

# HARPER COLLEGE PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP

**TUITION EARNED**

A SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED TO EVERY ELIGIBLE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN THE HARPER COLLEGE DISTRICT THAT WOULD FUND UP TO TWO YEARS OF COLLEGE.

What if we could promise every public high school student in the northwest suburbs **an associate degree tuition free if they're willing to earn it?** Think of the possibilities for students, parents and our local workforce. An associate degree. Tuition free.

Under the Harper College Promise Scholarship Program every eligible incoming public high school student in Harper's district can earn an associate degree\* at Harper College if they maintain solid grades, have good attendance, don't repeat classes, graduate on time and provide service to their community.

\*Students can earn up to 60 credits of tuition inclusive of dual credit, AP credit and other prior credits earned. As of 2025, \$8.4 million in scholarship tuition has been administered to Promise students.



Promise scholars Meha Patel, Arij Ahmed, and Madelyn Kuffel at a Harper Foundation Event.

Jobs requiring an **associate degree or higher** are expected to grow at a faster rate than those requiring less than a degree.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

**“Our communities** are going to thrive (with the help of the Promise Program). We’re going to attract good jobs, we’re going to attract businesses. I appreciate the collective commitment to what this is going to do to strengthen the entire region. It’s a really big deal long term.”

—Arne Duncan  
former U.S. Secretary of Education

During their Freshman year of high school **59,752 students** have made the initial commitment to their Promise Scholarship.

Source: Harper Promise data as of January 2025

# A PROMISE THAT PAYS FORWARD.

## HOW IT WORKS

The criteria for the Harper College Promise Scholarship were developed by Harper College, area public high schools and northwest suburban business leaders to promote life skills and habits that will help students succeed in college and provide businesses with smart, skilled and motivated employees. The Promise Scholarship Program enables participating students to attend Harper without having to pay tuition<sup>†</sup> while they earn career certifications and associate degrees. However, signing up for the Promise program does not commit a student to go to Harper. So there's no reason not to sign up!

### IN HIGH SCHOOL

The Program starts in the second semester of a student's freshman year in high school. If the student meets attendance, rigor, quality, persistence and community service requirements, the student can earn up to two years tuition at Harper College.



#### ATTENDANCE

Students may only be absent:

2nd semester of freshman year	5 days or less
Sophomore year	9 days or less
Junior year	8 days or less
Senior year	7 days or less

(3 tardies equal an absence)



#### RIGOR/QUALITY

Graduate college-ready.

Minimum annual grade point average (unweighted):

2nd semester of freshman year	2.0
Sophomore year	2.25
Junior year	2.25*
Senior year	2.3*

\*No semester grades of D or F



#### PERSISTENCE

✓ Meet minimum credit standards at the end of each year.

✓ Graduate on time with their class.



#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Number of hours per year:

2nd semester of freshman year	5
Sophomore year	10
Junior year	15
Senior year	20

### AT HARPER COLLEGE

A high school student who meets the Program's requirements will earn the first semester of Harper tuition free. The student can continue to attend Harper College tuition-free, semester by semester, for up to four semesters (for a total of 60 credit hours inclusive of dual credit, AP credit or prior college credits earned before enrolling at Harper.)<sup>†</sup>, if the student meets the following criteria.



#### RIGOR/QUALITY

Minimum grade point average:

1st semester	2.2
2nd semester	2.3
3rd semester	2.5
4th semester	2.5

No grades of D or F or withdrawal



#### PERSISTENCE

✓ A student must attend full-time each semester.

✓ A student must complete at least 30 credit hours their first year. (includes prior credit earned).

✓ A student must attend each consecutive semester (fall/spring) until their certificate or degree is completed—up to four semesters.

✓ Summer session tuition is not included in the program.



#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Service requirements must be performed through a Harper-related program.

10 hours per semester.

<sup>†</sup> The Promise Scholarship is for tuition only. Fees and books are additional. See Harper's website for current tuition and fees. All participants are required to fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA (Social Security number required) and complete the financial aid process.

Visit [harpercollege.edu/promise](http://harpercollege.edu/promise) for full program details. Program requirements subject to change.