

Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship Program

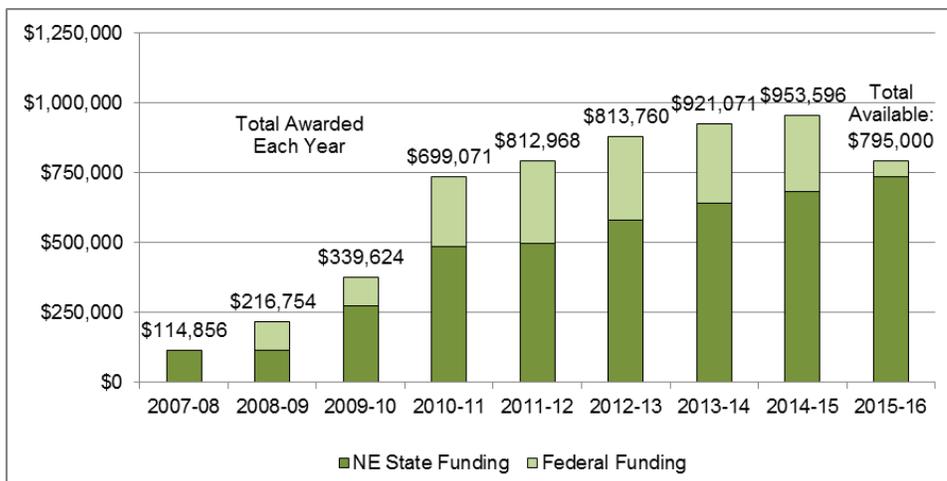
February 2016

"This program has truly been a godsend for our students and school. Without it, our students' dreams would be just that — a dream. With the program, those dreams are now realities." — Nebraska high school guidance counselor

Overview

The Access College Early (ACE) scholarship program awards scholarships to low-income high school students who enroll in a college course at a participating public or private postsecondary institution while the student is still in high school. The Commission recommended the creation of this program in 2007, funding it through the transfer of funds from a relatively inactive

program, the Community Scholarship Foundation Program, to the ACE program. (The CSFP was eliminated.) Research shows that high school students who take college courses while in high school remain in school and graduate at higher rates; enroll in college at increased rates; and return for their college sophomore years at higher rates. In Nebraska, ACE students are 28 percentage points more likely to go on to college than other low-income high school students.

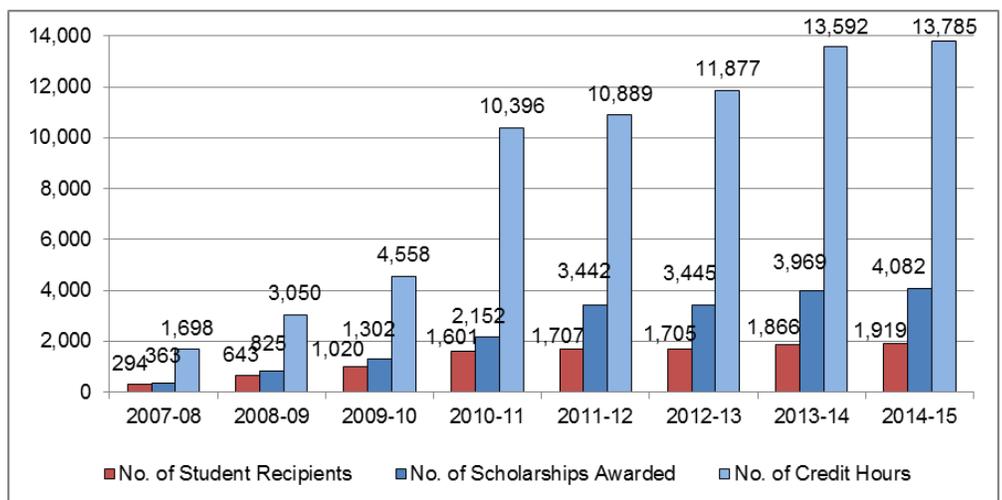


Funding

The ACE program is funded through a combination of State and federal funds. In 2014-15, State General fund appropriations accounted for 71 percent, or \$681,706, of ACE funding. The remaining \$271,890 came from the federal College Access Challenge Grant (CACG), which is being eliminated after the 2015-16 academic year. The Commission will receive roughly \$60,000 in CACG funds for FY 2015-16.

