**Student Eligibility Criteria**

**Access**

**Success Direct**

**Year in School**

**​​​​​​​Access**

* Students must be entering or beginning their senior year of high school. We do not work with students who have already completed high school, even if they are applying to college for the first time.

**Year in School**

**​​​​​​​Success**

* Students must be entering or beginning their first year of college at a Target College. Our program is best poised to help traditional, first-time degree seekers; we do not accept students who are not enrolling in college for the first time.
* We will not accept students who are not enrolled in college for the fall, even if they will enroll at a Target College in the spring.

**First Generation Status**

* We define a first-generation college student as a students whose parents have not received a 4-year degree from a college in the United States.
* Some examples of students who DO qualify are students who:
  + Have a parent with an AA from a Community College
  + Have a parent currently enrolled in college
  + Have a sibling with a college degree
  + Have an aunt/uncle with a college degree
  + Have a parent who earned a degree from a college in another country
* *Note: we have a small number of spaces in our program for students whose parent(s) have a 4-year degree from a college in the US*

**Family Income**

**Access**

* Bottom Line's "Target" income criteria are based on 200% of the federal poverty level. Each year when those amounts are vetted and updated, our income guidelines update accordingly.
* We collect tax documents to confirm income eligibility, using the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for the year
  + Families who do not file taxes are asked to estimate their income for the year and to submit documents that show any benefits they may be receiving (Social Security, SSI, Disability, SNAP, etc.) to confirm their eligibility for Bottom Line
* We take special care to ensure that we understand the student's **financial aid household** while reviewing tax documents
  + Always compare financial documents to who the student said they live with. If the student said "Both Parents" or "Parent and Step-Parent" but there is only one parent on the taxes, we need income information from the second parent (or step-parent) in order to confirm the student
  + If the student said they had a household size of 6, but the taxes only show 3, follow up with the student and find out if the additional 3 people would count toward their financial aid household size for FAFSA
  + See section on students with a [Legal Guardian](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/SuccessProgramCurriculum/SitePages/Student-Eligibility-Criteria.aspx#students-with-a-legal-guardian)​​​​​​​
* We will accept 2021 taxes as a placeholder for 2022 if the student's income is well within the "Target" range
* *Note: we have a small number of spaces in our program for students whose family income falls above the "Target" amount but within the "Discretion" amount.​​​​​​​*​​​​​​​

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Family Size** | **"Target" Range** | **"Discretion" Range / Cap** |
| 1 | $40,000 | $60,000 |
| 2 | $40,000 | $60,000 |
| 3 | $50,000 | $70,000 |
| 4 | $60,000 | $80,000 |
| 5 | $70,500 | $90,500 |
| 6 | $81,000 | $101,000 |
| 7 | $91,000 | $111,000 |
| 8 | $101,500 | $121,500 |
| >8 | + $10,500 per extra person | + $10,500 per extra person |

**Family Income**

**​​​​​​​Success**

* Bottom Line's "Target" income criteria are based on 200% of the federal poverty level. Each year when those amounts are vetted and updated, our income guidelines update accordingly.
* If tax documents are not readily available, we will accept the student's SAR (Student Aid Report) from FAFSA, if it shows that the student's EFC is $5,576 or less
  + The EFC criteria above means that all of our eligible students should be eligible for a Pell Grant
* We can also confirm income eligibility by collecting tax documents, looking at the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for the year
  + Families who do not file taxes are asked to estimate their income for the year and to submit documents that show any benefits they may be receiving (Social Security, SSI, Disability, SNAP, etc.) to confirm their eligibility for Bottom Line
* We take special care to ensure that we understand the student's **financial aid household** while reviewing tax documents or SARs
  + Always compare documents to who the student said they live with. If the student said "Both Parents" or "Parent and Step-Parent" but there is only one parent on the taxes/FAFSA, we need income information from the second parent (or step-parent) in order to confirm the student
  + If the student said they had a household size of 6, but the taxes only show 3, follow up with the student and find out if the additional 3 people would count toward their financial aid household size for FAFSA
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| >8 | + $10,500 per extra person | + $10,500 per extra person |

**Academic Preparedness**

**Access**

* We aim to serve students who are eligible for admission at a four-year college. All students with a 2.5 (80) unweighted high school GPA are academically eligible for Bottom Line
* Students with a 2.3+ GPA (75+ in NYC) may be eligible for Bottom Line if we have reason to believe they are eligible for admission at four-year colleges, generally:
  + SATs above 900
  + ACTs of 17+
  + NY: Regents in the 80s
  + Manager discretion​​​​​​​

**Academic Preparedness**

**Success**

* We aim to serve students who we think are academically prepared to succeed at a four-year college. All students with a 2.5 (80) unweighted high school GPA are academically eligible for Bottom Line
* Students with a 2.3+ GPA (75+ in NYC) may be eligible for Bottom Line if we have reason to believe they will be successful at a four-year college, generally:
  + SATs above 900
  + ACTs of 17+
  + NY: Regents in the 80s
  + Manager discretion

**Citizenship Status**

* At this time, Bottom Line is best poised to serve students who are eligible for enough federal and/or state aid to afford college, which means we have to be thoughtful about how applicants' citizenship statuses affect their eligibility for aid
* Across all regions, we accept students whose statuses are:
  + US Citizen
  + Permanent Resident
  + [Refugee/Asylee](https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility/requirements/non-us-citizens) (click to see specific visas that qualify as a refugee or asylee)
* Across all regions, we do NOT accept students whose statuses are:
  + TPS (Temporary Protected Status)
  + Any other type of visa not included on the list linked above
* New York and Chicago are able to serve some students with additional statuses; see those regional pages for more information​​​​​​​

​​​​​​​Learn more about eligibility in

[**Boston**](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/SuccessProgramCurriculum/SitePages/Boston-Eligibility.aspx)

​​​​​​​Learn more about eligibility in

[**Chicago**](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/SuccessProgramCurriculum/SitePages/Chicago-Eligibility.aspx)

Learn more about eligibility in

[**New York City**](https://tbl500amory.sharepoint.com/sites/SuccessProgramCurriculum/SitePages/NYC-Eligibility.aspx)

**Students with a Legal Guardian**

* Many of our students report on the application that they live with a Legal Guardian. If students are in a Legal Guardianship, they will be considered an independent student on the FAFSA and are automatically financially eligible for Bottom Line
* We need **court documents**to show that students are in a Legal Guardianship to waive the income requirement. Unfortunately, without official court documents, the FAFSA will still consider the student to be dependent on their biological parents, even if they no longer live with them
* Students without court documents to show Legal Guardianship may be eligible for Bottom Line, but will need to provide **income information from their parents**