

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

To become a Scholar, students should meet the following criteria:

- **Essex County, NJ Residence:** Have a primary residence in Essex County, New Jersey. Priority will be given to students in the City of Newark, Irvington, Orange Township, and East Orange school districts, although students across all of Essex County will be considered.
- **Financial Need:** Meet the income requirements outlined below. Please refer to the income guidelines below to see if your family meets the criteria. Students will be required to provide proof of income.
- **11th Grade in High School:** Be a 2014-15 11th grader and attend a public high school (including comprehensive, magnet, vocational or charter) in Essex County.
- **College Aspiration:** Be driven to attend and graduate from college.
- **Grit:** Be able to demonstrate perseverance in the face of challenges and drive to maximize available opportunities.
- **Leadership:** Be engaged in volunteer, community or school-based extracurricular activities and/or be involved with significant family responsibilities.
- **Academic Commitment:** A target cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.75 or better on a 4.0 scale is recommended, or students should be able to clearly demonstrate an upward academic trajectory. If you feel that your GPA does not reflect your abilities, we invite you to submit an application and tell us your story.
- **US Citizenship:** Be a U.S citizen or permanent resident. Students will be required to provide proof of citizenship or permanent residency.
- **Three-Week Commitment:** Be able to participate fully in the three-week Summer Academy between July 5, 2015 and August 15, 2015.

Family Income Eligibility Guidelines

Prospective students must live in a household whose annual gross income does not exceed the income guidelines outlined in the chart below. Students with household incomes above the cap may request an individual review of their application by contacting Apply@coopermanscholars.org.

Number of People in Household	Gross Yearly Income	Gross Monthly Income	Gross Hourly Income
1	\$40,845	\$3,404	\$19.64
2	\$55,055	\$4,588	\$26.47
3	\$69,265	\$5,772	\$33.30
4	\$83,475	\$6,956	\$40.13

For each additional member of the family, please add \$14,210 to the Gross Yearly Income.

Source: US Department of Health and Human Services – 2014 Federal Poverty Guideline (x 350%)