



Frequently Asked Questions

What are Tuition Rewards?

Think of Tuition Rewards Points as "frequent flyer miles" for college tuition. However, instead of earning Tuition Rewards by flying, you earn them by saving and investing.

How do I earn Tuition Rewards Points?

By filling out your sponsor enrollment form you will be pre-registered in the SAGE Scholars Tuition Rewards program. Imeriti, Inc. will be responsible for enrolling sponsor into the program. The Sponsor will receive an email from Sage Scholars that will provide instructions on how to activate their Tuition Rewards account and receive an immediate 500 Tuition Rewards points. Once the life insurance policy is placed in force, and sponsor has activated their Tuition Rewards account online, the sponsor will be awarded an additional 5,000 Tuition Rewards points. The sponsor will continue to earn 2,000 points each year the Life Insurance policy remains in force.

How do I use Tuition Rewards Points?

You can use Tuition Rewards Points when and if the students you sponsor in the Tuition Rewards Program attend one of the [participating colleges or universities](#). A Tuition Rewards Statement must be submitted electronically to a member school at the time of a student's application to the school. Tuition Rewards Points represent a guaranteed minimum scholarship that a student will receive from a member school.

Why would colleges accept less than full tuition?

Historically, colleges began offering financial aid on a need-only basis. But lately, as college costs have soared, financially-squeezed families have been asked to contribute more and more, tapping hard-earned assets and taking educational loans. Many schools now use financial aid as a method to attract quality students from middle and higher-income families. This aid is being offered as tuition reductions -- that is, aid **not** based strictly on financial need. Knowing this, SAGE has negotiated with member colleges to **automatically** present a financial reward to families who save for college.

What deadlines do I need to be aware of?

For most account holders, there are three important deadlines; (1) adding students to SAGE, (2) allocating rewards to students, and (3) submitting Tuition Rewards statements to member schools. Each of these deadlines are explained in detail [on this page](#).



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Why are so many colleges signing up?

That's easy -- they want to attract more students, or better students, or both. And, they're eager to attract qualified students who might not be familiar with their college. Colleges know that the direct costs (professors, teaching materials, etc.) for additional students are less than the full tuition for those students. So, by guaranteeing you a discount off of tuition based on the dollars you've invested - as long as colleges cover their direct costs - they come out ahead. Our colleges understand that they need to remain affordable, and they're eager to reward families who are truly saving for college.

Who can I sponsor in the Tuition Rewards Program to use the Points I earn?

You can sign up children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and other family members (including godchildren) to use your Tuition Rewards Points.

Is there a cutoff date for sponsoring a student?

Yes. All students must be sponsored in the Tuition Rewards Program prior to August 31st of the year that the student begins 11th grade. The reason for the cutoff is that participating schools are given at least two years to recruit each student in the program.

Do I have to allocate Tuition Rewards to my students equally?

No, it is up to you to decide how you want to give your Tuition Rewards to the students you sponsor. You simply must allocate Tuition Rewards to a student by August 31st of the year that a student begins 12th grade.

When one of my students applies to a participating school, how and when do I notify the school about the Tuition Rewards?

You must submit a statement of your student's Tuition Rewards at the time of the student's application to any participating school. You can do this by logging into your account on TuitionRewards.com and going to your "Account Statement" page.

What if I don't use the Tuition Rewards? Can I give my Tuition Rewards Points to my church / school / employer / another family?

If you don't use your Tuition Rewards Points then you've still lost nothing - Tuition Rewards is a free program for families. Tuition Rewards can only be used by the children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews whom you sponsor in the program. If an older beneficiary doesn't use his or her Tuition Reward points, you may transfer the non-bonus points to a younger enrolled student. You cannot give unused Tuition Rewards to another parent or organization.

This sounds like a good program. What does it cost to participate?

The Tuition Rewards Program is free for families.



Is participation in SAGE a guarantee of admission into participating colleges?

No, each school's normal admissions standards still apply.

Can my child still apply for financial aid?

Yes. Absolutely! The purpose of the Tuition Rewards Program is to insure that the student(s) you've sponsored will receive a scholarship at least equal to the size of his/her Tuition Rewards.

What if my student receives a merit scholarship? How will this affect the Tuition Rewards Scholarship?

Tuition Rewards represent the minimum scholarship, spread evenly over four years, a student will receive if and when he/she attends a participating school. If your student receives another scholarship from a SAGE member school, then the school can choose to "blend" (make one and the same) or "stack" (add on top) the Tuition Rewards with the other scholarship.

What's the maximum amount of Tuition Rewards that a student can use?

The amount of Tuition Rewards that a school accepts varies from school to school. However, the most Tuition Rewards that a student can use would be up to one full year's tuition. To see the amount of Tuition Rewards that each school will accept, you must first sign in to your account.

Are Tuition Rewards applicable to room, board, books, etc?

No, just tuition.

Can Tuition Rewards be used for Graduate School?

No, Tuition Rewards can only be used for fulltime, undergraduate education beginning with the freshman year at a participating private college or university.

Must the identified assets (hard dollars) actually be used for my child's college expenses?

No. Funds used to earn Tuition Rewards do not need to be used to pay for college. It's always your choice how you finance your child's (or grandchild's) education.

Can I ever "cash out" my Tuition Rewards account?

No. Tuition Rewards are Points and are never awarded in cash.

What happens if I sell my eligible investments?

You stop accumulating Tuition Rewards, but the points that you've already earned are yours to use, unless the financial provider that you earned your Tuition Rewards with stipulates otherwise.

I don't see any colleges my child would apply to. He/she is in 9th grade. Why should I participate?

Three reasons: First, by the time your child is ready to apply to college, additional schools of interest are likely to join. Second, it doesn't cost you anything to participate in the program, regardless of where your child goes to college. Third, you may have another child – or niece, nephew or grandchild -- who could benefit in the future.

What happens if my child does not attend one of the member universities?

If a student does not use his/her Tuition Reduction Reward -- for example, if the student selects a non-participating college -- the reward can be rolled back into the sponsors Tuition Rewards account or transferred to a different eligible student. Students have three years from the date of high school graduation to begin use of the Tuition Rewards. All Tuition Rewards assigned to a student will expire three years past that student's listed date of high school graduation. If a student enrolls in a college that is not participating in this program -- but subsequently decides to participate -- the college is under no obligation to honor his or her Tuition Rewards. If any college should decide to discontinue participation in this program, it has agreed to honor rewards accumulated for any student prior to the last day of the college's participation. The maximum discount from Tuition Rewards that a student can receive is 25% of the cost of tuition at a SAGE member college or university. The Tuition Reward must be applied evenly over the years of undergraduate education (four years). If the student completes undergraduate education in other than four years, it is up to the participating college to determine how the tuition reduction will be applied per year.

If I join SAGE now, while my child is in 9th grade, and the college he/she wants to attend doesn't join SAGE until my child is in 12th grade, will I still receive my total reward, from 9th grade on?

Yes! That's the beauty of SAGE -- as more colleges join, Tuition Reward Points are applied to these schools, too -- and, you have more choices!

Is the tuition reduction taxable?

No. That's because with a scholarship or other form of reduced tuition, you're not receiving additional income. You're paying less for college.

This sounds too good to be true. What's the catch?

The catch is that SAGE member schools are allowed to recruit the students whom you sponsor once the students reach 9th grade. So, your children are likely to receive some mail or email from the participating colleges and universities after they begin high school.