

State Para-to-Teacher Program (PTP) Tuition Scholarship FAQ

Q: How long do I need to work as a paraprofessional before I can apply for a tuition scholarship?

A: There are no requirements for working as a paraprofessional for a certain length of time before being eligible to apply. You are eligible for the program if you are a paraprofessional working in a North Dakota school.

Q: What if I can't finish all my coursework by June 2027 when the scholarship program ends?

A: The North Dakota State Legislature funded this program through June 30, 2027. Paraprofessionals who cannot complete their coursework by that date will be responsible for the costs after that timeframe, unless the program is funded again in the 2027 Legislative Session.

Q: Do you need to be working as a full-time paraprofessional to qualify for a tuition scholarship?

A: No. Individuals working at least 50% of the school day as paraprofessionals are eligible for a tuition scholarship.

Q: How does financial aid affect the amount of the tuition scholarship I can request?

A: Interested applicants should work with the university of their choice to ensure that these scholarship funds are used first, before any other financial aid is dispersed.

Q: Do I need to be accepted into a university program before I apply for a tuition scholarship?

A: No. However, interested applicants need to first reach out to the university of their choice to discuss their situation before applying so they know how many credits they need and can accurately fill out the application.

Q: Can I get a tuition scholarship to pursue a master's degree through this program?

A: No. This program is to help interested paraprofessionals obtain their bachelor's degree to teach in North Dakota.

Q: How much funding can I apply for?

A: The maximum scholarship amount per applicant is \$20,000.

Q: Can I apply for any educational program?

A: No. Paraprofessionals can only choose a degree or pathway that has been approved for the PTP program as listed on the [website](#). Click on each university to see the list of approved pathways.

Q: Can I apply if I am a substitute teacher?

A: If a district has hired and contracted with a substitute teacher, then the substitute would qualify for the program. The intent is for districts to grow their current employees and help them through the program so they can teach in their district. The school administrator needs to sign a letter of recommendation for them. Therefore, if a substitute is tied to a specific school, then they qualify.

Q: If I am granted a scholarship, how do I get the funding?

A: Individuals do not receive the funding directly. The university you select requests reimbursement from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

Q: If I am not starting my program until the spring of 2026, should I wait and apply at a later date?

A: No. Interested applicants should apply when the application is posted on June 2, 2025. We anticipate running out of funding by the fall of 2025.

Q: What happens if I leave employment at the school?

A: In order to continue to receive scholarship funding, applicants must be employed as a para in a ND school. If they leave that employment, they forfeit the grant. However, the para would not have to pay back funds already spent. If they gain employment as a para in a different district, then they would be eligible to keep the scholarship.