

## **HSTA Undergraduate, Graduate, and Health Professions Fee Waivers** **General Guidelines**

The three separate waivers available to successful graduates of the Health Sciences and Technology Academy are the HSTA Undergraduate Waiver, the HSTA Graduate Waiver, and the HSTA Health Professions Fee Waiver. These waivers are set forth and regulated through **Legislative Bills 18B-10-4b** and **18B-10-6** of the West Virginia State Code. The following points serve as general guidelines only and are not intended to convey the only policies regarding the administration of the HSTA Undergraduate, Graduate, and Health Professions Fee Waivers. For answers to questions regarding the HSTA waivers, you may call the HSTA College Liaison at 1-800-345-4267 or the appropriate college HSTA Waiver Contact person. An updated list of HSTA Waiver Contacts is available at the HSTA website at [www.wv-hsta.org](http://www.wv-hsta.org).

1. **HSTA Waivers are only awarded to students who successfully complete the HSTA program**  
Only Health Sciences and Technology Academy students who successfully complete the program are eligible for HSTA Undergraduate, Graduate, and Health Professions Fee Waivers at certain colleges and universities in the state of West Virginia.
2. **HSTA Waivers are provided by “state” colleges and universities only**  
The state code dictates that the HSTA Undergraduate, Graduate, and Health Professions Fee Waivers are to be administered only at state-funded institutions of higher learning in the state of West Virginia. Therefore, the waivers are not provided by private institutions and technical schools. However, alternate forms of financial assistance can be arranged between individual students/parents and non-waiver eligible institutions.
3. **HSTA Waivers are only granted to full time students**  
In general, students must be registered for classes as a full time student at an eligible institution. It is recommended that they be fully registered a sufficient period of time prior to the billing date for the upcoming term. This allows the HSTA Waiver Contact adequate time to process the waiver prior to the printing of student bills. Students must contact the HSTA Waiver Contact or the HSTA College Liaison if the HSTA waiver does not appear on their bill.
4. **Each college and university sets their own policies regarding the HSTA Undergraduate, Graduate, and Health Professions Fee Waivers**  
Beyond the regulations set forth in the state code, each waiver granting college or university sets their own policies for the implementation and continuation of HSTA waivers at their institution. It is the student’s responsibility to be acquainted with the policies that govern the allowable expenses to be waived, as well as the requirements for continuation of the waiver at the institution of their choice. The HSTA Waiver Contacts and the HSTA College Liaison can provide more information.
5. **HSTA Undergraduate, Graduate, and Health Professions Fee Waivers do not cover all college expenses**  
The HSTA waivers are not “cash.” They are not transferable. The waivers allow for a reduction in an eligible student’s costs of attendance according to the policies of the granting college or university. Some institutions may waive tuition and a general fee while others only waive tuition. It is important that students compare information about the full cost of attendance for each of the colleges they are interested in attending and consult with the HSTA Waiver Contacts for details about how the HSTA waiver, in conjunction with other forms of financial aid, could affect those costs.
6. **HSTA Undergraduate Waivers are for 8 semesters only**  
Per state code, the HSTA Undergraduate Waiver is available for 8 regular session academic semesters only. This typically includes only fall and spring terms of regular enrollment. For more information, refer to the guidelines regarding the continuation of the waiver that follows.

7. **Students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as well the HSTA Waiver Application and search for additional forms of financial aid**  
 Students are encouraged to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as well as state and institution-based financial aid applications each year to qualify for other forms of aid that may be combined with the HSTA Undergraduate Waiver. Because **there are a number of expenses that are not covered by the HSTA waivers**, students should actively seek supplemental forms of financial aid. Students and parents can discuss this with a guidance counselor, the HSTA College Liaison or the appropriate HSTA Waiver Contact. A few web-based sources of information are: [studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov), [www.wvapply.com](http://www.wvapply.com), [www.wvmentor.org](http://www.wvmentor.org), [www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com), and [www.wv-hsta.org](http://www.wv-hsta.org).
8. **Students should (1) apply for the HSTA Waivers AND the Promise Scholarship AND (2) utilize the Promise Scholarship first**  
***Key Advantages to using HSTA with Promise:***
- **Use the one that gives you the most:** Applying for the HSTA Waivers but deferring the HSTA Undergraduate Waiver while using the Promise Scholarship initially, students may receive a greater amount of financial assistance at many institutions. HSTA Undergraduate Waiver deferment is implemented automatically.
  - **HSTA can step in when Promise is no longer available:** The HSTA Undergraduate Waiver can be deferred and later used by students who no longer have Promise Scholarship eligibility. This would include students who either do not meet the academic requirements for renewal or those students that utilize all 8 semesters of the Promise Scholarship but require additional semesters to complete their undergraduate degree.
  - **Promise & HSTA work together:** The HSTA Health Professions Fee Waiver can be used at the same time as the Promise Scholarship at institutions that charge a health professions fee.
  - **HSTA goes beyond your undergraduate years:** The HSTA Graduate Waiver is available for qualifying graduate programs. (Further information regarding the HSTA Graduate Waiver follows.)
- For questions about the Promise Scholarship, you can contact the Promise Scholarship office toll free at 1-877-WVPROMISE or visit the Promise Scholarship website for details at: [www.promisescholarships.org](http://www.promisescholarships.org).
9. **HSTA Graduate Waivers are available for only select graduate programs for limited terms**  
 The HSTA Graduate Waiver is available for only select eligible graduate and professional majors as determined by the granting college or university. The HSTA Graduate Waiver is only available for the average number of semesters needed to complete the degree. Contact the HSTA College Liaison or Waiver Contact for the institution of interest to determine if a particular program of study qualifies for the HSTA Graduate Waiver.
10. **HSTA Waivers may not automatically continue for subsequent terms**  
 In order to ensure each student's continuation of their HSTA Undergraduate, Graduate and Health Professions Fee Waiver in subsequent years, students must comply with the following:
- a. ***Consent to release of college records:*** Students must complete a HSTA Academic Records Release Form for Recipients of the HSTA Undergraduate, Graduate, and Health Professions Fee Waiver so that the HSTA College Liaison can implement their HSTA waiver and assist them in meeting the requirements for the continuation of their HSTA waivers.
  - b. ***Follow college policies:*** Students must follow their college guidelines for successful academic progress and continuation of the HSTA waiver (contact the appropriate college HSTA Waiver Contact or HSTA College Liaison for information).
  - c. ***Submit a completed HSTA Waiver Maintenance and College Update Form each Spring or when transferring between schools to continue receiving the waivers.*** The HSTA Waiver Contacts will be notified by the HSTA College Liaison to receive a listing of all students that plan to utilize the waiver for each upcoming year. Therefore, students **MUST** submit a HSTA Waiver Maintenance & College Update Form each year by April 1st or at any time the student transfers or changes status. The form is available at the HSTA website at [www.wv-hsta.org](http://www.wv-hsta.org).