

Frequently Asked Questions: Roberta B Willis Need-Merit Scholarship Program

What is the Roberta B. Willis Need Merit Scholarship?

The Roberta B. Willis Need-Merit Scholarship Program is a state-funded initiative designed to support high-achieving, college-bound Connecticut high school students. Eligible students may receive up to **\$5,250 per year** for full-time enrollment in a four-year program or **\$4,650 per year** for full-time enrollment in a two-year program for FY-26 (AY 2025-2026). Awards are renewable for up to six consecutive years, covering associate or bachelor's degree programs.

Who is eligible?

The Program requires eligible high school students to rank in the top 20 percent of their junior year class (upon graduation for all others) **and/or** have a combined score of 1200 or better on the SAT or have an ACT score of 25 or better. The student must attend a four-year Connecticut public or non-profit private college, except for Wesleyan University and Yale University.

Students must have a **federal Student Aid Index (SAI)** equal to or below the Office of Higher Education's (OHE) annual maximum SAI cutoff of **10,999** to be considered for an award. The OHE will determine SAI eligibility based on the student's FAFSA.

What is the deadline to apply?

To be considered for this scholarship, both the **completed application** (submitted by the student's counselor) and the **FAFSA** must be submitted no later than **February 15th**. Students must also list an eligible Connecticut institution on their FAFSA for award consideration.

How can a counselor apply on behalf of their student?

Counselors can take the following steps to nominate their student for an award:

1. Create an account of CT Scholars by contacting ohesfa@ct.gov. OHE will provide a username and temporary password.
2. Access the application on <https://ctscholars.guarantorsolutions.com/ApplicationSignOn/>.
Note: Only counselors may submit applications; students cannot apply directly.
3. Ensure students submit a FAFSA by February 15th.

When are decisions communicated to students?

Award notifications will be sent to students via the email address listed on their FAFSA. Notification typically begins in **April**, once FAFSA submissions have been reviewed.

Questions?

Reach out to Office of Higher Education at ohesfa@ct.gov.