

“Quick Reference” Guide for Federal and New York State Ability to Benefit Guidelines

Note: this document is provided as a resource; it is the ultimate responsibility of the family to ensure that all federal and state regulations relating to financial aid eligibility are met.

1. Are you eligible for and do you plan to make use of New York State TAP and/or any federal aid (PELL, work-study, loans, etc.)?
 - Yes → Continue to Question 2.
 - No → You need only provide a final homeschool transcript (see below for details).

2. Can you obtain a [letter attesting to the “substantial equivalence”](#) of your homeschool education from your public school district superintendent ([see example](#))?
 - Yes → Provide this letter to the admission office and you will have met both federal and state requirements for ATB (you must also submit a final official transcript – see below).
 - No → Continue to Question 3

3. Have you taken the TASC (formerly GED) and have you received a passing score?
 - Yes → Provide documentation to the admission office. This will meet both state and federal ATB requirements (you must also submit a final official transcript – see below).
 - No → Continue to Question 4.

4. Have you earned at least 24 college credits from an accredited college or university in the approved categories?
 - Yes → To determine eligibility, visit <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/aapp/college-credit-and-out-state-testing>
 - No → Continue to question 5.

5. Have you taken a state-approved “Ability to Benefit” test?
 - Yes → Provide documentation to the admission office. This meets state ATB requirements. Contact Student Financial Services regarding meeting the federal requirement (you must also submit a final official transcript – see below).
 - No → Contact Student Financial Services to talk about your next options.

Final High School Transcript Requirement

All incoming students who have been homeschooled must submit a final, official high school transcript that shows program of study along with date of program completion (at least month & year) and an original signature.

“Ability to Benefit” Tests and College Courses that Meet New York State ATB Requirement¹

<p>In September 2007, the Regents approved four ability-to-benefit tests to be used to determine eligibility for State financial aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASSET • COMPASS • Accuplacer • CELSA (The CELSA is approved providing the applicant also takes a math component from one of the other approved tests.) 	<p>Approved courses to meet “24 credit hour” requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 credit hours of English Language Arts 3 credit hours of Humanities 3 credit hours of Social Science 3 credit hours of Mathematics 3 credit hours of Natural Science 6 credit hours applicable to the student’s program <p>http://www.acces.nysed.gov/aapp/college-credit-and-out-state-testing</p>
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¹ Source: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/partner-access/financial-aid-professionals/grants-and-scholarships-questions-and-answers/grants-and-scholarships-ability-to-benefit-questions-and-answers.html>