DC high school senior: Win up to $2,500 in a college savings account.

Enter the DC College Savings Plan/DC-CAP essay contest.

Write an essay discussing why you want to go to college. Maybe you want to gain new experiences or prepare yourself for a good career. Tell us about it.

Essay Contest Rules

- You must be a high school senior registered in a District public or public charter high school.
- Your essay must be about why you want to go to college.
- Your essay should be no less than 500 words.
- Your essay must be typed and double-spaced and include your name, school, email address, and phone number.
- Your parent or guardian must attend a college savings and planning information session.
- Include your resume as a supplemental document that includes your educational accomplishments, extra-curricular and volunteer activities.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS DECEMBER 11, 2023

For more information on contest rules and how to submit your entry, please see your DC-CAP Advisor.

Six winners will be selected. Two in each award category.

1st Place
$2,500

2nd Place
$1,500

3rd Place
$1,000
Official Contest Rules. No Purchase Necessary to Enter or Win. DC College Savings Plan/DC-CAP 12th Grade Essay Contest.

All Contest entries, as described below, are eligible to win.

Eligibility: Contest is only open to students who are a U.S. resident and currently enrolled in the 12th grade at a District of Columbia Public School or a District of Columbia Public Charter School. Employees of Ascensus Investment Advisors, LLC, Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC, the DC College Access Program (DC-CAP) and the District of Columbia’s Office of Finance and Treasury or their immediate family members (children, siblings, and spouses) and the immediate family and/or those living in the same household of any of the foregoing are not eligible to enter or win. This Contest is subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

How to Enter: The Contest begins at 12:00AM Eastern Time ("ET") on October 30, 2023 and ends at 11:59PM ET on December 11, 2023 ("Entry Period"). 1) During the Entry Period eligible participants may submit an essay on the topic of "Why I want to go to College", through their DC-CAP school representative or directly by mailing it to 1425 K Street NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005. 2) Only one entry per eligible participant may be submitted and multiple entries will result in all entries being ineligible. 3) Entries should be type-written and double-spaced and be no longer than 2,500 words. Please note that, length and format of entries will not make entries ineligible. Your entry constitutes your consent to participate in this Contest and your consent for sponsors to obtain, use, and transfer your name, address and other information for the purpose of administering this Contest. Sponsors and Released Parties are not responsible for lost, incomplete, illegible, late, misdirected, stolen, postage-due, or mutilated entries or mail; any error, omission, interruption, defect or delay in transmission, transaction processing, or communication; technical or mechanical malfunctions; failures or malfunctions of phones, phone lines, or telephone systems; errors in these Official Rules, in any Contest-related advertisements or other materials; human-processing error; failures of electronic equipment, computer hardware or software; or inaccurate entry information, whether caused by equipment, programming used in this Contest, human error, or otherwise. Sponsor reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to void any and all entries of an entrant who sponsors believe has attempted to tamper with or impair the administration, security, fairness, or proper play of this Sweepstakes.

Awards: (1) First Prize: Two $2,500 scholarships to be placed into a DC College Savings Plan under the winner’s name as beneficiary.
(2) Second Prize: Two $1,500 scholarships to be placed into a DC College Savings Plan under the winner’s name as beneficiary.
(3) Third Prize: Two $1,000 scholarships to be placed into a DC College Savings Plan under the winner’s name as beneficiary. Prize details not specifically set forth herein are at sponsors’ sole discretion. Federal, state, and local taxes and all other expenses not specified herein are winner’s sole responsibility.

Winners Selection: The First, Second, and Third Prize Winners will be selected within the District of Columbia for a total of six (6) awards. Winners are chosen on January 30, 2024 from among all eligible entries received by Contest ending date. Entry Essays are judged on the content, grammar, punctuation and delivery of the entrant’s story. Essays are initially reviewed by DC-CAP Advisors in each school who will submit their top six entries to the DC-CAP Essay Review Committee, which selects the top three (3) entries from each participating District of Columbia Public and District of Columbia Public Charter School. The DC-CAP Essay Review Committee along with other Sponsors will then select the top six winners. The selection of winners is final and binding in all matters relating to this Contest. Federal, state and local taxes and all other expenses not specified herein are winner’s sole responsibility. Winners will be notified in person, by telephone and/or mail. Messages may be left on answering machines or with live persons at the phone number on record for the entrant.

Miscellaneous: No transfer, assignment, cash redemption or substitution of prize (or portion thereof) except by sponsors at its sole discretion is allowed. Winners will be required to execute and return a completed application for the DC College Savings Plan within (90) days of issuance of notification. Non-compliance with any of the foregoing may result in disqualification and awarding of prize to an alternate winner. If sponsors are unable to provide award notification through phone or letter, due to phone being disconnected, letter returned as undeliverable or due to other reasons beyond the control of the sponsors, winners may be disqualified and an alternate winner may be selected. By participating, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and agree that: 1) Sponsors and their designees and assigns shall have the right and permission to use (unless prohibited by law) their name, voice, city/state of residence, biographical information, photograph, and/or likeness for advertising and/or trade and/or any other purpose in any media or format, online or offline, now or hereafter known without further compensation, permission, or notification; and 2) Sponsors and their designees and assigns and all of their respective officers, directors, employees, shareholders, representatives and agents shall have no liability and will be held harmless for any liability, loss, injury or death to entrant or any other person, including, without limitation, damage to personal or real property, due in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by reason of the acceptance, possession, use or misuse of prize or participation in this Contest.


The DC College Savings Plan is administered by the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Office of Finance and Treasury. Ascensus College Savings Recordkeeping Services, LLC ("ACSR"), the Program Manager, and its affiliates, have overall responsibility for the day-to-day operations including recordkeeping and administrative services. Ascensus Investment Advisors, LLC serves as the Investment Manager.

CONSUMER DISCLOSURE: NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. First Prize valued at $2,500, Second Prize valued at $1,500, Third Prize valued at $1,000. Starts 10/30/2023. Ends 12/11/2023.