



MASSACHUSETTS
**Department of
Early Education and Care**



Higher Education Opportunities

Career Pathways and the ECE Scholarship

**How do I get
started with college
courses???**
**How do I pay for
them???**



**There are
programs to help
early childhood
educators find and
fund college!!!**



Support for College

EEC provides financial assistance towards **college certificates and degrees** at eligible Massachusetts colleges and universities.

You are eligible to apply for financial assistance if you work, or plan to begin working at, an EEC licensed or funded:

- Family Child Care (FCC)
- Center-based program
- After School/Out-of-School Time (ASOST) program
- Residential Placement program
- Contracted Family Child Care (FCC) System

How to start?

Where am I in my college journey?

GET STARTED



- I have a high school diploma
- I have not yet taken a college course
- I have taken some college courses but have not completed a college certificate or a degree
- I'm ready to take college courses and work towards a college certificate or degree

CONTINUE



- I have a high school diploma
- I have a college certificate or degree
- I'm ready to get my next degree
- I'm ready to take more college classes and continue my higher education

Career Pathways

GET STARTED



The Career Pathways Grant provides support to those interested in enrolling in an ECE certificate or associate's degree program at a Massachusetts community college.



Single point of contact for questions and information



Advising on course selection, registration and enrollment



Counseling on financial aid opportunities



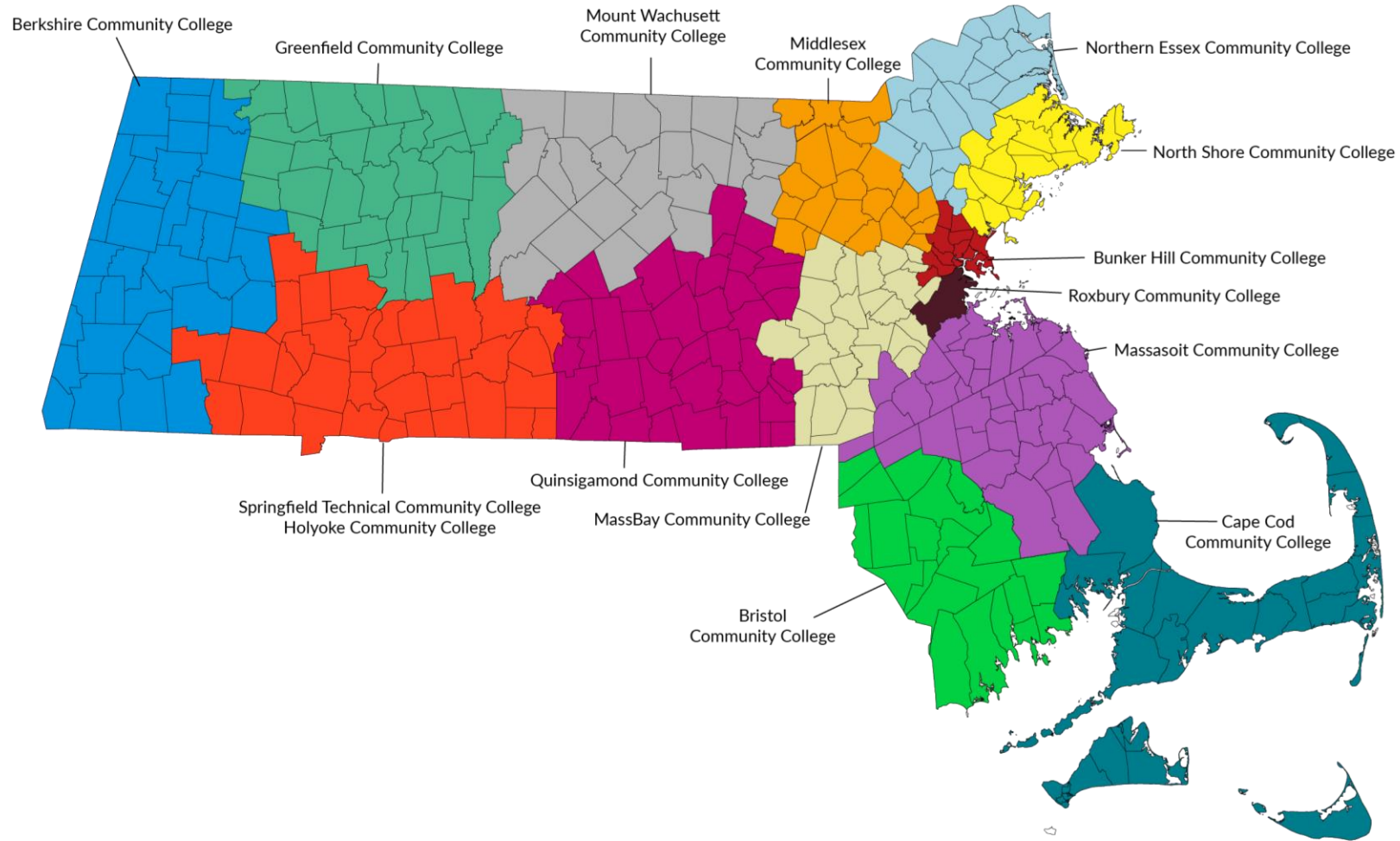
Tutoring, mentoring, library access, on-campus food pantry and other campus supports

