

Wallin 2-Year Scholarship FAQ

General Questions

What are the eligibility requirements for the 2-Year Wallin scholarship?

To be eligible for the 2-Year Wallin Education Partners Scholarship, students must:

- Be a graduating senior from one of our 73 high school partners (list available online)
- Attend one of our 12 partner community colleges, listed here:
https://www.wallinpartners.org/uploads/1/2/5/7/125766820/2-year_college_eligibility_2023.pdf
- Have a GPA of 2.0 (unweighted) or higher by the time they submit their application for the 2-Year Scholarship.
- Demonstrate financial need: The student's parents need to have a combined adjusted gross income between \$0-\$95,000 if they live in a household of 1-5 people. If students live in a household of six or more people, then the parent's combined adjusted gross income can get up to \$135,000.

How much is the scholarship?

- The funding amounts for the two-year program vary. The Opportunity Pathways scholarship is up to \$6,000, which is disbursed over two to three years. The Aspire Pathway is up to \$8,000 for students attending Dunwoody College and the Mortenson Pathway will cover up to full tuition for students.

What is the acceptance rate? How many scholarships are awarded?

- About 65-70% of students who apply for the 2-Year scholarship are selected. Last year, we selected 172 seniors for the 2-Year Scholarship.

How do I apply?

- You can apply by creating an account on Wallin EP's website:
<https://scholars.wallinpartners.org/apply/>. We strongly encourage you NOT to complete your application in one sitting, but to work on it over several days/weeks.
- The 2-Year scholarship opens March 1st, 2024, and has a priority deadline of May 15th, 2024. Selection is on a rolling basis, so we encourage applying early, especially if you are interested in the more competitive workforce-oriented pathway (Mortenson).

What do I need to do to apply?

- Complete the online application.
- Upload your high school transcript with all courses and grades from 9th grade to 12th grade.
- Upload your parent(s) 2022 tax forms so we can confirm financial need. If your parents do not file taxes, we will also accept W2's.

Can I use the scholarship at Dougherty Family College?

- Dougherty Family College is not one of our partner community colleges so students cannot use our funding at Dougherty Family College

Are the essay questions the same for the 2-year application?

- The questions for the 2-year application are a bit different from the four-year. All the prompts can be found on our website, under Resources. Once on that page, go to Application Help and scroll until you get to the essay help section.

I'm having issues getting back into my account, what do I do?

- The most common issue students have with our application is forgetting their password. If this happens to you, you can reset your password by going to the log-in page, entering in the email address you used to create your Wallin account (this will be your school email address or your personal email address) and following the directions to reset your password. The email account with password reset information will come from wallin@wallinpartners.org. If you experience other technical issues, email us at apply@wallinpartners.org.

Are there multiple rounds for the Wallin Scholarship?

- No, there aren't multiple rounds for the Wallin Scholarship. After you complete your application in its entirety, your application is considered complete. Students with completed applications will be notified of our decision in waves, starting in late May until all scholarship spots are filled.

Do you require US citizenship to apply?

- No. Wallin EP also does not ask about the citizenship status of applicants.

Do I need to meet all the eligibility criteria to apply?

- Yes, you must meet all our eligibility requirements to apply. Some students may improve their GPA over the course of the quarter/term and be eligible by the time the application closes. The financial situation for some students may have changed since taxes were filed 2022, making them now financially eligible for Wallin.

Do I need to take the ACT to be considered for Wallin?

- Wallin Education Partners will not consider your ACT as a part of the selection process. If you did take the ACT, we'd like you to indicate your scores in the application for research purposes, but the ACT will not have an impact on selection.

Do you want official or unofficial transcripts? Do they need to be uploaded or will you get them from our counselors?

- We will require a transcript for the 2-Year scholarship, so be sure to have a copy your unofficial high school transcript that shows all classes and grades from 9th to the most current quarter/trimester. If you can't independently download your transcript, ask your high school counselor for a copy.

What if I start basic training in the fall of my first year of college? Can I still be a scholar?

- Wallin EP requires all students to be enrolled in the fall after high school graduation. If you will not be enrolled because of basic training, you will not be eligible for the Wallin Scholarship. We have had instances where students started their college classes in the fall and went to basic training in the spring or even their sophomore year of college without it impacting their scholarship or status as a Wallin scholar.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

- You can email us at apply@wallinpartners.org. Our Application Help page (<https://www.wallinpartners.org/applicationhelp>) also has a lot of helpful information.

Financial Questions

Do I have to complete the FAFSA or MN Dream Act before submitting my Wallin application?

- No. This year, we will accept your parent's 2022 tax forms for income verification; however if you do have your FAFSA or MN Dream Act completed by the time the 2-Year scholarship opens, we recommend uploading a screenshot of your financial summary page or the MN Dream Act confirmation page.

Do I have to report both of my parent's income or just one?

