



Genesee GO FAQs

Who is eligible?

- Graduate from a Genesee County School.
- Resident and Taxpayer of Genesee County (Parent or Guardian)
- Graduate acceptance for post-secondary institution or training
- Completed application by due date
- Registered Home School student

1. Why offer the program to Genesee County graduates?

Genesee County is committed to providing all graduates a jump start into their future by supporting their continued education--no matter what pathway they choose after high school. Supporting them with a one-time stipend may provide the resources needed for success after high school.

2. I am graduating with a GED. Do I qualify?

Yes, if you have documentation of completing your GED (High School Equivalency Certificate) and meet all of other qualifications listed under eligibility. A GED must be obtained within two years of cohort graduating class. After two years, students are no longer eligible to receive funds. The student's jump start funds will equal the amount given during the original graduation year.

3. I am a home-schooled student. Do I qualify?

Yes, if you have registered as a home-schooled student with the state and meet all of the other qualifications listed under eligibility. Follow the registration directions on the State of Michigan website. All timelines apply as described.

4. I am a special education student, and will have a Certificate of Completion. Do I qualify?

Yes, if you have documentation of your Certificate of Completion and meet all of the other qualifications listed under eligibility.

5. When are the graduates eligible?

Funds can be used immediately following graduation. Students are eligible to receive funding for one year post high school graduation.

6. What if I just moved to Genesee County my senior year? Would I qualify?

The amount of funding would be determined by how long you have attended a Genesee County school. The four years of high school are separated into 8 semesters. If a student completes all 8 semesters in a Genesee County School (and meets all other eligibility requirements) they would receive 100% of the funds; 7 semesters = 87.5 % of funds; 6 semesters = 75% of funds; 5 semesters = 62.5 % of funds; 4

semesters = 50%; 3 semesters = 37.5% of funds; 2 semesters =25 % of funds; 1 semester = 12.5% of funds

7. When are the applications due?

The application includes a one-page form and a Release of Education Records to be signed and submitted. It may be obtained from the high school counselor or downloaded from the website: [Genesee Opportunity](http://www.geneseego.org) (www.geneseego.org) Applications for 2018 graduates will be accepted beginning March 27, 2018.

8. How long are the graduates eligible?

The 2018 Graduates are eligible to begin submitting applications March 27, 2018. All money needs to be used by May 31st of the year following graduation. All money that has not been applied for will remain in the Genesee GO account to be used for future graduates.

9. If there is a hardship, is there an appeal process?

Yes, in a rare circumstance, there is an appeal process that is outlined on the website: [Genesee Opportunity](http://www.geneseego.org) (www.geneseego.org) Hardships are strictly defined and do not include life choices (changing schools, professions, course of study, etc.).

10. What are they eligible for?

Funds can be used to pay for tuition or mandatory program training costs/certification testing only. Funds cannot be used for “activity” or religious courses.

11. What are mandatory fees?

The definition of mandatory fees used by the Michigan Educational Trust (MET) will be used.

“Mandatory fees are those required to be paid by all students attending a particular university/college. Application fees, contact hour fees and fees which are course specific (such as lab fees for science and computer classes, etc.), or fees assessed based on the number of credit hours enrolled are not covered.”

(Each college/university determines, in conjunction with MET, which of their fees qualify as mandatory fees under this definition.)

12. Can it pay for books?

Funds cannot be used to pay for books.

13. Are application fees covered?

Funds cannot be used to pay for application fees.

14. Can it pay for room and board?

The stipend can only be applied to tuition and mandatory program training costs/certification testing.

15. What training programs and/or postsecondary educational institutions qualify?

Both in-state and out-of-state training programs and/or postsecondary educational institutions qualify. Training programs could include business/industry certification trainings, apprenticeships, career center certification classes, etc.

Funds can be used for training or courses that are not ordinarily taken as an activity course, hobby, craft, or recreational course, Funds cannot be used in the subject areas of physical education, theology,

divinity, or religious education. The Genesee Opportunity Stipend can only be issued to licensed and accredited colleges and training institutions and is paid directly to the college or training institution.

16. Do all students have to accept the stipend?

The stipend is optional. The student is not required to accept the stipend.

17. How long do they have to use it?

One year post graduation.

18. Does Study Abroad qualify?

Study abroad is covered only if the program is administered by the college or university the student is attending. The only costs that are covered are the normal tuition costs for the credits taken abroad. No extraordinary tuition or expenses are covered.

19. What about special education students?

All students are eligible if they have a high school diploma or a certificate of completion.

20. What institutions would not qualify?

Most institutions qualify. To find lists of licensed and accredited colleges and training institutions, visit: <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>.

21. When would I get my money?

A student does not get the money. The funding goes directly to the training entity or postsecondary educational institution. Funds are dispersed beginning with the fall semester for qualified graduates.

22. If I start my postsecondary education the winter after my senior year? Do I still get the money?

Yes, if you meet the qualifications and are eligible, you have until May 31th of that year to have your funds applied to your institution or training program.

23. Distribution of Stipend Funds?

All funds will be paid directly to the institution or program. Payments will be made after the drop/add period or as directed by the program.

24. Can I get a refund if I change my mind?

There are no refunds. Once the money has been distributed, the money cannot be reapplied elsewhere.

25. Who does it go to?

The funds go directly to the training program and/or post-secondary institution to pay for tuition and fees.

Revised 5/15/18