

Tips for Home Schoolers and the Hathaway Scholarship

Updated Fall 2014

This information has been prepared by Wyoming resident, Suzanne Wilkins, and home school parent of four children, three of whom are high school graduates (2009, 2011, and 2014 graduates). Suzanne's experience with pursuing the Hathaway Scholarship for her own students prompted the writing of this document. The information provided here is meant to help other home school parents pursue and receive Hathaway money on behalf of their students, so that lack of understanding the Hathaway will not be a hindrance to your student receiving appropriate awards. She hopes this information is a help to you and your family. Last updated: September 2014.

The Hathaway Scholarship is a scholarship awarded to Wyoming high school graduates applying to a Wyoming community college or the University of Wyoming. **For home schooled students, the Hathaway is awarded based on the student's ACT score AND on his/her completion of courses within a set of curriculum requirements called the Hathaway Success Curriculum (HSC).** Scholarship amounts vary from \$840 per semester to \$1680 per semester and from 4 to 8 semesters, depending upon the award level received. The graduating class of 2006 was the first class to be eligible for the Hathaway, with the class of 2011 being the first required to meet the full requirements of the HSC. During the 2013 legislative session, the 2011 HSC requirements were amended, establishing additional HSC requirements which will be effective for all high school seniors graduating in 2016 and beyond.

It is important for Home Schooling students and their parents to be aware of the most recent 2013 legislative changes, which will affect Hathaway Scholarship awards for your students graduating in 2016 or beyond. Hathaway Awards for all 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 graduating seniors will be assessed based on the 2011 HSC requirements, but beginning with the graduating class of 2016, HSC requirements will change for all students seeking a Hathaway Award. Students hoping to be awarded the Honors or Performance levels will need to complete all of the 2011 requirements *plus* two additional years of foreign language (additional 2 credits may be *any* foreign language and need not be sequenced, but must be taken in high school), or two years of Fine & Performing Arts or two years of Career/Technical Education. For 2016 and beyond graduates hoping to be awarded the Opportunity or Provisional Opportunity levels of the Hathaway Scholarship, the 2011 HSC requirements apply with the *exception* of the foreign language proficiency requirement. In lieu of this foreign language proficiency requirement, students may choose two *sequenced* years of foreign language or two years of Fine & Performing Arts or two years of Career/Technical Education. To view current HSC requirements as well as 2016 and beyond HSC requirements, please visit the Wyoming Department of Education website at: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/beyond-the-classroom/college-career/scholarships/hathaway/>.

It is essential to familiarize yourself with the Hathaway Scholarship in general and with the specific HSC requirements related to your student's intended graduation year. If you hope to access the Hathaway Scholarship, this information is essential to planning your student's high school educational path and to knowing what coursework is necessary to report on your student's transcript.

The following information has been prepared to bridge the information gap for home school families so that home school students will have access to the highest level of Hathaway Scholarship possible for their already completed high school academics. After familiarizing yourself with the HSC, you may have a few questions. The following information, presented in a question/answer format, addresses some of the concerns that have already come up for home school students seeking access to the Hathaway and may be helpful to future students navigating the Hathaway Success Curriculum maze.

When do I need to concern myself with HSC for my student?

You should begin planning your student's curriculum plan for Hathaway Scholarship eligibility as early as 7th grade because some credits meeting the HSC requirements (some math and foreign language coursework) can be taken as early as 7th grade.

Additionally, because of the potentially changing nature of the HSC requirements, (i.e. due to future legislative changes), it is important to **review the HSC requirements yearly**. More than one parent has diligently planned for her student's high school Hathaway eligibility by printing out a copy of the then current HSC requirements only to find out that the requirements changed prior to that student's graduation, thus causing the student to fall short on HSC requirements.

A useful Hathaway Scholarship Success Curriculum Planning sheet can be found at: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/downloads/college-career-readiness/hsc-plan-for-counselors-updated-april-2013B540FDF74ADD.pdf>. This planning sheet can be used to not only plan your student's HSC path, but also as record of completed HSC requirements.

