COLLEGE ACCESS CHALLENGE GRANT

2015-2016 CACG Scholarship Application Guidelines

What is CACG?

The CNMI College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by the Northern Marianas College (NMC). The purpose of CACG is to increase the number of students from low-income families in the CNMI who enroll, remain and succeed in college. CACG recruits high school juniors, seniors and first year college students into its program. Services provided to students affiliated with CACG include academic tutoring, mentoring, advising, personal counseling, and college preparatory activities.

CACG Scholarship Awards

Individuals selected to receive a CACG Scholarship will receive an award based on financial need. The award amount will be on a tier system based on enrollment status. The maximum scholarship amount for 1st year college students is up to **$1,000 per semester** effective Fall 2014. Due to the limited or unavailability of scholarships for high school students, the maximum scholarship amount for high school students is up to **$1,500** per semester. The scholarship may be renewed each semester based on achieving academic progress during the semester in which the scholarship was received, continued enrollment in college, have a financial need. A re-submission of the CACG scholarship application form and required materials by the posted deadlines is required to avail of the scholarship. Scholarships are contingent on the CACG grant renewal and are based on the availability of funds.

CACG Scholarship Awards are subject to change when the student's enrollment changes after the withdrawal period. The revised award will be based on the enrollment status after the withdrawal period (full-, ¾-, ½-, or less than half-time status).

Who is Eligible?

High School Juniors and Seniors, and First Year College Students

High school students must be enrolled in the 11th grade (junior status) or 12th grade (senior status) to be considered for a scholarship award. High school students must meet NMC's Early Admissions requirement. **First-year college students** (student who have earned less than 30 college credits) and students who have earned a high school diploma or GED and have not enrolled in college are also eligible for an award. If you identify as either a high school student or first-year college student you must also:

- Be a citizen, national or legal permanent resident of the U.S. and the CNMI, and/or a citizen of the following island states:
  the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands or the Republic of Palau;
- Be admitted and enrolled into the Northern Marianas College or another US accredited institution;
- Complete and submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** application by the priority deadlines (**Please include NMC's school code: 015746**); and
- Submit all official academic transcript(s) from all college(s) attended including the most recent transcript of the college currently enrolled (For students who started at NMC and are on-going, an official transcript is not needed.).

Documents to Submit

CACG Scholarship Application

Each student is required to submit a completed CACG Scholarship Application Form by the stated deadline. There are five parts to the application: **Part A**: Student Information; **Part B**: Citizenship and Legal Residence; **Part C**: Education/Career Goals; **Part D**: Parent/Legal Guardian Information; **Part E**: Emergency Contact; **Part F:** Signatures.

Completed FAFSA

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application colleges use to determine your eligibility for federal student financial aid such as the Federal Pell Grant. More information about completing the FAFSA can be found online at: **www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov**, or by visiting the NMC's Office of Financial Aid to fill out a printed application form. Students applying online should include NMC's school code: **015746**. This will allow NMC's Financial Aid Office to receive the data reported on the FAFSA.

Information you provide on the FAFSA goes through a review process and a federal methodology formula to determine your EFC (Expected Family Contribution), which determines your eligibility for the Federal Pell Grant and other financial assistance available through your institution. Your EFC and Federal Pell Grant award level are reviewed with your cost of education to

determine your financial need. The higher your financial need, the more priority you will receive toward receiving the maximum CACG award.

Although current high school students are not eligible to receive Title IV funds (Pell, SEOG, FWS) while still in high school, completing the FAFSA will provide CACG staff with the information needed to determine financial need. High school students are encouraged to work directly with NMC's Office of Financial Aid or CACG staff to complete the FAFSA online or by paper application by the stated priority deadlines on the application.

Official Transcripts

Each student is required to submit an official transcript from all colleges attended including the most recent official transcript from the college currently enrolled. The official transcript(s) should be signed, sealed and sent from the previous/current institution(s) to the requesting institution (NMC-Financial Aid Office) via priority mail or hand delivered by the student (For students who started at NMC and are on-going, an official transcript is not needed.)..

Enrollment Certifications

Each student attending an off-island institution is required to submit an enrollment certification from the college currently enrolled. The enrollment certification should be sent from the current institution to the requesting institution (NMC-Financial Aid Office) via email (form the Registrar's Office), priority mail or hand delivered by the student.

Submission Process

Individual applicants should submit their **completed** application packet to NMC's Financial Aid Office in Bldg. N, Rm. 1-1 by 4:30pm before or on the stated deadlines. The Financial Aid Office will not be responsible for informing the applicant of any missing documents or information pertaining to their application packet. Application packets received without all required documents and/or signatures will be considered incomplete/invalid respectively.

Selection Process & Award Notification

Eligible individuals who submit completed application packages (CACG Scholarship Application, Completed FAFSA, and All Other Supporting Documents) by the posted deadlines will receive the highest priority for a CACG scholarship. Applicants are evaluated according to three primary criteria: grade level (junior, senior, first-year college student) status, cost of education, and financial need. Applicants selected to receive an award will be notified by either email or mail of their award amounts and the process for check disbursement approximately four to six weeks after the start of the respective semester. Awards

will immediately be applied to the student accounts to pay for any outstanding balances associated with tuition, fees, and book charges for the semester in which they receive the award. Any remainder award amount will be disbursed to the student in the form of a check.

Students who are not selected to receive an award will be notified by mail.

Deadline for Submissions

Semester of Award	Date Due
Fall 2015	July 1, 2015
Spring 2016	Dec. 1, 2015
Summer 2016	Apr. 30, 2016

CNMI College Access Challenge Grant Scholarship Application and supporting documents must be submitted to the Financial Aid Office, Bldg. N, Rm. 1-1 by 4:30pm at the Northern Marianas College or postmarked on or before the date due to ensure eligibility for and priority in receiving an award.

Mail your Application and Supporting Documents to:

Northern Marianas College
Attn: Financial Aid Office
P.O. Box 501250
Saipan, MP 96950
fao@marianas.edu or
daisy.propst@marianas.edu

*Scanned copies will be accepted on the condition that it was emailed by or on the posted deadline date and the original forms has been sent postmarked by or on the posted deadline date.

**Fax copies will not be accepted.