



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

Policy Updates Related to Coronavirus (COVID-19): DCTAG Grant Extended Deadline

Background

As a part of the District's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), OSSE is modifying, updating and re-circulating certain policies. In all decisions, OSSE will consider relevant federal requirements and fairness to new and returning applicants for the DC Tuition Assistance Grant (DCTAG).

Scope

This document contains details and guidelines for the submission of applications to the DCTAG program by new and returning students.

Effective Date

This policy will take effect from May 29, 2020 and will remain in effect until July 23, 2020.

DCTAG 2020-2021 Extended Deadline

OSSE is extending the deadline for applicants to complete the [DCTAG application](#) and submit all supporting documentation from Tuesday June 30, 2020 to Thursday July 23, 2020.

The DCTAG application opened Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020 for the 2020-21 academic year, which includes the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Applicants must submit certain supporting documentation to prove domicile in the District of Columbia. A prior year Certified D-40 Tax Return from the DC Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) is a commonly used document to demonstrate domicile.

In response to coronavirus (COVID-19), the Mayor and OTR extended the District of Columbia's tax filing deadline from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020. OSSE's extension of the DCTAG application deadline to July 23, 2020 will allow families taking advantage of the extended tax filing deadline to use the Certified D-40 Tax Return to demonstrate domicile for DCTAG.

We suggest students and families submit taxes early as a certified tax return is one of the supporting documents some students need when applying to DCTAG. Submitting early will provide ample time for the tax office to process taxes and make the Certified D-40 Tax Return available to applicants. If families have any questions about the DCTAG application, please contact a DCTAG counselor. Contact information for DCTAG counselors is listed below:

Counselor Assignment by Applicant Last Name

Applicant Last Name	Counselor Name	Phone	Email
A,B,D,E	Lincois Anderson	(202) 719-6646	Lincois.Anderson@dc.gov
C	Melanie Fleming	(202) 741-6406	Melanie.Fleming@dc.gov
F,G,H,I,M,N	Sirwalter Hemphill	(202) 654-6106	Sirwalter.Hemphill@dc.gov
J,K,L,O,P,Q,R	Tiffany Williams	(202) 741-6403	Tiffany.Williams@dc.gov
S,T,U,V,W,X,Y,Z	JaiSun McCormick	(202) 741-6411	Jaisun.Mccormick@dc.gov

Questions and Answers

Q. What happens if my tax returns are not available by the July 23, 2020 deadline?

A: If your family files DC taxes, a Certified D-40 tax return is one of the required supporting documents for the DC OneApp and the application is incomplete without it. The new DCTAG deadline provides ample time for residents to file taxes, have the taxes processed, and obtain a Certified D-40 tax return from OTR.

OTR and DCTAG are offices within separate DC government agencies working remotely to assist students, parents and guardians. If you have questions regarding filing your DC taxes and/or accessing a Certified D-40 tax return for the DC OneApp, contact OTR at <https://otr.cfo.dc.gov/page/coronavirus>. For DCTAG updates and to contact DCTAG counselors, please visit the DCTAG website at <https://osse.dc.gov/dctag>.

Q. How can I obtain a certified copy of my D-40 taxes while OTR and OSSE are working remotely?

A. Your taxes have to be filed and completely processed in order for a certified D-40 tax return to be available electronically. When completing the DCTAG application, you have the option to ask for the OTR interface to take place. With your permission, using this interface, OSSE can obtain your certified tax return information electronically. You will have to submit information from your tax return in order for the interface to work. See the DCTAG website for more information.

Q: Is the deadline still July 23rd if I am not required to file taxes?

A: Yes, the deadline is July 23rd regardless of whether or not you file DC taxes. If you are not required to file DC taxes, you must submit a different **domicile document** for a review. Please see the following web link for a list of other possible documents:

<https://osse.dc.gov/publication/dc-oneapp-supporting-documents-checklist>

Q. What happens if the school I'm attending isn't open for all or part of the 2020 – 2021 school year?

A. If your school has not made an announcement regarding its 2020-2021 school year, you should assume it will be open and apply for DCTAG by the July 23rd deadline.

If your school is only offering classes for spring 2021, you should apply for DCTAG by the July 23rd deadline as the current application is for the entire 2020-2021 school year.

If your college is not open for the 2020-2021 school year and you decide to attend another institution, you can apply for and receive an award under DCTAG for attendance at that institution, if the institution is eligible under DCTAG rules.

Q. What happens if the school I plan to attend is only offering online courses?

A. You may take online courses at DCTAG eligible schools. Many students take both online and in-person classes during the school year.

Q. If I'm not sure I will be attending school in the fall of 2020, should I still complete the DCTAG application?

A. Yes, you should still complete the DCTAG application. OSSE is taking regulatory steps to further extend the application deadline beyond July 23rd to better accommodate this scenario. However, any further extension is not guaranteed. Consequently, students anticipating attending college at any point during the 2020-2021 academic year should submit an application and supporting documents by the July 23rd deadline if at all possible.

Questions?

If you have questions relating to this guidance, please contact Kenneth McGhee at Kenneth.McGhee@dc.gov or Kenneth Howard at Kenneth.Howard@dc.gov.

For resources and additional information on the District of Columbia Government's response to coronavirus (COVID-19), please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.