I see that "CTE" or "Career/Technical Education" coursework is included in the HSC requirements for 2016 graduates and beyond. What constitutes a CTE course?

Coursework such as welding, carpentry, and business would be considered CTE coursework. To get an idea of types of courses that fit in this category, view a listing of CTE courses offered by the various school districts at: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/beyond-the-classroom/college-career/scholarships/hathaway/student-information/9-12/success-curriculum/>.

This HSC requirement leaves room for creatively building a course that will prepare and train your student in an area of Career and Technical Education of your choosing. If you have an idea for a course that seems to fit the CTE category but is not included in the course titles listed in the various school district CTE course listings, contact a WDE consultant (see contact information at the end of this document) for HSC requirement confirmation.

Do I need to prepare a transcript for my student?

Yes. You, as the parent, need to prepare a transcript or a record of what your student has studied, so Hathaway eligibility can be determined for your student. The Hathaway cannot be awarded without a transcript of some sort. Additionally, your student must take the ACT. **The ACT and Success Curriculum are the two main requirements that apply to home schooled students seeking the Hathaway.**

If you need additional information regarding keeping/creating a student transcript, the Home School Legal Defense (HSLDA) website, <http://www.hslda.org/highschool/>, is quite helpful. You do not have to be a member of HSLDA to access the plethora of helpful information on this site regarding educating your child through high school.

How should I present course titles on my student's transcript?

In order for the post-secondary institution Hathaway coordinator to easily review your student's transcript for Hathaway eligibility, it is best to use course titles that not only accurately reflect the course content covered, but also use commonly accepted nomenclature. For example, for a course covering sewing, child care, cooking, etc., do not use a course title of "Domestic Engineering." A better choice for a course title would be "Home Economics." Additionally, do not use the curriculum publisher in the course title; rather use a course title which describes content of the course. For example, do not use "Sonlight History 300"; rather use "21st Century World History." The latter is descriptive of the course content, fits in with commonly used course titles and matches one of the HSC course titles. Completed courses such as "Old Testament History" are a great addition to the transcript record but may have no use in completing a HSC requirement. Do not "fit" or rename a course like this to another course name like "Ancient World History" unless indeed the course content covered Ancient World History. A listing of commonly accepted course titles used by the various school districts may be viewed at:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/beyond-the-classroom/college-career/scholarships/hathaway/student-information/9-12/success-curriculum/>.

I see that there are GPA, GED, and HSEC scores, as well as ACT score requirements listed for the various merit award levels. My home schooled student took the GED or HSEC– can this be used for Hathaway eligibility?

*(To better understand this question, please note: The GED, or General Education Development certificate, and the HSEC, or High School Equivalency Certificate, are both certificates that can be used to determine Hathaway eligibility **for students who did not complete a high school education** either through the public school system or through home schooling.)*

No. If your student was home schooled through the 12th grade and graduated as a home schooled student, GED or HSEC scores are not useful for Hathaway eligibility. Your home school graduate must provide an ACT score (or a WorkKeys score if applying for the Provisional Opportunity award level, see: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/beyond-the-classroom/college-career/workkeys/>.)

If your student was not home schooled through 12th grade (i.e. didn't complete the home school program or "dropped out" from home schooling), then the student will be treated like a GED/HSEC student and can access the Hathaway in the same way that GED/HSEC public schooled students do. In this case, for Hathaway eligibility, your student will need to provide a GED or HSEC score along with an ACT score, but a transcript will not be needed. The GED and HSEC requirements can be viewed at:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/beyond-the-classroom/college-career/scholarships/hathaway/ged/>

After reading the HSC requirements, I realize that my 12th grade student does not have enough time remaining in school to complete or meet the HSC requirements. This is disappointing, because my student does meet the ACT requirements and falls short on curriculum only slightly. Is there anything I can do to still access Hathaway money at the level I had hoped?

Perhaps. If your student is currently in 12th grade it may be possible to pursue a course waiver for any courses your student falls short of meeting in the HSC. You may be able to pursue a course waiver based “good cause.” Hathaway statute 21-16-1307(f)(i) states the department will “establish exceptions as necessary due to good cause...” You will need to contact and/or meet with a WDE Hathaway Consultant (see “Contact Information” at the end of this document) if you would like to pursue a course waiver.