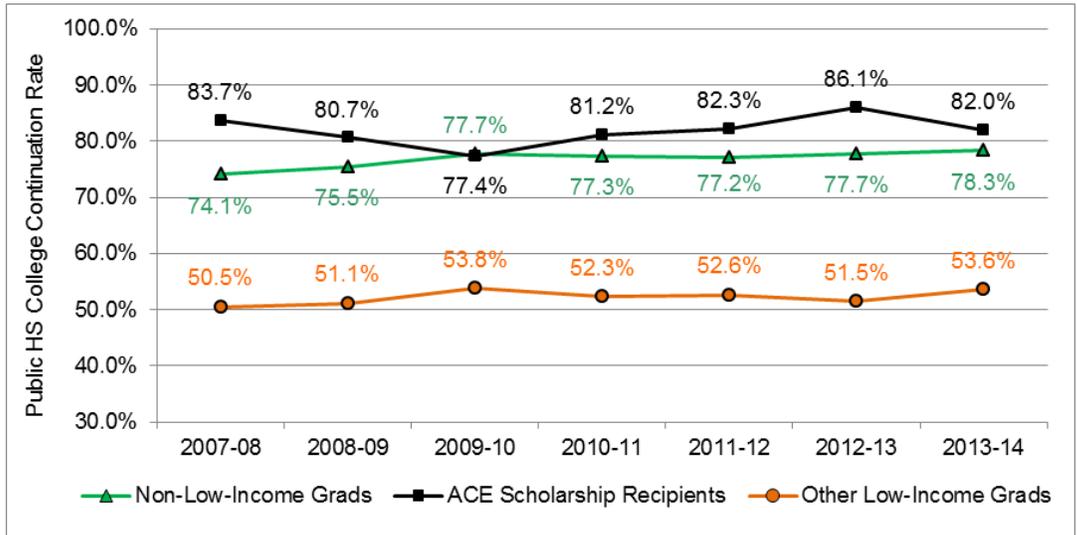
Rising Demand

More than 1,900 students received ACE scholarships in 2014-15 and even more students are projected to receive scholarships in 2015-16. Most students qualify for ACE by qualifying for the federal free and reduced lunch program. In Nebraska, 45 percent of PK-12 students qualify for free and reduced lunch; that percentage has increased every year since 2006-07.



Proven Success

82 percent of ACE students go on to college, compared to 78 percent of non-low-income students and 54 percent of low-income non-ACE recipients. Furthermore, of the 1,919 ACE students in 2014-15, 76 percent received a grade of B or better in their ACE-funded college course.



ACE — By the Numbers

211 — Nebraska high schools that participated in the ACE program in 2014-15

18 — Nebraska colleges and universities that participated in the ACE program

13,784 — College credit hours earned by ACE students

\$233.61 — Average amount of an ACE scholarship (covers one course)

2007-08 — ACE program’s first academic year of awards

85-2101 — 85-2108 — Statutes that govern the ACE program

2014-15 ACE recipients by Legislative District

SENATOR	District	Recipients	SENATOR	District	Recipients	SENATOR	District	Recipients
Baker	30	37	Hadley	37	1	Morfeld	46	18
Bloomfield	17	70	Hansen	26	13	Murante	49	14
Bolz	29	3	Harr	8	31	Fox	7	94
Brasch	16	58	Hilkemann	4	5	Pansing Brooks	28	9
Campbell	25	6	Howard	9	16	Riepe	12	11
Chambers	11	38	Hughes	44	22	Scheer	19	60
Coash	27	6	Johnson	23	33	Schilz	47	23
Cook	13	27	Kintner	2	13	Schnoor	15	31
Craighead	6	19	Kolowski	31	3	Schumacher	22	48
Crawford	45	13	Kolterman	24	41	Seiler	33	29
Davis	43	27	Krist	10	28	Smith	14	8
Ebke	32	22	Kuehn	38	23	Stinner	48	52
Friesen	34	76	Larson	40	71	Sullivan	41	63
Garrett	3	32	Lindstrom	18	22	Watermeier	1	35
Gloor	35	122	McCollister	20	22	Williams	36	74
Groene	42	44	McCoy	39	11			
Haar	21	22	Mello	5	96			