- To confirm if students meet our financial need requirement, **we expect students to report both of their parents' income and that holds true even if parents are not legally married but culturally married.** We do have slightly different requirements for students whose parents are divorced or those who have unique circumstances, which are listed below.
 - If a student's parents are divorced or separated, then they will report the income of the parent they live with more often and upload that parent's 2022 1040 tax form. If the parent they live with has remarried, then the student will report that parent and their stepparent's income. This is consistent with what is required for FAFSA.
 - If a student is a foster youth, unhoused or facing homelessness, not living with their biological or adoptive parents, or has another unique or extenuating circumstance, we will not ask for financial documentation. Those students will list an adult at their high school (this can be a guidance counselor, caseworker, social worker, or another adult who is aware of their situation) and we will follow up with that person.

My parents don't work, but my older siblings are the ones who pay the bills. Do I report their income?

- Some of our scholars are in households where parents do not work and either they or older siblings help with household bills. In those cases, you would indicate an income of zero and write a paragraph explaining this situation to use. Do not report your income or those of your siblings because we are most interested in whether parents in the home are employed and how much they earn.

Which tax forms are you looking for?

- We will need your parent(s) 2022 1040 tax form. If that isn't available, we can take the 2021 or 2023 tax form, but the 2022 is preferred so we can be consistent with FAFSA and the MN Dream Act.

What if my parents don't file taxes?

- If your parents don't file taxes, you will indicate that in the application and upload W2 forms or provide us with a paragraph that will help us more fully understand your financial situation.

Who do I count in my household size?

- You should include yourself, your parents, and any siblings under 24 who rely on your parent's income for food, housing, and other expenses, even if they are living on campus/away from home. You can also include any other relatives who financially depend on your parent(s) income to cover 50% or more of their housing/food expenses, even if they don't live with you.

What if my parents or guardian lost their job recently? Or my family's financial circumstances have changed due to medical bills and other debts?

- Apply! Even if your 2022 taxes indicate you aren't eligible, we'll provide space for you to share more information with us in the application. We may ask you for more detailed follow-up information, but we encourage you to apply.

My parents make over the Adjusted Gross Income, but they won't help me pay for college. Can I still apply?

- We understand there are many students in this situation, and while we are empathetic to your situation, we must abide by our set eligibility criteria and be consistent with how applications like the FAFSA and MN Dream Act assess financial need. It is not about your parents' willingness to pay for college, but rather their ability to help you finance your education. Wallin Education Partners is an organization aimed at helping low to moderate income students access college so applicants must demonstrate financial need to be considered for our scholarship. If your parents make over the financial need cutoff, then you won't be eligible for Wallin. We encourage you to talk with your high school counselors and college and career staff about scholarships that do not have a set financial need criteria.

If I am selected as a Wallin Scholar and my parents income increases in the future, will I lose the scholarship?

- No. Once you are selected as a Wallin Scholar, you are a Wallin Scholar. We will not take away the scholarship because your parents' income has increased. There is a chance other financial aid may change, so we encourage you to talk with your Wallin Scholar advisor so they can help you anticipate and plan for changes.

Selection & Support after high school

How do you decide who is a Wallin Scholar?

- First, know that each year we review more qualified applications than we can select. We believe Wallin Scholars are motivated leaders who have deep engagement both in and out of school and would benefit from our unique program. We use a robust and holistic review process that ensures every complete application is read by at least two different people. We evaluate potential scholars on academics, involvement (including extracurriculars, work, service, and family support), as well as student essays. Ultimately no one factor determines the outcome of an application.

When will students in the 2-Year be notified?

- Our 2-Year program has rolling admission so notification will be dependent on when a student submits their application and what pathways they are applying for. Generally, students will hear back in mid-May to early June if they have been selected for the 2-Year program.

What happens if I get accepted into a 2-Year program, but it will take me 3 years to graduate?

- That's totally okay. It's common for students to take 2.5 to 3 years to get their degree. Wallin will support you until you get your associate degree. Your advisor may work with you on how to best spread out your scholarship funding, but you can count on support until you finish your degree.

Do you have a 2+2 program? What if I want to start at a 2-Year but get a four-year degree?

- Wallin does have a 2+2 program that provides advising support until a student gets their four-year degree. Students in this pathway will also have access to some limited financial support. To qualify for our 2+2 program, students will need to be current Wallin 2-Year scholars who are on track to get their associates. They will apply to our 2+2 pathways the semester before finishing their associate degree.

How will you disburse funds?

- Every summer we will confirm the college you will be enrolled at in the following fall. We will then use that information to send the scholarship funds to your college's financial aid or business office. Remember, for us to send funding, you must be enrolled at one of our 12 partner community colleges.

How often will students need to meet with their advisors?

- Students will meet with their advisors between 6-8 times in their first year of college to ensure they have a smooth transition, and after that, they will meet around 4-6 times a year. These are general guidelines, but your scholar advisor will outline expectations with you in your first meeting.