



District of Columbia - DC College Savings Plan

Data as of: 04/25/24

The DC College Savings Plan is managed by Ascensus College Savings. Ascensus succeeded Calvert Investments as program manager in March 2017. The plan features a menu of age-based and static portfolio options utilizing investments from BlackRock, Vanguard, Loomis Sayles, JP Morgan, Dimensional Fund Advisors (DFA), Schwab, and Ameritas Life. The program was formerly sold nationally through financial advisors and on a load-waived basis to District of Columbia residents. The plan is now sold nationally on a direct-sold basis only.

5-Cap Rating

Resident:  Savingforcollege.com's 5-Cap Ratings provides an evaluation and comparison of 529 plans, utilizing a formula that examines dozens of factors grouped into the following categories. (Scale 0 to 5; 5 is highest)

Non-Resident: 

Performance	Costs	Features	Reliability	Resident Upgrade
4.43	3.74	4.55	3.91	0.30

Investment Options

Age-based/Enrollment Year investment options:

The Year of College Enrollment Option contains 7 portfolios of underlying funds. Contributions are placed into the portfolio corresponding to the beneficiary's anticipated year of enrollment or as selected by the account owner. Year of Enrollment Portfolios evolve from a heavier weight in equities in earlier years to a more conservative investment in fixed income instruments and other investments that seek capital preservation as the beneficiary approaches college.

Static investment options:

Select among 8 individual-fund portfolios each of which invests in a single underlying mutual fund or ETF and the Principal Protected Portfolio Option. The Principal Protected Portfolio consists of a funding agreement with Ameritas Life Insurance Company which guarantees principal return of principal and an annualized minimum rate of return of one percent (1.00%), minus any premium tax, if applicable.

Underlying investments:

BlackRock, Vanguard, Loomis Sayles, JP Morgan, Dimensional Fund Advisors (DFA), Schwab, and Ameritas Life.

Taxes and other Benefits

Program match on contributions:

None.

State tax deduction or credit for contributions:

Contributions to the DC College Savings Plan of up to \$4,000 per year by an individual, and up to \$8,000 per year by married taxpayers who each make contributions to their own account, are deductible in computing District of Columbia taxable income, with a five-year carryforward of excess contributions. Only contributions made by the account owner are deductible. Rollover contributions are not deductible. Contribution deadline is December 31 postmark.

State tax recapture provisions:

The principal portion of nonqualified withdrawals from this plan, and rollovers within two years of account opening, are included in District of Columbia taxable income to the extent of prior District of Columbia tax deductions. Nonqualified withdrawals for this purpose do not include withdrawals made as the result of the beneficiary's death or disability and withdrawals made on account of the beneficiary's receipt of a scholarship.

State definition of qualified expenses

The state conforms with the federal definition of qualified education expenses, which includes expenses for higher education, apprenticeship programs, interest and/or principal on qualified education loans up to a \$10,000 lifetime cap, and up to \$10,000 per year in tuition in connection with enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary public, private, or religious school. Distributions from a 529 account directly to a Roth IRA are considered a qualified expense.

State tax treatment of qualified distributions:

Qualified distributions from District of Columbia and non-DC 529 plans are exempt.

State tax treatment of rollovers:

District of Columbia follows federal tax-free treatment except that outbound rollovers within two years of establishing the account are subject to the recapture of prior D.C. tax deductions.

Does the sponsoring state exclude the value of an account for state financial aid purposes?

No

Does participation in the program provide beneficiaries with any advantages in qualifying for resident tuition status at state institutions?

No

Is there a rewards program or outside scholarship program that works with this program?

Yes, the Upromise Rewards program can be linked to any 529 college savings plan. Upromise Rewards is free to join and offers members cash back for college.

Plan Portfolios

General

Program type:

Savings

How to enroll:

Enroll directly with the program.

Initial year of operation:

2002, changed substantially in 2017

State agency(ies):

District of Columbia College Savings Program Trust

Program manager:

Ascensus College Savings

Program distributor:

Ascensus College Savings

Contributions

Maximum contributions:

Accepts contributions until all account balances in the District of Columbia's 529 plan for the same beneficiary reach \$500,000.

Minimum contributions:

With lump-sum contributions, the minimum initial contribution is \$25, and the minimum subsequent contribution is \$25. With the automatic investment plan, the minimum contribution level is \$15 per pay period via payroll deduction.

Does the program offer an e-gifting platform for receiving gift contributions?

This plan offers a robust gifting platform that allows gift-givers to save their own profile for recurring or future contributions.

Fees & Expenses

Enrollment or application fee:

None

Account maintenance fee:

\$15, reduced to \$10 for DC residents, waived for accounts with a balance of \$15,000 or more.

Program management fees:

0.30% management fee (0.15% for Principal Protected Portfolio), including 0.05% administrative fee to D.C.

Expenses of the underlying investments:

Ranges from 0.01% to 0.04% (portfolio weighted average) in the age-based portfolios, 0.02% to 0.44% in the individual-fund portfolios. None for the Principal Protected Portfolio.

Total asset-based expense ratio:

0.31% - 0.74%
Principal Protected Portfolio: 0.15%

Contact

Website:

<https://www.dccollegesavings.com/home.html>

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There is no investment data available for this plan. Please visit <https://www.dccollegesavings.com/home.html> for additional information.