Get Started with Career Pathways

1. Choose the community college that is closest to where you live or work. Colleges will prioritize students in their regional area.
 - If you've already taken classes at a community college, return to that college.
 - If you need classes in a language other than English, select a college that offers the language you need.
2. Send an email to the Career Pathways Grant Coordinator at the community college of your choice.
3. There will be several steps to take for course registration. Watch your email for a reply from the Grant Coordinator (please check your email regularly)

Have your high school diploma and/or any previous college transcripts available upon request from the Grant Coordinator to determine eligibility for enrollment and to identify course selection.

Community Colleges



Early Childhood Education(ECE) Scholarship

CONTINUE



Jointly offered by EEC and the Department of Higher Education to help educators increase their qualifications through a college degree.



Based on a per credit rate, depending on the type of institution.



Provides funding to assist with the cost of a maximum of three courses per semester during the fall, spring and summer.

Get Started with the ECE Scholarship

Action Steps:

- Confirm eligibility requirements
- Complete FAFSA and ECE Scholarship application
- Apply to the college of your choice (two- or four- year institution)
- Attend to emails and messages from the college and MA Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA)

Eligibility Requirements

- Physically **reside in Massachusetts for at least one year, as of the start of the enrolled term**, with an intent to remain in Massachusetts consistent with Board of Higher Education policy; and
 - Have approved eligibility status as a “High School Completer,”* per the Massachusetts tuition equity law,**** or be a U.S. Citizen, permanent legal resident, or non-citizen eligible under Title IV regulations.
 - Have applied for financial aid, using the standard Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or a FAFSA equivalent** application authorized by the Department of Higher Education.
 - Not be in default of any federal or state Student Loans** for attendance at any institution or owe a refund for any previous financial aid received.
 - Enroll, as a **matriculated student**, in an approved college certificate or degree program, full or part-time, in an eligible institution.
 - Be employed as an educator or provider** in an early education and care program (FCC, center-based, after/out-of-school time, residential placement or contracted FCC system) that is licensed or funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).
- OR**
- Be considered a **“prospective student”** which is defined as unemployed or not employed as an early education and care provider at a facility or program, licensed or funded by the Department of Early Education and Care, but plan to enroll in an approved course of study as defined in the eligibility requirements of the ECE Scholarship.
- Prospective students must demonstrate they are **seeking employment with an early education and care provider in the commonwealth and will have one year to secure eligible employment.**
 - Sign an agreement to continue employment as an early childhood educator or provider** in Massachusetts upon completing the degree requirement, or repay funds as defined.
 - Students must either be pursuing their **first bachelor’s degree or pursuing a master’s** degree in an approved program, as defined.

Complete the FAFSA or equivalent

Be sure to complete the **2025-2026** FAFSA

Wait 72 hours (3 days) for FAFSA data to process. You will receive an email from OSFA inviting you to login to your MASSAid portal.



osfamail@osfamass.org

To: [REDACTED]

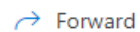
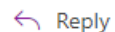


Mon 5/13/2024 11:50 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello [REDACTED]

Congratulations! The Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) has received a copy of your 2024 - 2025 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from the Federal Processing Center. We invite you to go to our Student Portal at MASSAid Portal for students - User Login ([https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://massaid.guarantorsolutions.com/StudentPortal_!!CPANwP4y!RtL2-WUn0EBlwOJuZm9XHdmR-BSLihJuygYlxqEVp6RbOwwd39GWfETpwJx_szAZfruYBSgjRvmEbtMheev3w\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://massaid.guarantorsolutions.com/StudentPortal_!!CPANwP4y!RtL2-WUn0EBlwOJuZm9XHdmR-BSLihJuygYlxqEVp6RbOwwd39GWfETpwJx_szAZfruYBSgjRvmEbtMheev3w$)) to log in or set up a user account to explore Massachusetts financial aid programs. Please contact our office at 617.391.6070 for questions about this email.