Be sure to read the information below about counting college level credit and junior high school course credit. It may be possible for you to count high school level work completed in 7th and 8th grade and/or record any college level credit received for more Hathaway credit than you may expect.

I only send notification to my local school district for my students through age 16 or through completion of 10th grade as the Wyoming Compulsory Attendance Law requires. Is my student still eligible for the Hathaway?

Yes. Please note that proof of notification for your student through 10th grade or through age 16 may be requested by each institution.

What qualifies for a “credit” within the Hathaway Success Curriculum?

Hathaway course credit can be different from what we are used to counting for credit. For example, math and foreign language credits completed at a high school level but prior to 9th grade can be counted as high school credit for the HSC. Only one high school level foreign language credit, and as many as three high school level math credits can be completed prior to 9th grade.

A rule of thumb that can be used to determine high school level work is your own judgment and your confidence that this course does not need to be repeated at a more mature age in order to adequately prepare your student for college or further study. For instance, your student takes Algebra I and Latin 1 in 7th grade. You feel like your student completely understood Algebra I and was ready to move on to Algebra II, but in Latin, the student only partially completed his work as he was taking this with 2 older students/siblings at the time and did not complete the level of work you required of the older students. You feel like your 7th grade student would best take Latin I again at an older age in order to adequately comprehend the subject material and to be ready to move on to Latin II. Under these circumstances, you would record Algebra I on your high school transcript, but not Latin 1 (until your student takes the course at what you consider a high school level.)

How are “college level courses” considered for Hathaway credit?

Your student may receive more Hathaway credit for college level courses than you realize. Typically, a year’s worth of high school Spanish I is worth 1 credit of Spanish I. However, if

your student goes to a community college and takes two semesters of progressive, level 1000 or above, college level Spanish I, this can be recorded as 2 credits of Spanish I for Hathaway purposes. Thus, every semester of college level Spanish can be recorded as one credit of high school level Spanish (for Hathaway). Completing 2 semesters of college level Spanish would fulfill the foreign language requirement with 2 courses of progressive foreign language. If a student tests out of a college level course and receives college credit for it (perhaps using CLEP testing) that student may also be eligible to receive more credit than you may be accustomed to giving, but this would be entirely acceptable for Hathaway purposes. Please check with a WDE Hathaway Consultant (see “WDE Hathaway Consultant Contact Information” at the end of this document) to confirm your understanding of this and for your particular situation. This information is presented here so that you may understand that college credit earned may assist your student in meeting Hathaway requirements.

Because a high school transcript typically only indicates courses taken in grades 9-12, where would eligible courses completed prior to 9th grade be indicated on a transcript?

Coursework completed prior to high school, but completed at high school level, may be included in the 9th grade list of coursework completed. Mark these courses with an asterisk (*) as you record those under the 9th grade list of courses, then somewhere at the bottom of your transcript indicate, “**This high school level course was completed prior to 9th grade.*” ANY coursework that you feel your student has completed at high school level may be recorded on your transcript in this manner. Again, note that only math courses (up to three) and one foreign language course may be taken prior to 9th grade and recorded on the transcript to meet Hathaway requirements. You, as the home school parent, have the privilege of using your own judgment and integrity in planning, completing and appropriately recording your student’s coursework. Please consider that this transcript is providing necessary information that is specific to the requirements of meeting the Hathaway Scholarship in Wyoming. If your student is applying at Universities outside of the state of Wyoming as well as in-state community colleges or UW, you will want to prepare a transcript that is appropriate to both in-state and out-of-state institutions. You should not prepare 2 different official transcripts.

Why is the date of graduation important?

