

South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship

The South Dakota Legislature established five requirements that all South Dakota high school graduates must meet in order to establish their initial eligibility in the Opportunity Scholarship program. These requirements specify that a recipient must:

1. Be a resident of South Dakota at time of high school graduation.
2. Have an ACT composite score of 24 or higher before the beginning of post-secondary education.
3. Complete high school course requirements BELOW with no final grade below a "C" (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) and a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (grade of "B") prior to graduation
4. Received a composite score on the ACT of at least 28 and meets the ACT college readiness benchmarks scores equaling or exceeding 18 for English, 21 for Reading, 22 for Math, and 24 for Science.
5. Attend a university, college, or technical located in South Dakota.
6. Enter into the program within 5 years of high school graduation, or within 1 year of the student's release from active duty military service (if that release is within 5 years of the date of the student's high school graduation). Students seeking to transfer from a regionally accredited university, college, or technical school located outside of South Dakota may do so within two years following high school graduation and be eligible to receive partial award.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **4 units of English** (courses with major emphasis upon grammar, composition, or literary analysis may be included to meet this requirement).
2. **3 units of Social Studies** (such as history, economics, sociology, geography, U.S. government, and similar courses).
3. **4 units of Algebra or Higher Mathematics** (algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or other advanced mathematics, as well as accelerated or honors mathematics [algebra] at the 8th grade, shall be accepted). NOT INCLUDED are arithmetic, business, consumer, or general mathematics or similar courses.
4. **4 units of Science, including 3 units of approved laboratory science** (courses in biology, chemistry, or physics in which at least one regular laboratory is scheduled each week). Qualifying physical science or earth science courses (with lab) shall be on a case-by-case basis.
5. **1 unit of Fine Arts** (in art, theatre, or music, as well as approved extracurricular activity).
6. **2 units of either of the following or a combination of the two:**
 1. **Approved Career and Technical Education Courses**
 2. **Modern or Classical Language** (Includes American Sign Language)
7. **1/2 unit of Personal Finance or Economics**
8. **1/2 unit of Physical Education**
9. **1/2 unit of Health or Health Integration** (Students entering high school after July 2013)