



THE COLLEGE TUITION BENEFIT®

HELPING FAMILIES PAY FOR COLLEGE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How is Tuition Rewards funded?

Tuition Rewards are a guaranteed minimum discount off the full "list price" of tuition as opposed to monetary reimbursement. Participating schools have entered into a contractual agreement to reduce their tuition by the amount of Tuition Rewards points submitted by the member. One Tuition Rewards point = \$1 reduction in full tuition. Tuition Rewards are never provided in cash.

Who can I register for Tuition Rewards?

Members can register students who are part of their immediate or extended family - children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, stepchildren and godchildren. Members are ineligible to utilize Tuition Rewards for their own education or toward the education of a spouse, partner or child who has already started 12th grade.

Is there any limit to the number of students I can register?

There is no limit to the number of students you can register. Members can register new students as needed. To do this simply log in to your personal account by going to www.guardian.collegetuitionbenefit.com and selecting Log in to Your Existing Account, click-on "Add Student" and complete the necessary information.

What is the maximum amount of Tuition Rewards I can use per child?

Tuition Rewards are "capped" at a maximum 25 percent discount, divided evenly over four years. Participating colleges honor the Tuition Rewards points submitted as a guaranteed minimum discount off the published price of tuition and Tuition Rewards may be combined with other financial aid. *

Note there are Member Tuition Rewards and Student Tuition Rewards.

- Member Tuition Rewards are in your account and can be used in any amount, for any sponsored student.
- Student Tuition Rewards can only be used by that student and are non-transferable. 500 Student Tuition Rewards points are awarded at the time the member registers the student.

**A handful of participating colleges are still operating under pre-2004 contracts limiting the maximum reward to \$13,800-\$15,600. An updated college list is available online when members log in to their accounts.*



What are my responsibilities?

You must register an eligible student before August 31 of the year they enter the 12th grade.

- Member Tuition Rewards are in your name until they are pledged to a sponsored student.
- Tuition Rewards must be pledged to a sponsored student before August 31 of the year the student enters 12th grade.
 - You will receive emails when a sponsored student enters the 11th grade reminding you to go into your account and pledge some or all your Tuition Rewards.

To submit points to network schools you must pledge the points within 10 days of a student's application to a network college.

- After logging into your CTB account you must select the college(s) on the list to which the student has applied and follow the outlined steps. This process notifies the college of the student's Tuition Rewards points. (Tuition Rewards can be submitted to multiple colleges.)

What if I pledge Tuition Rewards and the student does not use them or does not attend a SAGE Scholars participating college or university?

On June 15 following 12th grade, a member can go into his or her account, retrieve the unused student Tuition Rewards points and put them back in their account to be used for another student.

Are Tuition Rewards taxable?

No. IRS Publication 970, "Tax Benefits for Education," states: "You do not have to include a qualified tuition reduction in your income." Tuition Rewards are discounts and meet the qualified tuition reduction definition.

Do the participating SAGE Scholars colleges and universities have any obligation to accept students with Tuition Rewards?

No. The schools will observe their normal student acceptance policies.

How do Tuition Rewards affect financial aid qualification?

Tuition Rewards are considered guaranteed minimum financial aid and all students are encouraged to apply for financial aid.

The following example shows how Tuition Rewards complement financial aid:

- Family has 20,000 Tuition Rewards points; because Tuition Rewards are divided evenly over four years, the student has earned a guaranteed minimum discount of \$5,000 per year.
- The student applies for financial aid at three of our participating schools.
 - The first school awards \$10,000 per year in total aid
 - The second awards \$4,000 per year
 - The third awards no financial aid.
- Tuition Rewards impact on final financial aid:
 - The first school has met its obligation of a \$5,000 per year discount.



- o The second college will have to increase their award to at least \$5,000 per year.
- o The third school will have to provide \$5,000 of financial aid.

Can an eligible student be sponsored by more than one person?

- Tuition Rewards points can be pooled together for the same student if the student is registered under both accounts. Tuition Rewards are "capped" at a maximum 25 percent discount, divided evenly over four years*

What happens if I leave my current employer, or I am terminated?

If you leave employment, you will be vested in all Tuition Rewards you have earned up to your last date of employment, and you can continue to manage your account directly through CTB. If you are then employed and enrolled in benefits that offers CTB, you can then begin to earn Tuition Rewards with your new employers.

Who sees the names of sponsored students and how are the names used?

CTB's privacy statement dictates that the only people who see the names of sponsored students are the colleges, starting when a student is in 9th grade, the colleges may view the names and may begin sending recruiting materials. The process mimics what most families experience in 11th grade when students take the SAT or ACT.

- Colleges never see the amount of Tuition Rewards a member or student has until the Tuition Rewards are pledged prior to 12th grade and then they will only see the Tuition Rewards pledged to that student.

Can Tuition Rewards be used for graduate school?

No. Tuition Rewards can only be used for full-time, undergraduate education, beginning with a student's freshman year.

Do Tuition Rewards go with me into retirement? What happens if I pass away?

Yes, Tuition Rewards go with you into retirement.. If you pass away, your executor can move the Tuition Rewards into the name of a guardian for the students.

What if I have questions about my account?

If you have any difficulty accessing your account or have any questions, you can reach The College Tuition Benefit® by phone, Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern time at (844) 244-4086, or via email to guardiansupport@CollegeTuitionBenefit.com.

**Please note that a member must register, add students, and transfer CTB points to students in advance of them starting the 12th grade for utilization at network schools.*



Important deadlines

There are two very important deadlines that must be met for members to utilize their Tuition Rewards Points.

Adding Students and Pledging Tuition Rewards.

- Students must be registered by the member by August 31 of the year when the student begins 12th grade.
- The last day for pledging earned Tuition Rewards to a student is August 31 of the year the student begins 12th grade.
 - This is also the last day for a student to earn any Student Tuition Rewards from any source.

Submitting Student Tuition Rewards to member schools.

- Using the college and university list available in the member's account, the member must submit a Tuition Rewards statement to any member school(s) a registered student applies to within ten days of the application being submitted.