



PATH Scholarship Program

2022 Application Guide for U.S. Schools

Thank you for your interest in applying for funding from Ellucian’s 2022 **Progress * Accomplishment * Thriving * Hope (PATH) Scholarship Program**. In this third year of the program, Ellucian is inviting applications from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and all Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), for funds that will allow them to assist students who have experienced emergency economic hardships, including those resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Ellucian will award block grants of \$10,000 to \$25,000 to selected schools, which will use the funds to provide awards of up to \$1,500 to eligible students. Schools will have considerable flexibility in determining the selection criteria and individual award amounts that best fit their affected student’s needs.

This guide will assist you in completing and submitting the application, available at stayonpath.org. It will also offer suggestions that we hope will help you to become a successful applicant.

Application Timeline

Applications for 2022 **PATH Scholarship** funding are due to Ellucian by **May 27, 2022** at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Schools will be notified of the results of their application on **July 15, 2022**. Decisions of the committee will be final. Selected schools will receive their funds on or about **September 2, 2022** and will be required to disburse those funds no later than **October 28, 2022**. Schools will then be required to report awarding and disbursement details to Ellucian by **December 16, 2022**.

Key dates for the 2022-23 **PATH Scholarship** are listed below:

April 11, 2022	PATH Scholarship application and materials available to schools
May 27, 2022	School application deadline
June 1 – July 8, 2022	Committee review of applications
July 15, 2022	Schools notified of committee decisions
September 2, 2022	Schools receive PATH Scholarship funds from Ellucian to distribute to students

October 28, 2022	PATH Scholarships distributed in full by recipient schools
December 16, 2022	Schools complete reporting requirements to Ellucian

Application Overview

School Eligibility

Schools must meet the following criteria to apply:

- Be a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) and/or a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)
- Be eligible to participate in Title IV aid programs.
- Be in good standing* with their governing body, accrediting agency, state, and U.S. Department of Education as appropriate.

(*If the school is not in good standing, it will have an opportunity to explain why and still receive consideration.)

Schools must also agree to established terms and conditions, which include:

- Affirming that **PATH Scholarship** funding will not replace or supplant other grant assistance.
- Committing to the timeframe of awarding funds and reporting data.
- Agreeing to use the funds solely for student support; use of the funds to cover administrative costs is prohibited.
- Affirming that it will award only eligible students.

Schools will be asked demographic information about the institution, and basic questions about their population experiencing emergency financial hardships, including those due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to demographic information and required affirmations, schools will be asked to provide a narrative describing:

- The anticipated effect of the funding on recipients;
- The philosophy and approach for how the school will select students (including any additional criteria imposed);
- How the proposal assists students experiencing emergency economic hardships, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring that they are able to continue their education;
- The funding distribution method;
- How they will comply with reporting requirements, including collecting permission from recipients to share information with Ellucian, if applicable;
- Current student retention and/or persistence initiatives and how the PATH Scholarship funds would differ from or augment those efforts; and

- Efforts made by the institution to provide additional funding to students who are experiencing emergency financial hardships, including those caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Student Eligibility

In addition to experiencing emergency financial hardships, students must meet the following minimum criteria to be eligible to receive funds:

- Currently enrolled at the institution.
- Be a regular student, defined as:
 - Seeking a credential, defined as a degree or certificate (including certificates for short-term programs)
 - Not dually enrolled in high school and postsecondary education.

While there are no donor-imposed restrictions on the following student characteristics, schools must address in their applications which students would receive funds according to these categories. For example, a school could require **PATH Scholarship** recipients to be enrolled full-time and maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP).

The four characteristics the school must address in its application are:

- Citizenship status – will US citizenship/Title IV-eligible non-citizen status be required?
- Enrollment status – will a certain level of enrollment be required?
- Academic standing or Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) – will recipients be required to be in good standing?
- Financial need – will recipients be required to demonstrate federally defined need? (Schools must adhere to Title IV rules regarding Estimated Financial Assistance (EFA) and packaging federal aid.)

Fund Disbursement

Since **PATH Scholarship** funding is intended for students who are experiencing emergency financial needs, the funds must be fully disbursed by **October 28, 2022**. Schools may choose the disbursement methods that best meet their students' needs.

Schools may determine that some recipients' needs might require more than the \$1,500 maximum award. In those rare cases, schools may request exceptions to the maximum award. To request an exception, email blueicon@nasfaa.org with a brief narrative explaining the reason for the exception.

Exceptions will be evaluated on the basis of 1) being reasonable and 2) not diminishing the impact of the **PATH Scholarship** funding for other recipients or the institution.

Fund Reporting

Ellucian uses data to evaluate the success of the program, and to plan improvements for subsequent years. To that end, schools will be required to report the following information about each awarded student:

- Full Name
- Age at time of disbursement
- Program of study
- Race/ethnicity information as reported to IPEDS (*for students who reported that information*):
 - Hispanic/Latino (Yes/No), *then*
 - One or more of the following races:
 - American Indian or Alaska Native
 - Asian
 - Black or African American
 - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
 - White
- Anticipated graduation/completion date
- Award amount
- Brief (not to exceed 100 words) explanation of the student's need for PATH Scholarship funds
- Copies of students' statements (which are encouraged, and which can be anonymous) that describe the importance of receiving the funds is allowing their continued enrollment or completion of their academic program.
- Copies of students' signed permissions to share information with Ellucian, if applicable.

In addition, schools will be required to report the number of enrolled students who requested or received funding from any source to assist with an emergency financial need during Fall 2022.

This information is due to Ellucian by **December 16, 2022**.

Application Tips

We hope that the following will help you complete and submit a successful application:

- Follow instructions closely to ensure that your application is complete and submitted by the established deadline.
- Consider all of the reasons that students might be experiencing emergency financial needs, including those caused by COVID-19, and how those students can best demonstrate those needs to you.
- Make a compelling case for how you will use the funds to ensure that your recipients will have the best chance of completing their educations.
- Consider how **PATH Scholarship** funding will complement other available funding to provide optimal assistance to your students.
- Contact **NASFAA's Blue Icon Advisors** at blueicon@nasfaa.org if you have questions about the application or process.