

**RULES  
OF  
TENNESSEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION**

**CHAPTER 1640-1-15  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP FOR MINORITIES**

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**1640-1-15-.01 INTRODUCTION.**

These rules implement the Community College Education Recruitment Act authorized by T.C.A., Title 49, Chapter 4, Part 707 in Public Chapter 995 of the 1990 Public Acts (hereinafter called the Act). The Act provides for \$2,000 scholarships for minority Tennesseans who are preparing at state-funded community colleges to become teachers. The awards are for students who indicate an intent to teach in a Tennessee elementary or secondary school upon receipt of their teacher licensure. The Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation shall administer the program under regulations and criteria developed jointly with the State Board of Education and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC).

*Authority:* T.C.A. §49-4-204. *Administrative History:* Original rule filed July 12, 1990; effective October 29, 1990.

**1640-1-15-.02 GENERAL.**

- (1) Definitions. As used in these regulations (Chapter 1640-1-15):
  - (a) “Plan of study” is a plan of enrollment which, if pursued on a full-time basis, would not exceed two (2) academic years within which the recipient must pursue an associate degree program which will enable the recipient to enter a baccalaureate degree program leading to licensure as a teacher.
  - (b) “Satisfactory progress” is a standard of progress toward completion of the pursued plan of study during which the student maintains at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average (G.P.A.) or, if required by the institution attended, a higher G.P.A.
  - (c) “The Act” is T.C.A. §49-4-707 as found in Public Chapter 995 of the Public Acts of 1990.
  - (d) “A Statement of Intent” is a signed statement from a candidate certifying his or her intent to become a teacher in a public school system of Tennessee at the kindergarten, elementary, and/or secondary level.
  - (e) “Academic year” is a period of time, typically eight or nine months, and is composed of two semesters.
- (2) All recipients must be enrolled in the community college for at least six (6) credit hours for the term and maintain satisfactory progress to remain eligible.

(Rule 1640-1-15-.02, continued)

- (3) Funds received from this program are considered financial assistance for purposes of determining student assistance eligibility under programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.
- (4) The student may transfer from one Tennessee community college to another such eligible institution and retain the award provided such transfer is approved by the receiving institution, does not cause the institution to exceed its statutory yearly maximum number of program enrollees, and will not impede the student's progress toward completion of the associate degree. The maximum number of program enrollees at one institution is ten (10) per year.
- (5) Any applications received or approved shall be subject to the availability of funds. Initially, funds are available for a maximum of twenty-five (25) recipients.
- (6) The applicant pool for available funds for awards to be made for the year beginning in July shall be established based upon applications received on the application opening date (May 15) or later of each year, except for the initial year of implementation.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-4-204. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 12, 1990; effective October 29, 1990. Amendment filed July 17, 1991; effective October 29, 1991.

**1640-1-15-.03 ELIGIBILITY.**

The successful applicant must meet all of the following:

- (1) Be a citizen of the United States and be a resident of Tennessee.
- (2) Be a member of a minority group which has been stipulated as eligible by the State Board of Education.
- (3) Be admitted to or enrolled in a Tennessee community college, which has a transfer agreement recognized by THEC with an approved teacher education program for K-12, in a plan of study which will result in an associate degree and, if it were pursued on a full-time basis, could be completed within a two-year period calculated from the date of the original award.
- (4) Submit to the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation a signed Statement of Intent to teach in a Tennessee public kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school.
- (5) Not accept during the same academic year any other financial aid specifically reserved for teacher education students. For the purposes of this program, participation in the Teacher Loan/Scholarship Program, Teacher Loan Program for Disadvantaged Areas of Tennessee, the Paul Douglas Teacher Scholarship Program, or the Minority Teaching Fellows Program shall be considered as accepting such aid.
- (6) Have on file at the institution to be attended a statement of compliance with federal drug-free rules and laws.
- (7) Not be in default on a federal or state student loan, nor owe a repayment to any student financial aid program underwritten in whole or part by the federal or state government.
- (8) Submit a TSAC-approved application to TSAC on or after the application opening date. It should be submitted through the high school (except for the 1990-91 year). Qualified recipients must submit a renewal application to TSAC each year by March 1 to be eligible for the ensuing year.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-4-204. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 12, 1990; effective October 29, 1990. Amendment filed July 17, 1991; effective October 29, 1991.

