tcatjackson.edu](http://www.tcatjackson.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Knoxville  
Knoxville, TN  
[www.tcatknoxville.edu](http://www.tcatknoxville.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Livingston  
Livingston, TN  
[www.tcatlivingston.edu](http://www.tcatlivingston.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- McKenzie  
McKenzie, TN  
[www.tcatmckenzie.edu](http://www.tcatmckenzie.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- McMinnville  
McMinnville, TN  
[www.tcatmcminnville.edu](http://www.tcatmcminnville.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Memphis  
Memphis, TN  
[www.tcatmemphis.edu](http://www.tcatmemphis.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Morristown  
Morristown, TN  
[www.tcatmorristown.edu](http://www.tcatmorristown.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Murfreesboro  
Murfreesboro, TN  
[www.tcatmurfreesboro.edu](http://www.tcatmurfreesboro.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Nashville  
Nashville, TN  
[www.tcatnashville.edu](http://www.tcatnashville.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Newbern  
Newbern, TN  
[www.tcatnewbern.edu](http://www.tcatnewbern.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Oneida/Huntsville  
Huntsville, TN  
[www.tcatoneida.edu](http://www.tcatoneida.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Paris  
Paris, TN  
[www.tcatparis.edu](http://www.tcatparis.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Pulaski  
Pulaski, TN  
[www.tcatpulaski.edu](http://www.tcatpulaski.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Ripley  
Ripley, TN  
[www.tcatripley.edu](http://www.tcatripley.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Shelbyville  
Shelbyville, TN  
[www.tcatshelbyville.edu](http://www.tcatshelbyville.edu)

Tennessee College of Applied Technology- Whiteville  
Whiteville, TN  
[www.tcatwhiteville.edu](http://www.tcatwhiteville.edu)

## TENNESSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Chattanooga State Community College  
Chattanooga, TN  
www.chattanoogaestate.edu

Cleveland State Community College  
Cleveland, TN  
www.clevelandstatecc.edu

Columbia State Community College  
Columbia, TN  
www.columbiastate.edu

Dyersburg State Community College  
Dyersburg, TN  
www.dsc.edu

Jackson State Community College  
Jackson, TN  
www.jsc.edu

Motlow State Community College  
Tullahoma, TN  
www.mscc.edu

Nashville State Community College  
Nashville, TN  
www.nsc.edu

Northeast State Community College  
Blountville, TN  
www.northeaststate.edu

Pellissippi State Community College  
Knoxville, TN  
www.pstcc.edu

Roane State Community College  
Harriman, TN  
www.roanestate.edu

Southwest Tennessee Community College  
Memphis, TN  
www.southwest.tn.edu

Volunteer State Community College  
Gallatin, TN  
www.volstate.edu

Walters State Community College  
Morristown, TN  
www.ws.edu

### Tennessee Promise at Four-Year Institutions:

In order to use the Tennessee Promise scholarship at a four-year college or university, students must

enroll in an associate degree program at that school - not a bachelor's degree program. A list of

associate degree programs at each eligible four-year institution across the state is below for your

reference. Students enrolling in a health sciences program will only begin receiving funds once admitted into the actual program of study.

At a four-year institution, the Tennessee Promise scholarship will not be last-dollar, meaning it will not

cover all tuition and fees. The amount of funding you will receive will be based on the average amount of tuition and fees at a community college, which is estimated to be \$4,000.

As a last-dollar scholarship, Tennessee Promise will provide whatever amount remains after your Pell, HOPE, and TSAA funds are applied. For example, if you were to receive \$3,000 in HOPE funds, but no other federal or state financial aid, Tennessee Promise would provide \$1,000 to cover the remaining amount that you could apply toward tuition and fees at a four-year school.

### PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES WITH ELIGIBLE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS\*

Austin Peay State University  
Clarksville, TN  
www.apsu.edu

- Chemical Engineering Technology
- Engineering Technology
- Liberal Arts
- Management Technology

Tennessee State University  
Nashville, TN  
www.tnstate.edu

- Dental Hygiene
- Nursing

## PRIVATE COLLEGES WITH ELIGIBLE TWO-YEAR PROGRAMS\*

Baptist College of Health Sciences  
Memphis, TN  
www.bchs.edu  
☐☐Pre-Health Studies

