

Freedom Scholarship Decision Chart- January 2026 unapproved

	Absolutes from the Freedom Scholarship Board	At the discretion of the individual university	Freedom Scholarship Staff administration (SDWS)	Freedom Scholarship Board Decision
Student maintains SD residency for at least one year prior to applying for scholarship	x			
Attends an eligible institution	x			
Demonstrates financial need	x			
Meets minimum 2.0 GPA requirements annually while at the university	x			
US Citizen or permanent resident	x			
Pursuing a baccalaureate degree	x			
Graduate in 5 calendar years or less, including semesters at other participating universities	x			
Commit in writing to living and working in SD for 3 years after graduation	x			
Complete the FAFSA annually	x			
Student signs the scholarship agreement + promissory note	x			
Acknowledge that any failure to meet these requirements will result in the conversion from scholarship to an interest-bearing loan	x			
Forgiveness of debt upon death of student	x			

Freedom Scholarship Decision Chart- January 2026 unapproved

	Absolutes from the Freedom Scholarship Board	At the discretion of the individual university	Freedom Scholarship Staff administration (SDWS)	Freedom Scholarship Board Decision
After demonstrating financial need, and a partial Freedom Scholarship fulfills the unmet need, university may opt to award for full scholarship amount, though it put student beyond need.		X		
Student has less than 2.0 GPA for a brief period and is meeting satisfactory academic progress (per Oct 2023 memo)		X		
Enrolling a student		X		
Amount of scholarship awarded per year		X		
Prioritization of students' financial need		X		
Whether to award if student is not Pell eligible		X		
Whether scholarship is awarded for summer semester, so long as working towards baccalaureate degree		X		
Offer the student additional resources (non Freedom Scholarship resources) to help them succeed		X		
Late, one-time scholarships suddenly change a student's unmet need, still go ahead with Freedom Scholarship so long as the total amount does not exceed cost of attendance		X		
Requirement of full-time student (keep in mind the 5-year or less graduate requirement)		X		
Can scholarship cover required remedial courses?		X		
Student wants to transfer to another eligible institution. Can they still get Freedom Scholarship?		Answer is at discretion of institution they are <u>transferring to</u> .		

Freedom Scholarship Decision Chart- January 2026 unapproved

	Absolutes from the Freedom Scholarship Board	At the discretion of the individual university	Freedom Scholarship Staff administration (SDWS)	Freedom Scholarship Board Decision
Does a university have to re-award scholarship to student in subsequent years, and same amt?		At discretion of university, they don't have to re-award to student and if they do, it does not have to be the same amount.		
Qualify for Freedom Scholarship again after a semester of falling below the GPA requirement		x		
Scholarship to student living off-campus results in cash refund to student for semester (presumed for indirect needs: off-campus housing, etc)		x		
Draft the promissory note after Board sets interest rate and term			x	
Deferment of employment obligation for graduate school or military orders after baccalaurate graduation			x	
Deferment of employment obligation for the duration of employer's initial training located out of state so long as return to South Dakota.			x	
Deferment of debt while in another education program (pursuing a degree or certificate elsewhere in SD or outside of SD)			x	
Reverse revert to loan upon learning of transfer status and good standing at new SD participating institution			x	
Revert to debt if recipient voluntarily requests doing so.			x	

Freedom Scholarship Decision Chart- January 2026 unapproved

	Absolutes from the Freedom Scholarship Board	At the discretion of the individual university	Freedom Scholarship Staff administration (SDWS)	Freedom Scholarship Board Decision
Revert to debt if student is no longer enrolled in an eligible institution after six months.			x	
Not revert at six months if university or student communicates that they are pausing their education but returning, so long as no more than 12 months passes.			x	
Approve or deny time credit towards three year living and working in South Dakota obligation after reviewing documentation			x	
Revert to loan for not living in South Dakota during the employment phase; prorated for time that was spent living and working in SD			x	
Revert to loan for not working in South Dakota during the employment phase if no proof of local contribution; prorated for time that was living and working in SD			x	
Reverse a revert to debt when a graduate can demonstrate they have been living and working in South Dakota and staff verify the information. RGS process?			x	
Approve or deny a student's degree-hybrid program of study for eligibility meeting Freedom Scholarship requirements (program must have articulation agreement)			x	
Forgiveness of debt for any reason or reason outside of death				x
Other compelling reason for not graduating in 5 years				x
Student wants to participate in a university-recognized cooperative or internship, which extends their completion beyond 5 years				x