Create or login to MassAid



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance

Log In

User Name

[Forgot your User Name, click here](#)

If this is your first time accessing the Student Portal, [click here to create an account](#).

Log In

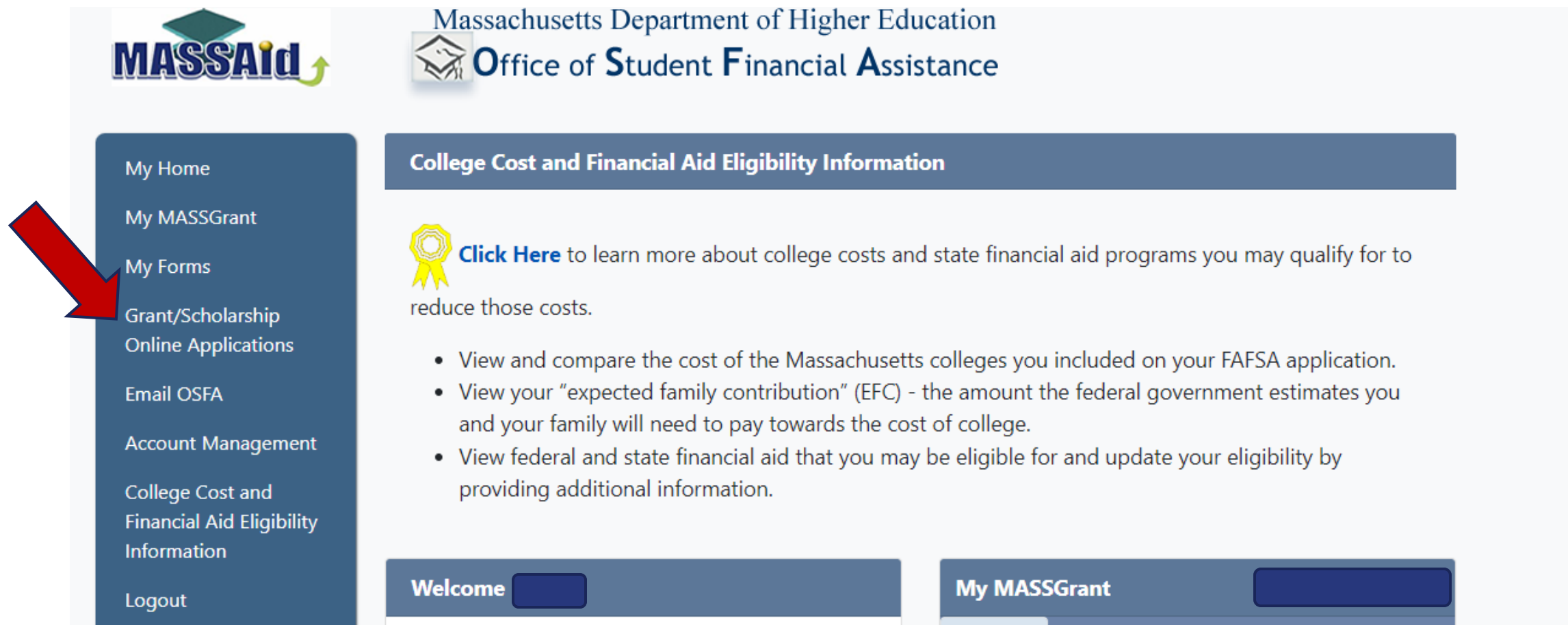


[MASS OSFA](#) | [Site Policies](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#)

Connect with @MASSDHE



Find the ECE Scholarship application



MASSAid

Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance

College Cost and Financial Aid Eligibility Information

 [Click Here](#) to learn more about college costs and state financial aid programs you may qualify for to reduce those costs.

- View and compare the cost of the Massachusetts colleges you included on your FAFSA application.
- View your "expected family contribution" (EFC) - the amount the federal government estimates you and your family will need to pay towards the cost of college.
- View federal and state financial aid that you may be eligible for and update your eligibility by providing additional information.

