



Southwest Virginia Burley Program

Academic Year 2009-2010

Funded By:

Virginia Tobacco Indemnification & Community Revitalization Commission

The 2009-2010 academic year marks the eighth year of the Southwest Virginia Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program, funded by the VA Tobacco Indemnification & Community Revitalization Commission. The 2009-2010 funded amount is \$1.25 million. In the previous years, a total of \$5,709,314 has been provided to residents of the Southwest Virginia region as assistance with tuition and academic fees while attending an accredited 4-year college or university.

The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program assists eligible Southwest Virginia residents who were former Burley tobacco quota holders or growers and their direct descendants with up to \$2,500 for tuition and academic fees. Both the former quota holder or grower AND the applicant must have a permanent mailing address in one of these 14 counties, but not in the same Southwest Virginia County.

The 14 qualifying localities include the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Floyd, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe.

Funds for this program are provided by the VA Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission on a fiscal year basis. As a result, awards from the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program can be used for the fall of the first year semester, the spring of the second year semester, and the summer of the second year semester, i. e. Fall 2009, Spring 2010, and Summer 2010.

Applicants must be enrolled in a degree-seeking program (Bachelor's or Master's) at an accredited 4-year college or university. The college can be public or private, in-state or out-of-state. The Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program is designed to serve as a "last dollar effort" **after all other scholarships, grants, employer-sponsored tuition, etc. have been posted to the award recipient's account.** 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 as of the preceding fall semester (Fall 08) and the number of credit hours an award recipient is enrolled in for the upcoming/current fall semester (Fall 09).

ALL AWARDS ARE DEPENDENT UPON THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM THE VA TOBACCO COMMISSION.

ELIGIBILITY:

In order to be eligible for an award from the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program, an applicant must:

1. Have a permanent residence in one of the 14 Southwest Virginia localities listed above and be a resident of Virginia for the last 12 months;
2. Be a U.S. national, or permanent legal resident of the United States;
3. Be a former Burley Tobacco quota holder or grower who held a quota or produced tobacco during the years 1998-2004 and/or participated in the 2005 Federal Tobacco Buy Out. **OR,**
4. Be a family member of a former quota holder or grower who meets the above criteria. **Family member** includes a spouse, child (natural or adopted), step-child, grandchild step-grandchild. A niece or nephew of a former quota holder or grower are not considered direct descendants and are not eligible to apply.

Applicants need to know their Burley Tobacco Farm Number which is found on the 156EZ form or MQ-24 obtained from the local Farm Service Agencies in order to apply. (See listing below.)

Farm ownership does not define a person as being a former burley tobacco quota holder or grower. Unless written documentation shows a burley tobacco quota (number of pounds) for a specific farm or the number of pounds from that farm that were produced by another grower, an applicant cannot be considered for assistance through the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program.

TO QUALIFY: After having met the eligibility requirements, an applicant must meet the following conditions in order to qualify for an award from the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program:

1. Be a degree-seeking student at an accredited 4-year college or university, in-state or out-of-state, public or private.
 - Assistance with tuition and fees is available only to current residents of the Southwest Virginia region who meet all of the eligibility requirements above. The anticipated degree can be in any college major.
 - **Only students enrolled in a Bachelor's or Master's degree program are eligible for the award.**
 - **Exception:** The following exception was implemented in 2006: Students who are enrolled in a **2-year degree program at a 4-year college or university** will be eligible to receive funding through the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship, provided that the 2-year degree-program is not offered at the local community college serving that individual student.
 - Eligibility requirements for students who are interested in becoming teachers through the Alternative Route to Licensure as set forth by VA DOE must be (1) employed by a VA public or private school system under a provisional license; (2) enrolled in courses to satisfy the DOE requirements; and, (3) working under a licensed teacher who serves as a mentor. (See section 8 VAC 20-21-80 of the Virginia Licensure Regulations for School Personnel handbook available online at the VA Dept. of Education website.)
2. Submit an online application at www.tic.virginia.gov during the period **March 2, 2009 through December 15, 2009**. If funds are depleted prior to the December 15, 2009 deadline, the application process will be closed immediately.

NOTE: Applications completed after November 15, 2009 will receive funding for Spring 2010 semester ONLY. The award will be based on the number of hours for which the award recipient is enrolled for Spring semester.

3. Submit the required support documentation in the form of a 156EZ or MQ-24 for the crop years (1998 - 2004) available from the FSA office. The quota holder or grower must request these forms in person at the FSA office. A copy of the 1099 issued to the quota holder or grower for tax purposes can also be used as required support documentation. The payment amount can be erased. Only the form bearing the name of the quota holder or grower is needed. If the former quota holder/grower is now deceased, additional documentation must be submitted. Please contact the VA Tobacco Scholarship/Loan Programs Office.
 - If you are a new applicant who is applying as a **Family Member** you must provide:

- a 156 EZ Form or MQ-24 from the FSA office to show burley tobacco production during the indemnification years, 1998-2004 OR a copy of the 1099 from the Federal Government to show participation in the 2005 Burley Tobacco Buyout;
- a **NOTARIZED** letter from the quota holder or grower defining his/her relationship to the applicant. ***APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE UNTIL WE RECEIVE A COPY THE 156EZ OR MQ-24 OR THE 1099, AND THE NOTARIZED LETTER.***
- An Official transcript from the last school attended. (See item #4 below.) And,
- An Information Release Form. This is optional. (See item #5 below.)

Applicants who have previously received funds from this Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program for tuition and fees at a 4-year college or university do not need to submit ownership documentation again.

