FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The mission of Scholarships & Financial Aid is to provide students with information and financial resources to attend Texas A&M University, along with support programs that promote higher education and developmental opportunities. As a part of this commitment, we strive to provide financial solutions to students at all income levels and with varying academic, merit, and leadership qualifications.

The need-based financial assistance program is designed for students who have a demonstrated financial need, as defined by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or other applicable application, in order to assist students in paying college expenses. All financial aid is contingent upon student enrollment and making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), as defined by Scholarships & Financial Aid or the specific aid program.

Financial aid is available in two forms: Gift Aid and Self-Help.

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Scholarships

Texas A&M University’s packaging philosophy for need-based financial aid is to provide the greatest amount of gift aid to those students with the highest demonstrated need and to keep loan liability to a minimum. Financial aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis based on priority dates published on financialaid.tamu.edu.

To apply for financial assistance, an eligible student must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA becomes available on October 1st each year for the next academic year. Students are encouraged to submit their FAFSA online at https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid as soon as possible. Students who do not meet the citizenship eligibility requirements to complete the FAFSA may be eligible to submit the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) or the International Student Financial Aid Application (ISFAA). Information on these applications can be found at https://financialaid.tamu.edu/.

Financial aid offers for incoming students beginning in the Fall semester are made early in the preceding Spring semester. Financial aid offers for incoming students beginning in the Spring semester are made late in the preceding Fall semester. Financial aid offers to continuing students for the upcoming academic year are made after Spring semester grades have been submitted. Summer financial assistance is offered to students with a FAFSA on file who enroll at least half-time in Summer coursework at Texas A&M.

Financial aid offers are made based on the assumption that students will enroll full-time in the Fall and Spring semesters. Cost of attendance and offered financial aid amounts will be adjusted for students who are enrolled less than full-time at Texas A&M University or through the Texas A&M-Blinn TEAM Program, the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Blinn-Bryan, or another approved consortium program.

Students may only receive federal financial aid for eligible courses that count towards their program of study. State and Institutional Aid are not subject to the same regulatory restrictions. Regardless of the type(s) of aid offered, the cost of attendance for students will be reduced for courses that are not counting towards their program of study, which may result in a lower amount of federal, state, and institutional aid a student could receive. Financial aid offers may also be adjusted if a student does not begin attendance in all courses in which he or she is registered.

Student inquiries may be directed to:

Texas A&M University
Scholarships & Financial Aid
P.O. Box 30016
College Station, TX 77842-3016
Get in Line to speak with a Financial Aid Advisor by phone or in person
financialaid@tamu.edu
http://financialaid.tamu.edu
FAFSA School Code 003632

Please visit our website (http://financialaid.tamu.edu) for the most current information on financial aid applications, programs, and any associated deadlines.

Grants

The Federal Pell Grant is available to undergraduate students who have not received a baccalaureate degree and who have demonstrated financial need as determined by the FAFSA. The Federal Pell Grant provides a foundation of financial assistance to which aid from other sources may be added.

The Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and the Texas Public Education Grant (TPEG) are available to students, provided the results of their financial aid application show evidence of financial need and funds are available. These funds are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Towards EXcellence, Access and Success (TEXAS) grant is available to eligible Texas residents who have requisite levels of financial need according to the FAFSA or TASFA and have met the remaining program criteria (http://financialaid.tamu.edu/Undergraduate/Types-of-Aid/#0-TEXASGrant); it is also subject to funds availability and eligibility guidelines as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Additionally, Texas A&M University provides institutional grant aid to eligible students to assist with educational expenses. Student grants are subject to fund availability and may be single-year or multi-year awards.

Scholarships

College/Departmental Level Scholarships

A number of colleges and departments at the University award scholarships to students interested in particular major fields of study on the basis of academic record, service, activities, and demonstrated leadership. The value of the awards varies, and the term of scholarships range from one to four years. Awarding colleges and departments select recipients based upon predetermined criteria. Completed scholarship applications must be received no later than the specified deadlines. Awards are typically announced mid-Spring for the
following academic year. For more information, please visit https://u.tamu.edu/CollegeDepartmentScholarships (https://u.tamu.edu/CollegeDepartmentScholarships/).

### Incoming Freshmen Scholarship Programs

**Opportunity Award:** awarded to incoming freshmen students based on academic achievement, leadership roles, community/extracurricular participation during high school, and, in some cases, financial need.

**Achievement Scholarship:** available to incoming freshmen students who attended and graduated from targeted high schools in the State of Texas. Scholarships include the President’s Achievement Scholarship and Century Scholars. Awards are based on academic achievement, leadership roles, and community/extracurricular participation during high school.

**Academic Scholarship:** available to incoming freshmen students admitted in the Fall (only). Scholarships include the President’s Endowed Scholarship, Lechner Scholarship, and McFadden Scholarship. Awards are based on academic achievement, leadership roles, and community/extracurricular participation during high school.

For more information on Freshman Scholarships, visit https://u.tamu.edu/FreshmanScholarships (https://scholarships.tamu.edu/FRESHMEN/University-Scholarships/).

