

4. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

The University Student Financial Aid and Scholarship Program offers assistance to students demonstrating financial need and awards scholarships to students of high scholastic achievement.

Financial aid is allocated on the basis of need in the form of grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans. Often aid is offered in all four forms; however, acceptance of loan and work-study offers is optional. The aid is administered on an individual basis according to the particular circumstances of the student and his/her family.

Financial assistance is awarded for one year at a time. Separate applications must be filed each year. Application materials are available in January for the coming academic year.

Financial assistance is committed only to students who are tentatively or fully approved for admission or who are eligible returning students.

The University cooperates in making available funds provided by both the federal and state government to students for grants, employment, and loans. HSU must administer the federal and state programs within prescribed regulations.

All government programs are dependent on funding by federal and state governments. Awards are subject to funding by legislation and are not binding on the University if such programs are not funded.

All applications and requests for information should be directed to the Office of Enrollment Services, Box 16050, Abilene, Texas 79698-6050, or submitted via email to financialaid@hsutx.edu.

Satisfactory Academic Progress - In order to continue receiving financial assistance, a student must be making satisfactory progress toward a degree. Satisfactory Academic Progress is defined in both qualitative (GPA) and quantitative (hours completed versus hours attempted) terms. GPA requirements are:

<u>Hours Attempted</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Completion%</u>
12-32	1.60	75%
33-48	1.80	80%
49+	2.00	85%

Details of the University policy are available in the Office of Enrollment Services. It is important that every student receiving any type of financial assistance (federal, state, or institutional) be aware of the Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements for continuation of financial aid.

The maximum time frame an undergraduate student can remain eligible for financial aid cannot exceed 150% of the published length of their program. For instance, if the published length of an academic program is 124 credit hours, the maximum time frame established by the school must not exceed 186 attempted credit hours (that is, $124 \times 1.5 = 186$). The "150% Rule" also applies to individual courses. A student can only receive financial aid for repeat of the same course one (1) time for a maximum of two (2) attempts.

Although the spirit of this policy includes all attempted hours at all institutions attended, evaluation for Financial Aid Standards of Progress will be measured on work completed only at HSU; however, certain programs may require inclusion of all college course work.

The Office of Enrollment Services will notify a student who ceases to meet minimum requirements for satisfactory progress. Students receiving veteran's benefits must meet additional standards and should see the section on Veterans Benefits.

How Terminating Enrollment Affects Financial Aid - The primary responsibility for paying for a student's college education rests with the student and his/her family. Any financial aid obtained through the Office of Enrollment Services—federal, state, or institutional—is considered supplemental. When a student withdraws, is expelled, or ceases to be a student at HSU before the regular end of the academic session for which he/she received financial aid, there is sometimes a refund due, in accordance with the University's refund policy (see p. 17.) However, if the student has received financial aid for the semester during which he/she withdraws, Federal law and University policy dictate that calculated amounts be returned to the respective Financial Aid program (s). Early withdrawal may mean the loss of part or all of a student's institutional grants

or scholarships and the loss of part or all of a student's federal or state aid. Policies and formulas for determining the amounts to be returned to the individual programs are available in the Office of Enrollment Services.

Verification

The Department of Education requires schools to have a printed deadline for verifications. Beginning with the 2006-2007 academic year, HSU will impose a deadline for verifications. All necessary documentation must be received by April 30, 2007 in order to be eligible to receive Federal aid in 2006-2007. In addition, any unsolicited documents received by HSU will be shredded.

Effective June 15, 2004, students must complete at least one semester hour per term with a passing grade to prevent the return of financial aid monies for that semester. For financial aid purposes, the Department of Education monitors class attendance. Non-attendance, and the subsequent result of all failing grades, will result in financial aid monies being returned.

Pre-Registration

A pre-registered student wishing to cancel enrollment for a term must do so before the first day of class. Cancellation after a term has begun requires withdrawal from the University regardless if the student attended class. The withdrawal process calculates prorated refunds of charges and financial aid returns.

GOVERNMENT AID PROGRAMS

(See the Financial Aid brochure in Office of Enrollment Services for more detailed information.)

