

High School Diploma Equivalency Federal Student Aid Eligibility

To be eligible for federal student aid, you must have one of the following:

- a high school diploma;
- proof of homeschooling;
- a General Education Development Certificate (GED);
- a State certificate showing you passed a State-authorized examination that the State recognizes as the equivalent of a high school diploma;
- an academic transcript that shows you have successfully completed at least a two-year program that is acceptable for full credit toward a bachelor's degree;
- or documentation that you excelled academically in high school (even if you did not graduate) and have met the institution's admissions standards (Associate Degree-seeking students only).

If you do not have one of the above and you first enroll in a program on or after July 1, 2012, you will not be eligible for federal student aid.

There are some exceptions to the above rule.

If you attended any federal student aid eligible program prior to July 1, 2012 or you were registered to attend an eligible program* prior to July 1, 2012, you may be eligible to use an ability-to-benefit alternative to become eligible for federal student aid.

To do so, you may take an independent ability-to-benefit test, or demonstrate successful completion of at least six credit hours of coursework applicable to a degree offered by the school. Please contact Birthingway's Financial Aid Office for more information.

*Option only applies if you enroll in the program for which you were registered.