Welcome

My MASSGrant

My Home
My MASSGrant
My Forms
Grant/Scholarship Online Applications
Email OSFA
Account Management
College Cost and Financial Aid Eligibility Information
Logout

Find the ECE Scholarship application- next step



Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
Office of Student Financial Assistance

- My Home
- My MASSGrant
- My Forms
- Grant/Scholarship Online Applications
- Email OSFA
- Account Management
- College Cost and Financial Aid Eligibility Information
- Logout

Grant/Scholarship Online Applications

The following grant/scholarship aid programs can assist you in financing your higher education:

Grants

[2024-2025 Paraprofessional Teacher Preparation Grant](#)

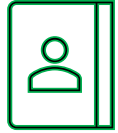
Scholarships

[2024-2025 Early Childhood Educators Scholarship](#)

In order to complete the application process you must have access to a printer and ADOBE Acrobat Reader in order to view and print your application.



Application Sections



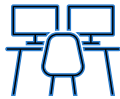
☐ Student Information

✓ Name, contact information, demographics



☐ Application Information

✓ Information regarding your academic program




☐ Employer Information

✓ Work experience



Application Information

Application Information			
Institution (required)	<div>MIDDLESEX COMMUNITY- BEDFORD, MASS. ▾</div> <p>Only institutions eligible to participate in the program are listed.</p>		
Enrolled As 	<div>▾</div>	Graduate Student	<div>No ▾</div>
Major	<div>▾</div>	Expected Degree Month	<div>▾</div>
Expected Degree Year	<div>▾</div>	Grade Level	<div>1st Year, Never Attended ▾</div>
Prior Bachelors Degree	<div>No ▾</div>	Degree Pursuing	<div>Certificate/Diploma-Less than . ▾</div>
Fall Anticipated Credits	<div>0</div>	Spring Anticipated Credits	<div>0</div>
Summer 1 Anticipated Credits	<div>0</div>	Summer 2 Anticipated Credits	<div>0</div>

Employed or Student

- ☒ Click here if you are currently employed at a licensed or authorized EEC program.
- ☐ Click here if you are a prospective student (unemployed or not employed as an early education and care provider at a facility or program, licensed/authorized by the Department of Early Education and Care, but plan to enroll in an approved course of study as defined in the eligibility requirements of the ECE Scholarship).

And as such, I understand that:

If selected as a recipient of the ECE scholarship, I must:

Demonstrate that **I am seeking employment with an early education and care provider in the commonwealth;**

And,

have agreed to enroll in a degree or certificate program in the early education and care field in the commonwealth; provided, however, that recipients of the scholarship program shall commit to providing early education and care in the commonwealth for a term of service to be determined by the board in consultation with the board of early education and care.



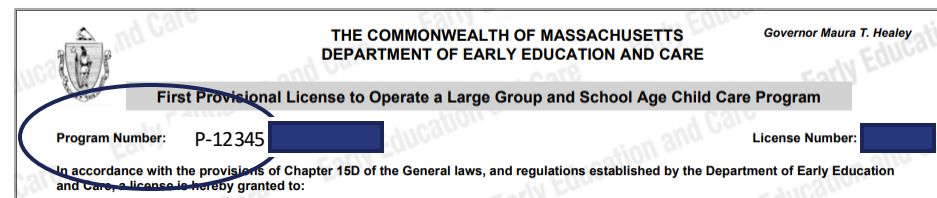
Employer Information

Employer Information

CURRENT EMPLOYER
If you are not currently employed in an EEC licensed or license exempt program, you are not eligible for the ECE Scholarship program.

Current Employer Name	<input type="text"/>	EEC Program Number	P- <input type="text"/> <small>Program Number</small>
Current Employer Address	<input type="text"/>	Current Position/Title	<input type="text"/>
Current Employer City	<input type="text"/>	Start Date (mm/dd/ccyy)	<input type="text"/>
Current Employer State	<input type="text"/>	PQ Registry Number	<input type="text"/> <small>DEEC</small>

EEC Program Number is attached to the program where you work.



EEC Single Sign On PQR must be "active."

You can SKIP this screen if you are a prospective employee



Employer Information

Current
Employer Zip

 -

Supervisor Last
Name

Program Phone
Number

Supervisor First
Name

Average Hours
Worked Per
Week

Supervisor
Phone Number

Average Hours
Program
Operates Per
Week

Supervisor Email
Address

Supervisor Title

Family Child Care
and Center-based
Program Owners can
list their own
information in the
supervisor fields.

