



DE RISE SCHOLARSHIP

ASSOCIATE DEGREE: GET READY TO APPLY

Use this checklist while the ECIC scholarship application is closed.

You can begin preparing now. Completing these steps early can help you choose the right program and be ready when the next application period opens.

Your Preparation Checklist

- ☐ Research ECIC partner institutions and approved Associate degree programs. Click here for programs: <https://ecic.desu.edu/associate-degree-programs/>.
- ☐ Choose a program that fits your career goals, schedule, location, and preferred learning format.
- ☐ Apply to your selected college and complete its admission and onboarding requirements.
- ☐ Request high school and/or college transcripts and submit them to your institution as required.
- ☐ Ask whether previous college coursework, a CDA, or other eligible prior learning may apply toward your degree.
- ☐ Complete placement testing or other institutional requirements, if applicable.
- ☐ Meet with an academic advisor and develop a realistic course plan.
- ☐ Create or update your StudentAid.gov account and complete the FAFSA for the appropriate academic year.
- ☐ Complete the entire financial aid process required by your institution and respond promptly to requests. You are not required to accept student loans. However, DE RISE scholars are required to accept and apply all eligible grants, scholarships, and other non-loan financial aid awarded through the institution before DE RISE Scholarship funds are applied to remaining eligible educational costs.
- ☐ Gather employment and other documentation that may be needed to establish DE RISE eligibility.
- ☐ Review DE RISE academic, employment, communication, meeting, and documentation expectations.
- ☐ Sign up for the ECIC email distribution list to receive messages about when applications open and close, information sessions being held, and any help sessions being offered. You can sign up here: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/eP7pFlb/ECIC>.
- ☐ If you are interested in learning more about the ECIC DE RISE Associate scholarship program or have any questions, please connect with the ECIC Scholarship Coordinator, Mari Velarde, at mvelarde@desu.edu.



Think Beyond the Associate Degree

If you want to pursue a Bachelor's degree later, plan for that pathway now. Ask your advisor:

- Does this Associate program have a transfer or connected-degree pathway?
- Which courses are most likely to apply toward the Bachelor's program I may pursue?
- What should I know now to avoid taking unnecessary courses later?

Approved Associate Programs

Partner Institution	Approved Program(s)
University of Delaware	Early Childhood Education
Delaware State University	Early Childhood Education and Administration
Delaware Technical Community College	Early Childhood Development Early Care and Education, Birth to Second Grade
University of the Potomac	Early Childhood Development - Spanish

*Important: Not every education-related program offered by a partner institution is eligible for DE RISE funding.
Admission to a college or university does not guarantee DE RISE Scholarship eligibility.*



DE RISE SCHOLARSHIP

DE RISE QUICK PREPARATION GUIDE

A take-home reference for prospective Associate and Bachelor's scholars.

READY NOW. APPLY LATER. Use the time before the next application period to complete the steps that are within your control.

The 6 Steps to Get Ready

1. EXPLORE

Compare ECIC partner institutions and approved degree programs. Consider career goals, program format, schedule, transfer pathways, and licensure.

2. APPLY TO COLLEGE

Begin the institution's admission process early. Complete transcript, placement, orientation, and onboarding requirements.

3. PLAN YOUR DEGREE

Meet with an academic advisor. Review transfer credits, degree requirements, course sequencing, graduation timeline, and a realistic course load.

4. COMPLETE FINANCIAL AID

Create/update your StudentAid.gov account, complete the FAFSA, then finish any additional steps requested by your institution's Financial Aid Office.

5. GATHER DOCUMENTS

Keep employment information, transcripts, admission information, degree audit/academic plan, and other eligibility documentation organized and accessible.

6. KNOW DE RISE EXPECTATIONS

Review scholarship requirements for academic progress, eligible employment, documentation, communication, Progress Update Meetings, and deadlines.



Financial Aid Resources

Federal Student Aid: studentaid.gov

FAFSA Support: studentaid.gov/announcements-events/fafsa-support

Questions to Ask Before Choosing a Program

- Is this an ECIC-approved degree program?
- Will my previous credits or credentials apply to this degree?
- If I start with an Associate degree, how will it transfer to a Bachelor's program?
- Does this program lead to teacher licensure/certification if that is my goal?
- What requirements must I complete before I can register for classes?
- What is a realistic course load for me while working and managing other responsibilities?

Preparation does not guarantee admission to a partner institution or eligibility for the DE RISE Scholarship. Final scholarship eligibility is determined by the ECIC after review of the application and required documentation.