Whether your student took the GED, HSEC or the ACT, or whether you had an official graduation ceremony, with or without issuing a diploma – regardless of your method of graduating your student - you need to choose a graduation date for your student, and that graduation date should be listed on your student’s transcript. The graduation date is important because colleges use that date to fully admit the student as degree seeking, which is required for Hathaway eligibility and for other financial aid determinations. Hathaway rules generally state that students must apply for the award and enroll in a community college or UW within 24 months of high school graduation, but this rule does not apply to home schoolers. Home school students have until their 21st birthday to apply regardless of when they completed their home school program. It is important to be aware of this requirement.

It is also important to note that only coursework completed prior to the graduation date counts for HSC requirements. For example: Your student graduates in May, 2014 but takes a course during the summer of 2014 in order to meet the foreign language requirement for the Honors Hathaway. Although the course is completed prior to attending college in the fall of 2014, that course will not be counted for Hathaway eligibility because the course was completed after the graduation date listed on the student's transcript. This problem can be solved simply by listing a graduation date of August, 2014 (after the summer foreign language class was completed and prior to beginning college.)

How long can I use the Hathaway scholarship?

There are several requirements for maintaining the Hathaway – your student should look those up on his/her college's website or talk with the Hathaway Coordinator at his/her college. One interesting fact about the Hathaway, is that it can be used for up to 8 semesters but over a period of 6 years. Any gaps in attendance in Hathaway use automatically suspends Hathaway use but does not stop the 6-year clock. So, your student's "Hathaway Clock" may begin when he/she enters college in the fall of 2014 at age 19 and will continue running for 6 years from that date – until 2020 and age 25. There are specific allowances for gaps in the consecutive use of the Hathaway (like military service and religious service) and specific ways to reinstate use of the Hathaway after a period of not using it (like paying for a semester on your own at a Wyoming institution before reinstatement of your remaining semesters of the Hathaway). This option allows for the use of the Hathaway for a Master's degree or Law School or for any University of Wyoming post-bachelor's education. Talk with the University of Wyoming about using this option in your student's education to fully understand your options here.

Is it possible to determine my student's Hathaway eligibility prior to his/her graduation and completion of all of his/her studies?

Yes, and it would be best if you did this. Oftentimes, our student has no idea of post-graduation study plans or schools he/she hopes to attend. If there is a possibility that your student may attend a Wyoming community college or UW, then you can work with the Hathaway Coordinator at these institutions, asking them to look over completed courses and future courses to determine Hathaway eligibility. Contact information for College Hathaway Coordinators may be found at:

<http://edu.wyoming.gov/download/hathaway/Hathaway-Scholarship-Coordinator-June-2014.pdf>.

You may also contact the WDE Hathaway Consultant (see "Contact Information" at the end of this document) to make the same determinations and plans about your curriculum. Sometimes, it may just a matter of "presentation" of the course title on the transcript or a little explaining about what work was actually completed in order for your student to receive credit for courses already completed.

My student met all of the requirements for the Honors Level Hathaway, but he didn't receive that award level. Can I appeal this decision or are we stuck with the decision of the college?

You can appeal this decision and you should, if you know your student has met all of the requirements for the honors level. Colleges make the initial decision for Hathaway eligibility, so if you are not satisfied with the determination made by the college, you can appeal to the WDE through that college. Kindly call and ask to meet with/discuss your issues with the college Hathaway Coordinator and, if further assistance is necessary, you should also contact the WDE Hathaway Consultant. Be prepared to provide additional information about courses listed on the transcript. Again, it may just be a matter of “presentation” of the course title on the transcript or a little explaining about what work was actually completed in order for your student to receive credit for courses for the Honors level.

Contact Information:

Each Hathaway approved post-secondary institution has a Hathaway Scholarship Coordinator. Their insight is typically more in depth as they are able to look directly at student information. They also make award decisions after all of the student’s information is received. Their contact information can be found at www.hathawayscholarships.org or <http://edu.wyoming.gov/download/hathaway/Hathaway-Scholarship-Coordinators-June-2014.pdf>.

At various times throughout this document, reference has been made to the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) Hathaway Consultants as additional information resources or contact points for help with issues you might be encountering/expecting with the Hathaway. Contact information for the current Consultants is listed on the WDE website, www.hathawayscholarships.org