- If you are an applicant who previously received assistance through this program for 4-year colleges or universities, you must only provide:
 - An official transcript from the last school attended. (See item #4 below.)
 - An Information Release Form. This is optional. (See item #5 below.)
4. Provide an official transcript each year from the last school attended as documentation of cumulative GPA.
- Applicants who last attended high school need to submit a cumulative grade report from the high school showing a cumulative GPA that is based on a 4.0 or 5.0 scale.
 - Applicants who were enrolled at a 4-year college or university during the preceding academic year need to submit an official transcript from the Registrar's office that shows a cumulative GPA for the fall semester of that year.

Awards are based on the cumulative GPA for fall of the preceding year due to the fact that grades for the spring semester are not posted until May or June of the application year.

5. Provide an Information Release Form each year if you want anyone other than your school or yourself to have access to your information in our database. This form is accessible once the application has been successfully submitted online.
6. Submit a copy of the Fall 09, Spring 10, and Summer 10 schedules as soon as they are available. The award amount is established according to the number of credit hours for which an award recipient is enrolled for the fall semester (or the first semester of enrollment).
7. Mail support documentation to reach the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program, P. O. Box 1987, Abingdon, VA 24212-1987 by the **close of business (6 PM) on December 31, 2009**. **Should funds be depleted prior to the December 31, 2009 deadline, awards will be based on the date received stamped on the Student Authorization Form which is the last support document that must be received prior to the college or university being notified of an award.**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to make sure all requested support documentation is received in a timely manner. Requests for additional information will be issued as time allows; however, the VA Tobacco Scholarship/Loan Programs staff will not accept responsibility for an application that is not completed in a timely manner.

Once the application and its support documentation have been received by the Tobacco Scholarships Administrator, evaluation of the application will be conducted and awards given based on the following:

- **Applicant meets residency and citizenship requirements listed above.**
- **Students must be in good academic standing with the college/university.**
- **Previous award recipients will compete with the entire field of qualified applicants.** No award recipient is grandfathered from the previous academic year.
- **Applicant must be in good standing with the college/university.**
 - Awards will be based on cumulative GPA for the previous fall semester (2008) because a cumulative GPA for spring semester (2009) will not be available by March 2, 2009. Only applicants with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better and who is in good academic standing with his/her school will be deemed eligible for an award.
 - Applicants who are on academic warning or academic probation for the Fall 08 semester should wait to apply until the cumulative GPA is 2.0 or better. The application will not be processed until the cumulative GPA requirement is met. Awards are dependent upon the availability of funding in the Southside Tobacco Loan Forgiveness Program.
- **An applicant enrolled in a minimum of 15 undergraduate credit hours or 9 graduate credit hours for Fall 09 will receive an established award of \$2,500. Those enrolled in less than the stated minimums will receive an established award of \$1,250.**

AWARD INFORMATION:

- **Eligibility for funding is based on an award from the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program serving as a “last dollar” program -- not intended to replace or substitute for any other gifted assistance. In other words, all other gifted assistance (PELL Grant, employer-paid tuition assistance, or other grants/scholarships that do not have to be repaid) must be posted to the student account before the award from this program is posted.**
- The award amount is established according to the number of credit hours for which an award recipient is enrolled for the fall semester (or the first semester of enrollment). Spring and summer awards may be adjusted based on the number of credit hours for which the applicant is enrolled. Awards can only be increased if funds are remaining in the program. The established award will be decreased if the applicant falls below the required number of enrollment hours. If all funds are awarded or depleted prior to the spring and/or summer semesters, the established award will not be increased even if the applicant enrolls in the minimum number of credit hours.
 - 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 in a minimum of 15 undergraduate credit hours per semester or 9 graduate credit hours per semester. Applicants enrolled in an adult cohort and attending classes according to a pre-determined schedule must be enrolled in a total of 30 undergraduate credit hours or 18 graduate credit hours for the funded academic year (Fall 09, Spring 10, and Summer 10) in order to receive the full \$2,500 award for the funded academic year.
 - 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 credit hours per semester or 9 graduate credit hours per semester. Applicants enrolled in an adult cohort and attending classes every semester but are enrolled in less than a total of 30 undergraduate credit hours or 18 graduate credit hours for the funded academic year (Fall 09, Spring 10, and Summer 10) are eligible to receive \$1,250 for the funded academic year.

NOTE: Applications completed after November 15, 2009 will receive funding for Spring 2010 semester ONLY. The award will be based on the number of hours for which the award recipient is enrolled for Spring semester.

Applicants enrolled in quarter hours must enroll for a minimum total of 45 undergraduate quarter hours or 27 graduate quarter hours for the academic year (3 quarters) to receive the full award of \$2,500.

Applicants who are enrolled in a cohort program (attending classes according to a pre-determined schedule) and will enroll for a total of 30 undergraduate credit hours or 18 graduate credit hours are eligible for the full award of \$2,500 divided into 3 payments.

All award recipients must submit a copy of their schedule for each semester prior to payment being sent to the college or university. Award recipients who are enrolled in a cohort program must submit the full cohort schedule at the beginning of the semester in which the cohort begins. Most colleges and universities issue this document to cohort members at initial registration. It can also be provided in the form of a letter from an authorized representative of the college or university.

- **It is the responsibility of the student/award recipient to make the staff of the Virginia Tobacco Scholarships Office as administration for the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program updated as to changes in personal information, (i. e. change of address, graduation, withdrawing from classes, no longer enrolled in classes, et. al). Dated or incorrect information could result in a delay in receiving important information or having an application or invoice processed.**
- Assistance with tuition and academic fees from the Southwest Burley Tobacco Scholarship Program may be used to complete **ONLY** one degree or for 4 years, **whichever comes first**. Lifetime program benefit is restricted to the completion of one degree program.