You can SKIP this screen if
you are a prospective
employee



Previous Employer Information

PREVIOUS EMPLOYER 1

Name

Position/Title

Address

Start Date

(mm/dd/ccyy)

City

End Date

(mm/dd/ccyy)

State

Supervisor Last

Name

Zip

Supervisor First

Name

Program Phone
Number

Supervisor

Phone Number

Supervisor Email
Address

If you already work in the field, complete the information for previous employers. It's sometimes necessary to verify eligibility.

You can SKIP this screen if you are a prospective employee

Agreement and Submission

Agree to the Service Commitment by checking the box.
Be sure to save and submit your application.

Service Commitment Agreement

☐ I understand that although there are no procedures for repayment if a student fails to complete the above commitments, that as a recipient of the ECE Scholarship there is an expectation that students will continue to be employed in the Early Childhood Education field as an educator or provider in Massachusetts for six months per semester of scholarship receipt, not to exceed a two year maximum commitment upon graduation from an associate's degree program and a four year maximum commitment upon graduation from a bachelor's degree program.



In the event that the fiscal year appropriation is not sufficient to permit a full award to each eligible student, priority consideration will be given to eligible applicants recommended by an individual qualified to speak to their commitment and dedication to the field of early education and care; or members of a socially or economically disadvantaged community as defined by the Department in consultation with the Department of Early Education and Care.

Save

Cancel

Proof of Employment (POE)

Application Submitted Successfully

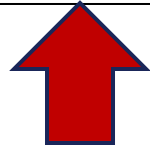
Share  

Your application has been received, and further instructions have been sent to the email address on file.

Please note that your application **WILL NOT** be considered until **we have received your signed and fully completed Proof of Employment Form.** This form can be uploaded via the MASSAid student portal.

An award that may result from this application is contingent upon funding and overall demand.

[Print Proof of Employment Form](#) [Print Application Copy](#)



You can also check your credits on this screen.

Application Status: Ineligible

Please click each of the ineligible reason(s) listed below for more information on how to correct them.

- [Student Not MA Resident](#)
- [No Proof of Employment on File](#)
- [Invalid Major](#)

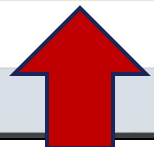
All awards are subject to certification by the institution.

Proof of Employment Form: [Click here to update 2023-2024 application information](#)

CURRENT INSTITUTION: BRIDGEWATER STATE UNIVERSITY
FALL ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 3
SPRING ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 3
SUMMER 1 ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 7
SUMMER 2 ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 7

[Re-Print Application](#) [Re-Print Proof Of Employment](#) [Upload Proof of Employment](#)

