

2020-2021 General Policies Governing Freshman Academic Scholarships

Accepting Your Scholarship

- Indicate your scholarship decision in BSMART, UAB's Blazer Scholarship Management and Resource Tool, at uab.edu/bsmart by May 1 of your senior year in high school. (If you do not accept your scholarship offer by May 1, then it will be rescinded.)
- Meet all contingencies for admission to the university and enroll as a full-time student during the fall semester immediately following your high school graduation.

Receiving Your Scholarship

- Freshman academic scholarships may be received for up to a total of 4 academic years (8 semesters).
- You must enroll at UAB as a full-time undergraduate student during the fall and spring semesters of each academic year (12 or more credit hours each term). Exceptions can be made during the final award year, allowing students to receive scholarship funds if they are enrolled at least half-time each semester (6 or more credit hours).
- Scholarship funds will be equally divided between the fall and spring semesters. The funds will disburse to your UAB student account on your first day of classes each semester.
- The amount specified in your scholarship offer letter is the amount you will receive each academic year and is dependent upon your residency classification (resident or nonresident for tuition purposes).

Renewing Your Scholarship

- Earn a minimum of 24 total credit hours at UAB during the fall and spring semesters of each academic year. (Grades/notations of F, I, N, or W cannot be applied toward your 24-hour requirement.)
- Maintain a cumulative UAB grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.
- Alternative credit, such as AP, IB, CLEP, or transfer coursework, cannot be applied toward your renewal requirements.
- UAB developmental courses (course numbers 000-099) are not categorized as earned hours or included in the UAB GPA calculation. If you earn 24 UAB credit hours with the help of developmental coursework and receive a cancellation notification, then you must contact the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships at scholarships@uab.edu and request an individual grade review.
- Renewal decisions are made once per year, after the spring semester. If you have fulfilled the renewal requirements by that time, then your scholarship will be automatically renewed for the next academic year. If not, then your scholarship will be canceled, and future disbursements will not be made. Cancellation notifications will be sent via email. Therefore, be sure to check your UAB email account on a regular basis.

Frequently Asked Questions

If I have a tuition and fee scholarship, how does it pay out?

An estimated amount is posted for tuition and fee scholarships at the beginning of each academic year (Presidential Recognition, UAB Presidential, Blazer Presidential, and Presidential for National Scholars awards only). After the drop/add period ends each semester, the estimated amount is adjusted, paying only your actual tuition charges (for up to 15 credit hours), academic fees (i.e., lab fees), and the mandatory Campus Dining Fee for all full-time students (currently \$225 per semester). The Student Health Insurance Plan, Student Athletic Fee, fees that may be waived (i.e., Student Dental Fee), and other nonacademic fees are not covered by the scholarship.

What will happen to my scholarship if I completely withdraw from all courses during a semester?

Your scholarship will be canceled at that time. If you receive a tuition refund for the semester, then your scholarship amount may be reduced, paying only the remaining tuition charges. If tuition charges are completely removed, then the semester's allotment will be recovered.

What do I do if my scholarship is canceled?

If extenuating circumstances occurred, then you may appeal the cancellation of your scholarship by submitting an appeal form. The appeal process allows you to explain your extenuating circumstances, submit an academic plan for the next year, and provide supporting documentation (i.e., a copy of your military orders or letter from your physician for medical circumstances), if applicable. If you choose not to appeal the cancellation of a scholarship, then the award will not be reinstated at a later date, even if you return to good standing.

Will my nonresident scholarship amount change if my tuition rate changes to the in-state rate?

Yes. If you qualify for in-state tuition due to any of the reasons below, then your scholarship will be adjusted to an in-state award:

- Military benefits (i.e. Post-9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty, or the Alabama GI Dependents' Scholarship Program). Contact veteransaffairs@uab.edu for additional information.
- Submission and approval of an Application for Residency Reclassification. (Visit uab.edu/instateresidency for more information.)
- Participation in the Academic Common Market. (Visit sreb.org for details regarding participating states and approved programs.)

Can I move one of my scholarship allotments to the summer semester?

If you will be enrolled full-time in the summer semester and would like to move one of your allotments to that term, then you may submit a scholarship appeal form. The request must be made prior to the first day of classes for the semester in which you want to receive the award. Please note: Only one allotment may be received each semester.

Do I need to notify the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships if I will not be enrolled in a fall or spring semester?

Yes. If you are not able to enroll at UAB due to an Education Abroad program, internship, co-op, military service, or other extenuating circumstance(s), then you must submit a scholarship appeal form, requesting an exception to the renewal requirements (and possibly the disbursement timeline) for your award. The form must be submitted prior to the first day of classes for the semester you will be away. Please note: Students attending Education Abroad programs also will need to complete additional requirements through the Office of Education Abroad. Contact educationabroad@uab.edu for additional information.

What happens to my scholarship if I graduate from UAB early?

If you receive your baccalaureate degree before using all 8 of your scholarship allotments, then you may apply remaining allotments to graduate or professional school charges at UAB. Students must be continuously enrolled to take advantage of this benefit (maximum of one semester off). Tuition and fee scholarships will not be adjusted to match the graduate/professional tuition rate. Instead, students will receive a set amount equal to the rate for 15 hours of undergraduate tuition during their first semester of enrollment at UAB.

If you have questions or need to request a scholarship appeal form, please contact us at scholarships@uab.edu or (205) 934-8134.