What is Tuition Exchange?

Tuition Exchange (TE) is a reciprocal scholarship opportunity for the dependents of eligible faculty and staff at over 625 member schools. Established in 1954, TE schools award over 6,500 scholarships each year to students eager to advance their education.

Our public and private institutions, baccalaureate/liberal arts colleges, graduate/professional schools, doctoral research universities, and 2 year/4 year specialized schools represent every type of higher education institution. This vast array of educational options allows TE students the opportunity to benefit from the scope and diversity of membership choices.

What happens if the employee loses eligibility?

Tuition Exchange (TE) provides amazing opportunities for the employees, and their families, at member institutions. The family member whose employment enabled eligibility, must continue to meet the home institution’s eligibility criteria. Your home institution will process a recertification of eligibility each year. If the eligible employee is considering a job change, contact your home school TELO.

What must I do to retain my scholarship?

You must meet the institution’s standards for academic performance, social and personal conduct, apply for financial aid and any other terms and conditions of the scholarship. Those requirements vary by school. It is your responsibility to ask and understand the renewal requirements. Your best source for this information is the TELO.

Making College Possible

Earning a generous Tuition Exchange scholarship goes a long way towards defraying the cost of higher education – a cost that might otherwise be beyond the reach of some families. Many employees have been able to send multiple children to college with assistance through the Exchange.

Tuition Exchange offers my four children the opportunity to attend schools they couldn’t dream of without the program. Danny graduated from LeMoyne College on an exchange scholarship, Meghan is applying for an award at St. John Fisher, Sara has applications in at several exchange schools, and my youngest will apply through the program when the time comes. My wife and I want our children to have every opportunity at their disposal, and Tuition Exchange gives the everyday working person that chance.

Bill Brown
Union Carpenter, Syracuse University
Some TE recipients represent the first generation in their families to attend college.
Whatever the educational field of interest or preference in school size or location, Tuition Exchange is sure to have an option that fits.

The Award Process
Through Tuition Exchange, member colleges and universities offer over 6,500 scholarship awards annually. Each member school sets its own policies and procedures for determining eligibility and requirements for scholarships. That's why it's important to work closely with the Tuition Exchange Liaison Officer (TELO) at your institution of employment.

Who is eligible for a Tuition Exchange Scholarship?
In order to be eligible to apply for Tuition Exchange scholarships, the student must be the dependent of an eligible employee at one of the 625 plus member schools. If you or an immediate family member is not an employee of an eligible TE school - you do not qualify for Tuition Exchange award consideration.

If you or an immediate family member is an employee of an eligible TE member school, contact your TELO. To find out who the TELO is, visit tuitionexchange.org, click on the Families tab (second from the left) and click Member Schools. Once you open the Membership page, you can use the search box “Find Institution:” to find your school of employment. Click to display the name and email contact for the school. The TELO is the best source for Tuition Exchange information.

State Grant Information
Almost every state has at least one grant or scholarship available to residents. Eligibility is usually restricted to state residents attending a college in-state, but that's not always the case. There are annual deadlines for most programs (if you miss a deadline, be sure to try again next year). Under the Families tab on TE's front web page, you can click on the Scholarship Award Process folder. Inside the “State Grant” article, look for your state on the map and click on your state to find out what financial aid programs may be available to you. In some states the state award is available to fund tuition only and this funding may be considered as part of the TE award. Check with the financial aid office at the schools you are applying to for additional grant funding options.

Are all eligible students guaranteed a scholarship?
No. Tuition Exchange scholarships are not guaranteed; they are competitive awards for which you apply. Each institution must maintain a balance between students sent to other schools on the exchange (exports) and students received on the exchange (imports). Members are also required to set up a mechanism to establish priority for exports when they are not able to approve and certify all export applicants.

How competitive is the award process?
Tuition Exchange scholarships are competitive. Of course, you will need to meet the school's admission requirements and applicable deadlines. Some member schools have additional requirements for exchange applicants, such as higher academic standards or the requirement to apply for financial aid; others limit awards to just a few new students each year. You can increase your odds of receiving a TE scholarship if you apply to schools that offer awards to a large percentage of TE applicants. To find out the award percentage for a particular school, visit the TE School Search option at tuitionexchange.org. You should apply for college admission at the same time you apply for a Tuition Exchange scholarship.

Should I expect written notification?
Tuition Exchange encourages member institutions to send a formal letter notifying you of the award and outlining the terms and conditions for receiving and continuing the scholarship. Often this information is in the Financial Aid Award or Notification letter. If this is not clear - check with your Admissions or Financial Aid Office.

How many semesters does the scholarship cover?
Most TE scholarships cover four years (eight semesters) of undergraduate education. Institutions have the option to offer scholarships for less than four years. Some schools allow scholarships to be used for professional and graduate study.