



Western Dakota Technical College Frequently Asked Questions

■ Industry Partners



Why is Build Dakota supporting full-ride scholarships?

Several workforce categories in South Dakota have been identified as high need. This means there is a shortage of skilled employees available to fill the workforce. The Build Dakota Scholarship was created to be a catalyst to solve this problem. By providing full-ride scholarships and creating industry partnerships Build Dakota can get more skilled employees into the South Dakota workforce. Build Dakota recipients receive a free education, businesses gain employees, and South Dakota grows. We all win!

What is an industry partnership?

Because the Build Dakota Scholarship was created in response to a workforce need in South Dakota, businesses are working closely with the scholarship program at Western Dakota Tech through our Have Your Pick, Industry Partnership program. This allows Western Dakota Tech to offer as many scholarships as possible to train skilled professionals for high demand careers. Employers, sponsor students, pay for a portion of the scholarship expenses, and the Build Dakota Scholarship pays the balance. Sponsored students agree to work for their Sponsor following graduation. This extends the employers' training dollars, and they gain skilled employees.

When does the application open and close?

The application will be open from January 1 through March 31 every year. Industry Partners will have the ability to view applications throughout the application cycle. Industry Partners can choose who they would like to interview and ultimately sponsor at any time throughout the application cycle.

How do I view applications?

Once an Industry Partner completes an Intent to Sponsor form, they will receive instructions, and login information to the Western Dakota Technical College (WDTC) scholarship platform. Here, partners can view applications for their specific industry throughout the application cycle.

Student Requirements and Commitment

What is the student's commitment after accepting the scholarship?

Awarded recipients agree to:

- Enroll full-time in one of the 18 Build Dakota Scholarship-eligible programs
- Maintain Western Dakota Tech's expectations for Build Dakota recipients
- Maintain a 2.5 cumulative grade point average
- Complete the program on time
- Diploma programs typically require 1 to 1.5 years
- AAS degree programs require two years
- Live and work full-time in South Dakota, in their field of study, for a minimum of three years following graduation
- Industry partner awardees must also meet any additional commitments to their industry sponsor

How are Build Dakota recipients selected?

Applications are reviewed by WDTC's Scholarship Committee. Applications are "blind" meaning committee members don't see any identifying information about the applicant. Sponsored students will be awarded if they meet the scholarship qualifications.

Considerations are given, but not limited to:

- Knowledge/interest in workforce area
- Industry partnerships
- Work experience
- High school CTE coursework
- Awards and certifications
- GPA
- Program availability

What expenses does the Build Dakota Scholarship cover?

The Build Dakota Scholarship covers any expenses directly related to program requirements. This includes tuition, fees, books, laptops, uniforms, equipment, and tools. It does not include office supplies e.g., paper, notebooks, pencils, etc. If a recipient wishes to purchase additional or optional equipment, books, or tools, it is at his or her own expense. The Build Dakota Scholarship does not pay for any housing or living expenses.

Under what circumstances would the scholarship convert to a loan?

If a recipient does not complete the terms of his or her Build Dakota student agreement or their industry sponsorship agreement, it will be converted to a loan and the funds allocated for that recipient will be used to provide a scholarship to a new recipient.

Cost of Sponsorship

Sponsorships can vary by program and degree. Industry partners are invoiced each semester, making it more affordable to build your direct connection with highly skilled employees.

Option 1 \$8,000

2 Year Programs

Automotive Technology
Computer Aided Design
Computer Science: Information Technology
Specialist
Diesel Technology
Drafting & Machining Technology
Electrical Trades
Environmental Engineering Technology
HVAC/Refrigeration Technology
Industrial Maintenance
Medical Laboratory Technology
Paramedic
Surgical Technology
Welding & Fabrication

Option 2 \$6,000

LPN/RN Diploma Programs

Registered Nursing
Licensed Practical Nursing

Option 3 \$4,000

1 Year Diploma Programs

Construction Technology
Dental Assisting
Plumbing Technology
Precision Machining Technology
Welding and Fabrication

For additional information visit the WDCT website at www.wdt.edu or contact the Assistant Director of Scholarships:

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