

## Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program

- **What is the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program?**

The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program assists eligible southwest Virginia residents who are former Burley tobacco quota holders or producers (1998-2004) and their immediate family members who are enrolled in a degree-seeking program with up to a maximum of \$2,500 for tuition and fees at any 4-year accredited institution (in-state or out-of-state), **after all other awarded gift assistance has been exhausted**. The scholarship is for tuition and fees only, and does not cover room and board, books and supplies. The scholarship program is limited to one degree per student or 4-years, whichever happens first. Awards are based on cumulative GPA at the end of the previous fall semester.

- **Who Is Eligible To Apply:** Permanent residents of the 14 Southwest Virginia localities which includes the following counties; Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe as well as the towns of Bristol, VA and Norton, VA who are enrolled in Bachelor's or Master's degree at a public or private, accredited 4-year college or university, in-state or out-of-state.

Applicants must be a citizen of the United States and must have resided in Virginia for a minimum of 12 months

**Students from other states/localities who are attending a college or university in the Southwest Virginia region are not considered permanent residents of the Southwest localities.**

- Applicants must be a direct descendant (spouse, child, stepchild, grandchild, step-grandchild, etc) of a former Burley tobacco quota holder or grower, who marketed tobacco during the indemnification period of 1998 through 2004. You must be able to submit documentation in the form of a 156EZ from the FSA office showing quota possession OR an MQ-24 from the FSA office showing tobacco production OR a 1099 from the Federal Government showing participation in the 2005 Burley Tobacco Buy Out.
- **When Can I Apply:** The application and its criteria opens March 1 and closes December 15 each funding cycle. Support documentation must be received within 30 days of submission of your application. Please monitor the VA Tobacco Commission website to determine the availability of funds prior to the start date of each funding cycle. **ALL AWARDS ARE DEPENDENT UPON FUNDING FROM THE VA TOBACCO COMMISSION.**
- **How Do I Qualify?** Persons who meet the eligibility requirements outlined above and are interested in receiving assistance with tuition and academic fees through the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program must:

- Submit an online application at [www.tic.virginia.gov](http://www.tic.virginia.gov) or [www.tobacco.swcenter.edu](http://www.tobacco.swcenter.edu) from March through December of the funding year.
- Be a current resident of Southwest Virginia. **Applicants must have resided in Virginia for a minimum of 12 months, having no ties with another state such as a driver's license, auto registration, voter registration, or tax payments.**
- Be a U. S. national or permanent legal resident of the United States.
- Be a degree-seeking student at an accredited 4-year college or university -- public or private, in-state or out-of-state.
- **Only students enrolled in a Bachelor's or Master's degree program are eligible for the award.** Special conditions exist for students seeking teacher licensure only. The applicant must be employed by a VA public school system under a Provisional License and using these funds to satisfy the requirements set forth by VA DOE. **Funds cannot be used for endorsement(s) to an existing license nor for recertification.**
- Provide an official transcript as documentation of cumulative GPA. High school graduates need to submit a cumulative grade report showing GPA as based on a 4.0 or 5.0 scale.
- Mail support documentation to reach the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program as specified in the application process.

- **How are awards made?**

Awards are based on cumulative GPA with only GPA's above 2.0 being eligible for an award. Students must be in good academic standing with his/her college/university at the end of the previous fall semester because the current spring semester grades will not have been posted. Renewal students compete with the entire field of qualified applicants each academic year. No one is grandfathered into the program. All awards are dependent upon the VA Tobacco Scholarships Office receiving funds from the VA Tobacco Commission.

- **What is the amount of the award?** The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship:

- Pays up to **\$2,500** per year for tuition and fees in an accredited in-state or out-of-state, public or private 4-year college or university for students enrolled full-time.
  - Full-time status for the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program is **15** undergraduate credit hours per semester or **9** graduate credit hours **per semester**
- Pays up to **\$1,250** per year for tuition and fees at an accredited in-state or out-of-state, public or private 4-year college or university for students enrolled in less than **15** undergraduate semester credit hours or **9** graduate credit hours **per semester**.
- Due to the fact that funding is received on a fiscal year basis, the academic year for the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship program includes the Fall semester of the first year, Spring and Summer semesters of the second year.

- **Must I attend an in-state college or university?**

- The award can be used at any accredited 4-year college or university, in-state or out-of-state. However, the applicant can have no ties to the other state, including driver's license, voter registration, tax payments, etc. Students who are receiving in-state tuition at a college or university outside of Virginia is deemed to have established ties to the other state.

- **Can I use this award for books, housing, travel, etc?**

The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship can be used for tuition and fees ONLY. It does not cover books, housing, travel, etc.

- **How is this award applied if I receive a Pell Grant, Employer-Sponsored tuition, and/or other grants that do not have to be paid back?**

- All other gifted assistance must be applied to a student's account before the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship is applied. Eligibility for funding is based on the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship serving as a "last dollar" program not intended to replace or substitute for any other awarded gift assistance. A student can opt to use the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship award instead of Federal Student Loans.

- **What is the purpose of the Information Release Form and the Student Authorization Form?**

As the result of the Federal Privacy Act 1988, no information can be provided to anyone other than the applicant provided he/she is over the age of 18. The Information Release Form (**IRF**) found in the packet of support documents must be completed if the student wants his information shared with parents, a spouse, a child, etc. If this document is not on file in our database, information will only be given directly to the applicant.

The Student Authorization Form (**SAF**) found at the end of the online Career Planning Workshop for undergraduates or at the URL provided to graduate students **MUST** be completed and returned to the VA Tobacco Scholarship/Loan Programs Office so that the college or university can share the student's account information in the form of an invoice. It is the last form to be submitted to the VA Tobacco Scholarship/Loan Programs Office. Failure to submit this document in a timely manner could result in the loss of an award. Colleges and universities are not informed of a student's award until the SAF is received in the VA Tobacco Scholarships Office. **Should all existing funds be awarded or depleted prior to the December 31, 2009 deadline, the date received that is stamped on the Student Authorization Form will be used to determine whether or not an award is received.**

- **Can apply for and receive assistance through the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program throughout my education, i.e. Bachelor's and Master's, degrees?**

Assistance with tuition and academic fees through the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship may be used to complete **ONLY** one degree program or 4 years **whichever comes first**. Lifetime program benefit is restricted to the completion of one degree program.

NOTE: Completion of Teacher Licensure courses is the same as completing one degree.

- **What do I need to do to insure receiving my award for the Fall and Spring semesters?**

You must submit verification of enrollment from the registrar's office or a copy of your schedule for each semester. This documentation must be received within 14 days after enrollment for each semester.