

Dear College at Brockport Student and Family:

Effective fall 2017, New York State will implement the Excelsior Scholarship program. The scholarship was designed to assist New York's middle-income families with securing the resources needed to fund a public college education. This exciting opportunity for College at Brockport families has prompted many questions. New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) will administer the scholarship program, and as such, is the best resource for answers to your questions. We encourage you to visit the HESC website at <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/> to learn more.

The information outlined below is intended only as a brief overview addressing certain concerns related to the timing of the award (for use with the fall billing statement) as posed by families since the Excelsior Scholarship was announced; *it represents our best understanding of the program as of the date of this letter*. This document is not designed as an overarching reference guide surrounding the program or student eligibility. The Excelsior program continues to evolve, so we encourage you to contact HESC for answers to your Excelsior Scholarship program questions.

- **Application Deadline**
HESC lists the deadline to apply for the Excelsior Scholarship for the fall 2017 semester as July 21, 2017. Be sure to check the HESC website <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/> for the most up-to-date information.
- **College at Brockport Student Account**
It is anticipated the College will not receive estimated Excelsior award amounts from HESC until at least late August. *If that holds true, students may not see the Excelsior Scholarship reflected on their College at Brockport student account until well after the start of the fall term.*
- **Tuition Charge**
Tuition for students who are awarded the Excelsior Scholarship will be "frozen" at the 2016-17 rate (\$3,235) until 2020-2021. Tuition for non-Excelsior awardees may increase in any given year as determined by the SUNY Board of Trustees. Due to the late notification regarding 2017 Excelsior Scholarship recipients (as described in the bullet immediately above), a student's initial fall 2017 billing statement(s) may reflect the recently approved higher tuition rate of \$3,335 until the College receives (HESC) notification of Excelsior eligibility. Once we have received the award information, the 2017 tuition charge for Excelsior students will be adjusted accordingly.
- **Refund Delay**
The delay in award notification by HESC may be particularly important to students who anticipate receiving an overpayment refund due to the scholarship. The College will not be able to process overpayment refunds (*for those students receiving the Excelsior Scholarship*) until we receive official notification of the award from HESC. Students, especially those who anticipated using an early refund to pay toward books, rent, or other expenses, should plan accordingly (e.g., arrange funding from other sources/repay that source if/when the overpayment refund is received).
- **Financial Aid "Package" Recalculation**
Student offers of financial aid (for the fall 2017 term) have been calculated without inclusion of the Excelsior Scholarship. Once HESC provides the list of Excelsior Scholarship recipients to the College, the student's award "package" will need to be recalculated to include the Excelsior

Scholarship. In some cases, the recalculation may result in the reversal, or delayed application, of (other) financial aid awards to the student's account, and consequently, a delay in any overpayment refund.

- **Ramifications of Lost Scholarship**

In the event a student becomes ineligible for the Excelsior Scholarship (e.g., fails to earn a passing grade in a total of 30 credits during the academic year), s/he cannot regain eligibility; students in this situation should contact the Financial Aid Office to determine what alternate funding options, if any, are available. If the Excelsior Scholarship is revoked for a current or prior term, the student may be liable for the immediate repayment of the scholarship amount, as well as any refunds generated based on the award. The student will then be subject to the current (higher) rate of tuition for all subsequent semesters.

If the loss of the Excelsior Scholarship results in a balance due on the student's account, and that balance remains unpaid, it may result in the assessment of a \$30 per month administrative late payment and/or late payment fee, the denial of transcript release, diploma release, and/or future course enrollment privileges.

- **Study Abroad Programs**

Students participating in Study Abroad programs offered by another SUNY or a non-SUNY school should contact HESC to discuss what possible ramifications, if any, earning study abroad credits may have on future Excelsior Scholarship eligibility, particularly if those credits are not required for your program of study.

This does not apply to Brockport students who participate in College at Brockport study abroad programs directly pertaining to their degree program (major), and successfully complete 30 program credits in a single year.

As indicated above, this document is intended only as a supplement to the official Excelsior Scholarship information provided by the administrator of the program, HESC. Students and families should contact HESC (<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/> or 1-888-697-4372) directly with any Excelsior-related questions.

The Office of Student Accounts & Accounting