

Competitive Skills Scholarship Program



What is the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program?

The Competitive Skills Scholarship Program (CSSP) can help with the funding and support services needed to pursue two and four-year degree programs or obtain industry-recognized credentials which lead to jobs in one of Maine's many high wage, in-demand career fields.

Financial Assistance and Support Services

The Competitive Skills Scholarship helps qualified individuals with expenses not covered by financial aid or other scholarships. In addition to tuition and fees, income eligible participants may receive assistance with supports needed to complete the course of study such as:

- Childcare
- Transportation
- Required books, supplies, tools, equipment, uniforms
- Auto repairs
- Computer, if required for training program
- Monthly training stipend (household income must be at or less than 125% poverty level) Visit: www.mainecareercenter.gov/cssp.shtml and click on the tile labeled "CSSP income guidelines" for more information.

You may qualify for the Competitive Skills Scholarship if you:

- Are a resident of the State of Maine
- Are at least 18 years of age or under 18 if a high school graduate
- Are pursuing education or training for a job in a high-wage, in-demand occupation
- Do not have a post-secondary degree or industry-recognized credential that is marketable in Maine
- Have the ability to undertake and complete the program, education or training
- Have an income of less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level for family size - visit: www.mainecareercenter.gov/cssp.shtml and click on the tile labeled "CSSP income guidelines."

Frequently Asked Questions

What is considered a high-wage, in-demand occupation?

These jobs have an average wage at or above the average wage for all occupations in Maine and are projected to have at least 35 job openings annually. See Maine Department of Labor's high-wage, in-demand occupations list at www.mainecareercenter.gov/cssp.shtml and click on "CSSP Approved Occupations List" tile.

How much can I expect to receive?

If you are eligible, you can receive up to \$6,000* per program year for a full-time student and \$3,000* per program year for a part-time student based on unmet need and supports required. You can qualify for a grant each year you remain in your training program. *These amounts do not include childcare costs or the monthly training stipend.

Do I have to pay it back?

The Competitive Skills Scholarship is a grant, not a loan, and does not have to be paid back at the completion of your program.

How do I get started?

Visit: www.mainecareercenter.gov/cssp.shtml to complete an online application or contact the CareerCenter nearest you in person or at 207-623-7981. TTY users call Maine Relay 711.

For any questions you may email CSSP.DOL@maine.gov.

CareerCenter

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The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.