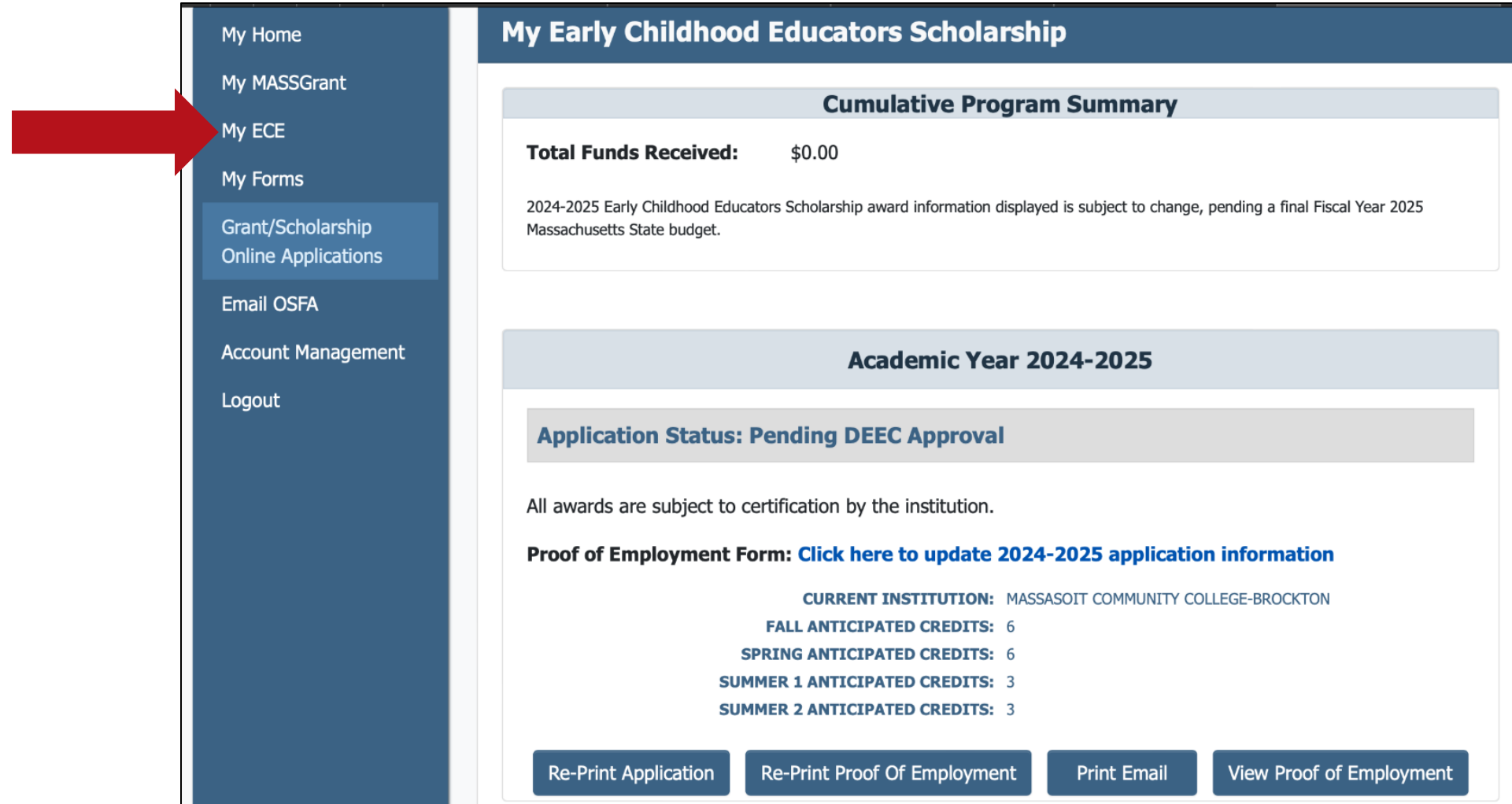
Academic Year 2022-2023



What happens next?

- Monitor your email inbox. All information and notifications will be sent via email.
Read emails closely.
- Allow time for DHE and EEC review (3-4 weeks).
- If you receive an email that you are “ineligible,” you will have 20 days to correct the reason for ineligibility. Instructions will be in the email.
- Award amount will remain as “pending” until your school “certifies” that you are enrolled and attending classes- usually at the end of add/drop period.

Checking Your Application Status



The screenshot shows a web application interface for the 'My Early Childhood Educators Scholarship'. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with a list of navigation links. A large red arrow points to the 'My ECE' link. The main content area has a blue header with the title 'My Early Childhood Educators Scholarship'. Below this is a section titled 'Cumulative Program Summary' which displays 'Total Funds Received: \$0.00' and a disclaimer about the 2024-2025 award information. The next section is 'Academic Year 2024-2025', which contains a grey box stating 'Application Status: Pending DEEC Approval'. Below this, it says 'All awards are subject to certification by the institution.' and provides a link to update the application information. It also lists the current institution and anticipated credits for each semester. At the bottom, there are four buttons: 'Re-Print Application', 'Re-Print Proof Of Employment', 'Print Email', and 'View Proof of Employment'.

My Early Childhood Educators Scholarship

Cumulative Program Summary

Total Funds Received: \$0.00

2024-2025 Early Childhood Educators Scholarship award information displayed is subject to change, pending a final Fiscal Year 2025 Massachusetts State budget.

Academic Year 2024-2025

Application Status: Pending DEEC Approval

All awards are subject to certification by the institution.

Proof of Employment Form: [Click here to update 2024-2025 application information](#)

CURRENT INSTITUTION: MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE-BROCKTON

FALL ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 6

SPRING ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 6

SUMMER 1 ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 3

SUMMER 2 ANTICIPATED CREDITS: 3

[Re-Print Application](#) [Re-Print Proof Of Employment](#) [Print Email](#) [View Proof of Employment](#)

Resources

➤ Career Pathways Information

- ❑ Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) [Career Pathways Information](#)

➤ Scholarship Information

- ❑ Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) [Scholarship Information](#)
- ❑ Office of Student Financial Aid (OSFA) [Scholarship Information](#)

➤ Ask a Question

- ❑ You can ask a specific question by [completing this form](#), found on the Career Pathways webpage.