Bethel University  
McKenzie, TN  
www.bethelu.edu  
☐☐General Studies

Bryan College  
Dayton, TN  
www.bryan.edu  
☐☐ Business Administration  
☐☐ Liberal Arts

Carson-Newman University  
Jefferson City, TN  
www.cn.edu  
☐☐ Liberal Arts

Christian Brothers University  
Memphis, TN  
www.cbu.edu  
☐☐ Business Studies  
☐☐ General Studies  
☐☐ Psychology

Cumberland University  
Lebanon, TN  
www.cumberland.edu  
☐☐ Business  
☐☐ Criminal Justice  
☐☐ Education  
☐☐ General Studies

Hiwassee College  
Madisonville, TN  
www.hiwassee.edu  
☐☐ Agri-Business Technology ☐☐  
Allied Health  
☐☐ Business  
☐☐ Dental Hygiene  
☐☐ Education  
☐☐ Forestry Technology  
☐☐ Liberal Arts  
☐☐ Music  
☐☐ Science

John A. Gupton College  
Nashville, TN  
www.guptoncollege.edu  
☐☐ Funeral Services

Johnson University  
Knoxville, TN  
www.johnsonu.edu  
☐☐ Biblical Studies  
☐☐ Intercultural Studies

King University  
Bristol, TN  
www.king.edu  
☐☐ General Studies

Lane College  
Jackson, TN  
www.lanecollege.edu  
☐☐ Communications  
☐☐ General Business  
☐☐ Religion  
☐☐ Sociology

LeMoyné-Owen College  
Memphis, TN  
www.loc.edu  
☐☐ General Studies (A.A.)  
☐☐ General Studies (A.S.)

Lincoln Memorial University  
Harrogate, TN  
www.lmunet.edu  
☐☐ Nursing  
☐☐ Veterinary Health Sciences  
☐☐ Veterinary Medical Technology

Martin Methodist College  
Pulaski, TN  
www.martinmethodist.edu  
☐☐ General Studies

South College  
Knoxville, TN  
www.southcollegetn.edu  
☐☐ Accounting  
☐☐ Business Administration  
☐☐ Criminal Justice  
☐☐ Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
☐☐ Health Science  
☐☐ Health Science (Pre-Pharmacy)  
☐☐ Investigation and Security (A.S.)  
☐☐ Investigation and Security (certificate)  
☐☐ Medical Assisting (A.S.)  
☐☐ Medical Assisting (certificate)  
☐☐ Network Administration & Security  
☐☐ Paralegal Studies  
☐☐ Pharmacy Technician (A.S.)  
☐☐ Pharmacy Technician (certificate)  
☐☐ Physical Therapist Assistant  
☐☐ Radiography  
☐☐ Teaching

Southern Adventist University  
Collegedale, TN  
www.southern.edu  
☐☐ Accounting  
☐☐ Auto Service  
☐☐ Business Administration  
☐☐ Construction Management  
☐☐ Culinary Arts  
☐☐ Engineering Studies  
☐☐ General Studies  
☐☐ Graphic Design  
☐☐ Media Technology  
☐☐ Nursing  
☐☐ Personal Selling  
☐☐ Pre-Dental Hygiene  
☐☐ Pre-Nutrition & Diabetes  
☐☐ Pre-Physical Therapy  
☐☐ Pre-Speech Language Pathology & Audiology  
☐☐ Religion

Trevecca Nazarene University  
Nashville, TN  
www.trevecca.edu  
☐☐ Business Administration  
☐☐ Business Management  
☐☐ Christian Ministry  
☐☐ Creative Writing  
☐☐ Criminal Justice  
☐☐ General Studies  
☐☐ Information Technology  
☐☐ Mathematics  
☐☐ Music  
☐☐ Praise & Worship  
☐☐ Professional Communication  
☐☐ Songwriting

Tusculum College  
Greeneville, TN  
www.tusculum.edu  
☐☐ General Studies

Welch College  
Nashville, TN  
www.welch.edu  
☐☐ General Studies  
☐☐ Biology: Pre-Nursing  
☐☐ Business  
☐☐ Early Childhood  
☐☐ Ministry

*\*These institutions offer two-year programs which are eligible for Tennessee Promise during the 2020-2021 academic year. Students must be admitted to the associate degree program before they can participate in Tennessee Promise. Four-year programs at these institutions are not eligible.*

*Programs are current as of March 2017. Please visit [www.TNPromise.gov](http://www.TNPromise.gov) for the most current list.*