GAPP is bridging the gap to college access and affordability

MICUA
MARYLAND INDEPENDENT COLLEGE and UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

Academic Year 2027 - 2028

Guaranteed Access Partnership Program

GAPP

*A Grant That Matches Maryland's GA Grant Award Up to a total of **$36,000!!****

Steps to Apply

1. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and list all GAPP participating institutions you may attend.
2. Create a Maryland State Aid Account through the Maryland Central Aid Processing System (MDCAPS) - http://mdcaps.mhec.state.md.us.
3. Contact the financial aid office of a GAPP participating institution and complete the application, if applicable, for a matching GAPP award.
4. For more information visit Howard P. Rawlings Guaranteed Access (GA) Grant or call the MHEC Office of Student Financial Assistance at (800) 974-0203.

GAPP Participating Institutions

Capitol Technology University
Goucher College
Hood College
Johns Hopkins University
Loyola University Maryland
MICA Maryland Institute College of Art
McDaniel College
Mount St. Mary's University
Notre Dame of Maryland University
St John's College
Stevenson University
Washington Adventist University
Washington College

For more information visit www.micua.org/resources

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How to Apply

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or State financial aid application for undocumented students (formerly MSFAA) through the new MHEC One-App. Contact the financial aid office of the GAPP participating institution.

Award Amount*

For the 2026-2027 academic year, the maximum Guaranteed Access grant for students was $18,000 which was matched by MICUA schools for a total of $36,000. The State of Maryland will set a maximum award level for the 2027-2028 academic year in April of 2027. Students who receive the Maryland Guaranteed Access (GA) grant will have their award doubled in value through the Guaranteed Access Partnership Program (GAPP). Students who receive a GAPP award may still receive other forms of need-based and merit-based financial aid. These funds cannot exceed the cost of attendance at the institution a student chooses to attend.

Who Can Apply

Eligible Maryland students who begin college within 6 years of completing high school or obtaining a GED and who plan to attend a participating Maryland independent college or university as full-time, degree-seeking, undergraduate students.

When to Apply

March 1, 2027 is the final deadline for students to submit the FAFSA or MHEC One-App. **August 1, 2027** is the deadline to submit all required documentation requested in MDCAPS.

Eligible Majors

All majors are eligible.

Renewing GAPP

A GAPP award may be renewed annually for three years for students who maintain eligibility.

The Guaranteed Access Grant maximum amount is calculated annually based on the approved State budget allocation.

All Guaranteed Access Grant awarding is contingent on the availability of funds.

GAPP Eligibility Requirements

Students must meet the income eligibility requirements for the Maryland GA grant and demonstrate eligibility for institutional need-based assistance. Students must also:

- meet the GA requirements and be awarded a GA grant;
- be eligible for In-State tuition;
- meet the initial income requirements for the academic year;
- have completed high school or obtained a GED with a passing score of 145 per module;
- must begin college within 6 years of completing high school or obtaining a GED;
- apply to a participating Maryland independent college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking, undergraduate student; and
- be under the age of 26 at the time of receiving the first award.

Don't Miss Out on Federal Pell Grants!

Students who receive Federal Pell Grants can boost their award totals even further.