



THE EMPIRE STATE PROMISE

Program Policies and Eligibility Criteria for Students and Families

I. Eligibility Requirements

- **INCOME:** Available to New York State residents with an annual adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$200,000 or less.
 - Eligibility is based on parents' AGI. For students considered independent for federal student aid purposes, eligibility will be based on the student's AGI.
- **RESIDENCY:** Must be a resident of New York State. Residency is based on the student's permanent address as reported on the FAFSA and other institutional documentation, if applicable.
- **NEWLY ENROLLED STUDENTS:** The Empire State Promise is open to new first-year and transfer students enrolling at Marist in Spring 2027 or for the 2027-28 academic year. It does not apply to students already enrolled at Marist.
- **FAFSA:** Students must submit a FAFSA each year by the following deadlines:
 - **First-year students** – by November 15 for early decision I and early action applicants and by February 15 for early decision II and regular decision applicants.
 - Students returning to Marist for their sophomore through senior year who received the Empire State Promise their first year will be required to submit a FAFSA renewal each year by March 15 prior to the next academic year.
 - **Fall transfer students** – submit FAFSA by July 15.
 - **Spring transfer students** – submit FAFSA by January 1.
- **ENROLLED CREDITS:** Student must be, and remain, enrolled full-time at Marist (minimum of 12 credits per semester). If a student drops below 12 credits, they are no longer a full-time student and do not qualify for the Empire State Promise. Students can reapply once re-attaining full-time status and meeting all program eligibility.
- **ACADEMIC STANDING:** Student must maintain satisfactory academic progress:
 - A minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA; and
 - Successful completion of at least 50% of attempted credits through 60 cumulative attempted credits and 67% thereafter.
 - If a student has not maintained satisfactory academic progress, their eligibility for the Empire State Promise will be re-evaluated at the end of the semester.
- **RESIDENTIAL/COMMUTERS/TRANSFERS:** The Empire State Promise is available to residential students living on campus, commuters, and transfer students.
 - **Residential students** – the cost of tuition, housing, and dining is capped at \$32,000 for the 2027-28 academic year. Residential students awarded the Empire State Promise must live in campus housing all four years to maintain eligibility.
 - **Commuter students** – the cost of tuition is capped at \$20,000 for the 2027-28 academic year.
 - **Transfer students** – the cost of tuition, housing, and dining will be prorated for transfer students entering in the spring semester. Note that all residential students awarded the Empire State Promise must live in campus housing for the duration of their time at Marist to maintain eligibility.

II. Financial Aid & Income Determination

- Eligibility will be based on the adjusted gross income (AGI) reported through Federal Tax Information (FTI) on the FAFSA. Students entering for the 2027-28 academic year, eligibility will generally be based on 2025 tax returns.
- If FTI is unavailable, or the family did not consent to the transfer of FTI, additional documentation will be required, including:
 - The federal tax return for the applicable FAFSA tax year; or
 - For non-filers, a Wage & Income Transcript for all FAFSA contributors and Verification of Non-Filing Letter from the IRS.
- Students selected for federal verification must complete the verification process before their financial aid package can be finalized under the Empire State Promise. This is particularly important for families experiencing a recent divorce or separation, where income may need to be manually evaluated.
- If the FAFSA does not accurately reflect the family's current financial circumstances (i.e., job loss, divorce, or other significant changes), the family may request a review using the most recent tax information.
- After qualifying for the Empire State Promise for the student's first year at Marist, the parents' AGI will be confirmed each year as part of the annual eligibility renewal.
- The pricing calculated for the Empire State Promise is a net cost after application of applicable federal, New York, and institutional aid. The following scholarships, grants, and awards are examples of what will be included when calculating the net cost; a complete list of applicable awards can be discussed with your admission counselor upon review of your application.

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| • Presidential Scholarship | • Cristo Rey Network Scholarship |
| • Founders Scholarship | • Campus Visit Grant |
| • Red Fox Awards | • Federal Pell & SEOG Grants |
| • Marist Brothers Scholarship | • NY State TAP Award |
| • Endowed scholarships | • Specialty NY State Scholarships |
| • United World College Scholarship | • Greystone Technology Award |
| • Long Reach Society Scholarship | • HEOP/Martin Luther King, Jr. Award |

- Students *may not* apply the above scholarships, grants, and awards to further reduce their cost below the Empire State Promise cap. They will be credited to a student prior to any further funds awarded to result in a net cost consistent with the cap offered under the Empire State Promise. Any changes to a student's federal or state aid will result in a corresponding adjustment to the amount of the Empire State Promise award to maintain the net cost of \$32,000 for tuition, housing, and dining.
- Private/outside scholarships can be stacked on top of the Empire State Promise up to the student's cost of attendance, which includes both billable and non-billable (transportation, books, personal, etc.) charges, and are subject to federal regulations.
- Students receiving a Tuition Exchange Award are not eligible for the Empire State Promise, unless they waive the Tuition Exchange Award.

III. How The Empire State Promise is Awarded After the First Award

- The Empire State Promise caps the cost of a qualifying student's tuition, housing, and dining at \$32,000 for the 2027-28 academic year (their first year of enrollment). Students are responsible for any future increases in tuition, housing, or dining costs that may occur during subsequent years,

and that cost will be added to the \$32,000 owed. Historically, those annual increases have averaged approximately 3% to 5%.

IV. Endowed Scholarships

- Endowed scholarships will be applied (in addition to other forms of aid referenced above) toward the Empire State Promise as institutional gift aid. The Empire Award will then cover any remaining amount needed to bring the student's net billable cost to \$32,000.

V. Costs Included and Excluded When Calculating the Empire State Promise

- **Costs included** in the \$32,000 cap for the 2027-28 academic year:
 - Standard full-time undergraduate tuition (12 – 16 credits).
 - Standard first-year or transfer housing.
 - The required meal plan for all first-year students.
- **Potential costs not covered** by the Empire State Promise that students and families may incur include, but may not be limited to:
 - Any credits taken beyond 16 per semester.
 - Various institutional fees outside tuition, housing, and dining.
 - Learning Support Program.
 - Costs associated with specific classes and/or majors (e.g., labs, equipment, etc.).
 - Opting for higher-tier dining plans.
 - *Note: the cost of dining plans often decreases after a student's first year because upper-class housing includes kitchens.*
 - Increased housing rates for upper-class housing options.

VI. Special Academic Programs & Populations NOT Eligible for the Empire State Promise

The following are not eligible for the Empire State Promise:

- International students
- Part-time students
- Graduate programs
- Undergraduate programs not charged the University's standard full-time undergraduate tuition rate (e.g., paralegal and others)
- Pre-college programs
- Division I athletes
- 4-year Bachelor's Degree programs offered in Florence, Italy
- First-Year Abroad program in Dublin and Florence
 - *Note: participants can apply for consideration beginning their sophomore year if they're returning to the Poughkeepsie campus.*

NOTE: The Empire State Promise is subject to important terms, conditions, limitations and eligibility criteria as detailed in this document. Prospective students and their families should review these terms and conditions carefully. If you have questions regarding your initial and continuing eligibility for the Empire State Promise, calculation of Empire State Promise aid, anticipated additional costs, or other aspects of this program, you are encouraged to contact the Office of Admissions.