

Quick Reference Guide for Federal Ability to Benefit students *outside of New York State*

The **Ability to Benefit (ATB)** program allows students without a high school diploma or equivalent to receive Title IV student financial aid for postsecondary education.

Note: this document is provided as a resource; it is the ultimate responsibility of the family to ensure that all federal and state regulations relating to financial aid eligibility are met.

1. Are you eligible for and do you plan to make use of any federal aid (PELL, work-study, loans, etc.)?
 Yes → Continue to Question 2.
 No → You need only provide a final homeschool transcript (see below for details).

2. Have you taken an approved ability-to-benefit test, state equivalency exam, or GED received a passing score?
 Yes → Provide documentation to the admission office. This will meet the federal ATB requirements (you must also submit a final official transcript – see below).
 No → Continue to Question 3.

3. Have you earned at least 6 college credits from an accredited college or university in the approved categories?
 Yes → Provide documentation to the admission office. This will meet the federal ATB requirements (you must also submit a final official transcript – see below).
 No → Continue to Question 4.

4. Have you completed or satisfied an alternative process approved by your state of residence?
 Yes → Provide documentation to the admission office that includes the state criteria. If approved, this meets state ATB requirement (you must also submit a final official transcript – see below).
 No → Contact your admission counselor.

Final High School Transcript Requirement

All incoming students who have been homeschooled must submit a final, official high school transcript that shows the program of study along with date of program completion (at least month & year). This should be signed by the individual(s) who provided the majority of the instruction.

“Ability to Benefit” Tests that Meet the Federal ATB Requirement¹

The following tests have been approved by the Department of Education for ATB purposes:

- Wonderlic Basic Skills Test (WBST); online and paper/pencil versions.
- Spanish Wonderlic Basic Skills Test (Spanish WBST); online and paper/pencil versions.
- Accuplacer (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic)
- Combined English Language Skills Assessment (CELSA) approved providing the applicant also takes a math component from one of the other approved tests.)

¹ Source: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/11/09/2020-24795/list-of-approved-ability-to-benefit-atb-tests-and-passing-scores>