

## Opportunity and Lottery Scholarships FAQ:

Q: I received the NM Opportunity in fall and had a GPA less than 2.5, will I get it again in Spring?

A: All students were allowed to receive the NM Opportunity for the first semester, however if you do not have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher you will not be eligible in your next semester.

Q: I received an in-state tuition waiver, can I get the NM Opportunity?

A: No, the NM Opportunity requires that you are a NM State Resident or a member of the Navajo nation residing in Utah or Arizona. For information about NM Residency Requirements go to <https://hed.nm.gov/financial-aid/residency-requirements>.

Q: I graduated HS in May of 2022. Do I have to register full time?

A: If you graduated in May of 2022, you have 16 months to enroll in the required 15 credit qualifying semester for the Lottery Scholarship. Once you complete that semester you must maintain 15 credit enrollment to continue to be eligible. If you fail to qualify for or maintain the Lottery Scholarship, you will not be able to qualify for the Opportunity Scholarship for two years.

Q: As a student who graduated HS more than two years ago, how many credits do I need to register to be eligible for the NM Opportunity?

A: A student who is more than two years out of HS but currently receiving NM Lottery is still expected to enroll in 15 credits and maintain qualifications for the NM Lottery Scholarship. However, if you are returning to school as an adult student you are only required to register for 6 credits.

Q: Do I need to complete the FAFSA to get the NM Opportunity?

A: The State of NM would like every student who is able to complete the FAFSA to do so, however it is not yet a requirement.

Q: When will I know how much NM Opportunity I am getting for the Spring?

A: Eligible students will have a placeholder amount equivalent to full-time in-person tuition and fees. Once students register, amounts will be updated.

Q: Do attempted dual credit hours count towards the total allowed hours?

A: Yes, they would count for attempted credits.

Q: I am in an Associate degree and have attempted 84 credits. If it is less than the maximum of 90 credits attempted, will I receive the NM Opportunity?

A: You will only receive the NM Opportunity if you can finish your associate degree within those 6 remaining credits. Anything beyond those six credits will not be eligible. If you need more than 6 credits to finish you will be responsible for paying for those additional credits.

Q: I have an Associate Degree and have not reached 90 attempted credits; can I use the NM Opportunity to start a second Associate Degree?

A: No, the NM Opportunity only allows one Associate and one Bachelor's degree.

Q: I am in a certificate program; can I get the NM Opportunity?

A: Yes, as long as you meet all the student eligibility requirements, most of Northern's Certificate Programs are eligible.

Q: I am receiving another NM State Fund, can I also have the NM Opportunity?

A: Yes, however the total amount of all NM State funds can not be more than your tuition and fees. This mean one award may have to be prorated.

Q: I have the NM Opportunity and I want to take a semester off, is that OK?

A: You must maintain continuous enrollment – meaning register and successfully complete – the required number of credits or you will not be eligible for NM Opportunity.

Q: If I lose my NM Opportunity when can I get it back?

A: If you lose your NM Opportunity due to low GPA, not completing the required credits or not maintaining continuous enrollment you must wait two years before you can receive the NM Opportunity again.

Q: What if I had extenuating circumstances that caused me to withdraw from classes or get low grades, do I have the Ability to appeal to keep my NM Opportunity?

A: Yes, the financial aid office will have appeal forms available for students who need them.