- ◆ Federal Pell Grants
- ◆ Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants
- ◆ Texas Tuition Equalization Grants (Requires Texas Residency Affirmation form)
- ◆ Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership
- ◆ Special Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership
- ◆ Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance
- ◆ Federal Work Study
- ◆ Texas College Work Study
- ◆ Federal Family Education Loans
- ◆ (Subsidized Stafford, Unsubsidized Stafford, and Parent [PLUS] Loan for Undergraduate Students)
- ◆ Federal Perkins Loans
- ◆ Various Private Alternative Loans

VETERANS BENEFITS

The coordination of benefits for veterans is the responsibility of the Office of the Registrar, which offers assistance to veterans and dependents of veterans. In accordance with the laws regarding veterans in Chapters 30, 31, 35, 1606, and 1607 of Title 38 in the United States Code, assistance benefits to veterans and other eligible persons will be discontinued when the student ceases to make satisfactory progress toward the completion of his/her training objective. Students placed on probation who receive VA benefits must show academic improvement every semester they continue on probation. If improvement in G.P.A. is not made, benefits will be discontinued. Any veteran receiving veteran's benefits is deemed to be making less than satisfactory progress if he or she remains on academic probation beyond two semesters without an improvement in his or her academic standing. Accordingly any student who is placed on probation for a third, successive semester will be reported to the Veterans Administration for termination of benefits due to unsatisfactory progress. Receipt of veteran's benefits must be reported to the Office of Enrollment Services.

INSTITUTIONAL AID PROGRAMS

HSU offers numerous grants and scholarships to eligible students from various endowment resources.

Scholarships Defined - Scholarships are monetary considerations awarded on the basis of academic achievement with the intention of recognizing, encouraging, and assisting men and women who give exceptional promise of becoming leaders in their chosen fields.

Grants Defined - A grant is any financial assistance in which academic achievement is not the determining factor.

General Regulations Governing Scholarships and Grants - Scholarships and grants are subject to the following regulations:

1. All students are encouraged to notify the Office of Enrollment Services upon receipt or notification of an outside scholarship or departmental award. Additional funds received can and will affect the total financial aid package.
2. All HSU institutional scholarships or grants require at least a 2.00 cumulative grade point average (GPA) unless a higher GPA is stipulated. All GPA's are assessed at the end of the spring semester for first time freshman students and at the end of each semester for all other students.
3. **Most state grant programs (TEG and Renewal TEXAS Grants specifically) require a 2.50 cumulative GPA. All GPA's for state grant programs are assessed at the end of each semester. In addition, an undergraduate student must complete 24 credit hours (18 credit hours for a graduate student) in an academic year to qualify for TEG the next academic year.**
4. A student on a second consecutive academic or financial aid probation is not eligible to hold a university scholarship or university grant. This rule may not apply to certain scholarships awarded under a different set of regulations.
5. Scholarships & grants-in-aid are awarded by the Office of Enrollment Services under the supervision of the Vice President of Enrollment Management. Enrollment Services reserves the right to cancel any scholarship or grant for reasons it considers justifiable.
6. Full-time HSU enrollment is required for most scholarships and grants. Some programs may be prorated for part-time enrollment.
7. All tuition-specific grants or scholarships apply to HSU tuition only. McMurry University, Abilene Christian University, Abilene Intercollegiate School of Nursing, International Study, and the Physical Therapy Program tuition charges are not covered. For a listing of those scholarships designated "tuition-specific," please contact the Office of Enrollment Services.

Students are considered for scholarships based on a combination of the following criteria: academic preparation and performance, standardized testing, co-curricular involvement, enrollment status, anticipated major, and financial need. Except where noted, no additional application is required; admissions and financial aid applications are also used for scholarship evaluation. Requirements and/or evaluation criteria are subject to change. Awards funded by HSU are capped at tuition.

Scholarship	Amount	Average Eligibility/Renewal
<i>FRESHMEN</i>		
Presidential Scholar	\$24,000 over 4 years	Top 10% of class 30+ ACT or 1980+SAT 3.00 GPA required for renewal
Deans Scholar	\$12,000 over 4 years	Top 25% of class 27-29 ACT or 1810-1960 SAT 2.75 GPA required for renewal
University Scholar	\$6,000 over 4 years	Top 50% of class 25-26 ACT or 1710-1800 SAT 2.50 GPA required for renewal
<i>TRANSFERS</i>		
Presidential Scholar	\$4,000 per year	Top 10% of class 30+ACT or 1980+SAT 3.50+ Transfer GPA 3.00 GPA required for renewal
Deans Scholar	\$2,000 per year	Top 25% of class 27-29 ACT or 1810-1960 SAT 3.00-3.49 Transfer GPA 2.75 GPA required for renewal
University Scholar	\$1,000 per year	Top 50% of class 25-26 ACT or 1710-1800 SAT 2.50-2.99 Transfer GPA 2.50 GPA required for renewal
<i>ALL NEW STUDENTS</i>		
Ministerial Grant	\$50 per semester hour	Application required Apply through the Logsdon School of Theology Satisfactory Academic Progress required for renewal
Church Matching Grant	\$1 for \$1 match	\$500 maximum match per semester \$1 for \$3 match for non-Baptist churches Satisfactory Academic Progress required for renewal

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Endowed Scholarships - Numerous endowed & restricted scholarships are available through various HSU departments. Contact the department head of your major for details. Some department awards are not tuition specific.