**1640-1-15-.04 METHOD OF SELECTION.**

- (1) Each year that funds are available, representatives of the State Board of Education and the Tennessee Higher Education Commission with the Executive Director of TSAC shall form a selection committee which shall determine the ranking of applicants in accordance with the ranking system adopted by the three agencies.
- (2) The following selection procedures have been established for this program:
  - (a) Eligible renewal applicants have priority over all other applicants.
  - (b) Successful first-time applicants must meet the requirements listed in 1640-1-15-.03, be freshmen and meet the following additional requirements:

Have at least a 2.5 high school G.P.A. through the seventh semester and either have an enhanced ACT composite score of at least 20 (or the equivalent SAT total score) or be in the top 25% of their high school graduating class. Other scores may be considered if there are compensating factors. Have one letter of reference from a teacher or other high school official submitted in the applicant's behalf.
  - (c) On the application opening date and thereafter, all qualified applicants will be considered for awards on a first come, first served basis as funds permit. For applications received on the same day, the ranking procedure explained in the following paragraph will be utilized.
  - (d) The ranking of applicants whose completed applications were received on the same day must consider grade point average, standardized test scores, minority status, and evidence of commitment to become a teacher. It may also include difficulty of high school and/or undergraduate courses taken, certifications sought, the grand division of the state in which the applicant resides, and other such factors that shall be identified as relevant to meeting the goals and interests of the Act.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-4-204. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 12, 1990; effective October 29, 1990. Amendment filed April 28, 1993; effective July 28, 1993.

**1640-1-15-.05 AWARD AMOUNT AND INTERVALS OF PAYMENT.**

- (1) Awards of \$1,000 each semester will be sent to the college financial aid office each term the awardee is enrolled on a full-time basis, not to exceed \$2,000 per academic year. Those who are enrolled on at least a half-time basis but less than full-time will receive \$500 per term while eligible subject to the \$2,000 per year maximum. The award warrants will be made payable to the recipients.
- (2) The total amount any recipient may receive is \$4,000, for which the student must qualify under the program's regulations over a period of no more than four consecutive years.
- (3) To enable program funding to be efficiently utilized, prospective and renewing recipients must declare their intent in advance of the award year regarding which terms they will attend and whether their attendance will be full-time or part-time. Those who had declared an intent to attend on a part-time basis who later change to a full-time basis in the same year may receive full-time awards only on a "funds available" basis.
- (4) Any awards made for summer enrollment must be made from funds remaining from the award year which ends during said summer on June 30. To receive a summer award, the recipient must be duly enrolled for all the hours he or she wishes to be considered for the award by June 15. The actual award must be effectively disbursed before July 1.

(Rule 1640-1-15-.05, continued)

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-4-204. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 12, 1990; effective October 29, 1990. Amendment filed July 17, 1991; effective October 29, 1991.

**1640-1-15-.06 APPEALS PROCEDURES.**

- (1) Generally, the rulings of the program's administrator shall apply.
- (2) Those who believe that his/her rulings were not according to the published regulations and the Act may appeal to the TSAC Executive Director for relief.
- (3) If the Executive Director does not rule in the favor of the complainant, the complainant may request a hearing before the TSAC Appeals Committee. The ruling of the Appeals Committee shall be the last administrative remedy.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-4-204. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 12, 1990; effective October 29, 1990.

**1640-1-15-.07 PRECEDENCE OF THE ACT.**

These regulations are subordinate to the Act and are intended to facilitate its implementation. Any portion of these regulations which are adjudicated as contrary to law are to be considered null and void. All other portions of these rules shall be severed therefrom and considered in full force.

**Authority:** T.C.A. §49-4-204. **Administrative History:** Original rule filed July 12, 1990; effective October 29, 1990.