### Continuing Student Scholarships

The University Scholarship Application is available to students with at least one semester completed at Texas A&M. Awards range in value from $500 to $1,500 and are available to undergraduate, graduate, and professional students currently enrolled at Texas A&M. Some awards are limited to certain fields of study and to individuals who have attained a necessary academic classification, while others are unrestricted. Awards are made to outstanding students based on a combination of University academic achievement, campus/community involvement, campus leadership roles, and, for some scholarships, financial need. In addition to scholarships offered through Scholarships & Financial Aid, many colleges, departments, the Corps of Cadets, and the Texas A&M Foundation use the University Scholarship Application for award consideration. Students are encouraged to complete the University Scholarship Application (https://uwide.tamu.edu/) beginning in October. The deadline for submitting applications is February 1, prior to the academic year for which the student will be awarded.

For more information on Continuing Student Scholarships, visit http://scholarships.tamu.edu/CONTINUING-Students/University-Scholarships (http://scholarships.tamu.edu/CONTINUING-Students/University-Scholarships/).

### Transfer Student Scholarships

Aggie Transfer Student scholarships are designed to recognize outstanding students who transfer to Texas A&M University. Scholarships are awarded based on a combination of college academic achievement, extracurricular activities, campus involvement at their current institution, leadership, major, and, in some instances, financial need. In addition to scholarships offered through Scholarships & Financial Aid, many colleges, departments, the Corps of Cadets, and the Texas A&M Foundation use the transfer scholarship application for award consideration.

For more on Transfer Student Scholarships, visit https://u.tamu.edu/TransferScholarships (https://u.tamu.edu/TransferScholarships/).

### Scholarship Recipients and Non-Resident Tuition Waivers

The Non-Resident Tuition Waiver for Competitive Scholarship Recipients, authorized under Texas Education Code 54.213a, is an optional waiver that institutions can implement. An eligible non-resident student who holds a competitive academic scholarship of a specified minimum dollar amount for the academic year or Summer for which the student is enrolled may be eligible to pay the fees and charges required of Texas residents without regard to the length of time the student has resided in Texas. The student must have competed with other students, including Texas residents, for the scholarship, and the scholarship must be awarded by a Texas A&M University college or departmental scholarship committee or university representative.

More information is available at https://u.tamu.edu/NonResScholarshipWaiver (https://u.tamu.edu/NonResScholarshipWaiver/).

Please visit https://scholarships.tamu.edu/ for additional information on scholarships and to get in line for advising (https://financialaid.tamu.edu/Get-in-Line-for-Advising/), or email scholarships@tamu.edu.

### Loan Programs

The Federal Direct Loan Programs are available to students who have submitted a FAFSA. Students will be notified of their eligibility for the Direct Loan program(s) through a financial aid offer.

Students and parents seeking the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) may obtain information from the financial aid website (https://financialaid.tamu.edu/Undergraduate/Types-of-Aid/#1-FederalDirectPLUSLoans). This program requires the FAFSA to be on file with Scholarships & Financial Aid.

Short-term loans are available to assist students who experience temporary financial difficulties with educationally-related expenses. Funding for this program is provided by The Association of Former Students, the Class of 1926, and other University resources. This program is not intended to provide long-term assistance or to replace other assistance available through Scholarships & Financial Aid. Students must be degree-seeking and enrolled at least half-time to be eligible for short-term loans.

The Emergency Tuition and Required Fees loan program is available to help students pay their Texas A&M University tuition and required fees. The loan is applied directly to the student’s tuition and fee account.

Please refer to our website (http://financialaid.tamu.edu) for detailed information on all of the aforementioned programs and more.

### Changes in Status that Impact Financial Assistance

Dropping or Q-dropping a course affects a student’s enrollment status. In turn, enrollment status may impact certain funding sources as described in the below sections.

- **Enrollment Status** – A student’s enrollment status continues to be adjusted throughout the semester when a student drops or Q-drops a course. However, in most cases, the change in status has minimal impact, depending on timing or recent changes in laws. The impact is primarily on student loan repayment. Federal financial aid can only be paid for courses included in the student’s degree plan. Enrolling
in courses not on the degree plan may result in reduced financial aid eligibility.

- **Health Insurance** – With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), a dependent can be covered under their parents’ insurance plan until the age of 26 regardless of their enrollment status as a student.

- **Financial Aid & Scholarships** – Timing matters on when a student drops a course. Financial aid checks enrollment status on two occasions – when a student’s aid is released to their billing account and on the 12th class day of a Fall or Spring semester. A student’s aid amount can be adjusted if the student’s enrollment status changes between the time funds are disbursed to the billing account and the 12th class day. However, after the 12th class day, enrollment status is not a factor for aid that has already disbursed and instead any changes in enrollment status will be reviewed through financial aid’s satisfactory academic progress standards for subsequent semesters and will not impact current semester aid. If aid has not been disbursed prior to the 12th class day, then enrollment status is checked on the date the aid is disbursed. In the Summer semester, enrollment status is officially checked on the 5th class day of the Summer session(s) in which the student is enrolled.

- **Student Loan Repayment** – students must maintain at least half-time enrollment throughout the semester for student loans to remain in an in-school deferred status. Dropping below half-time enrollment at any time during the semester will trigger student loans to enter any applicable grace period, with repayment required after the grace period has elapsed. Changes in enrollment status from full-time to half-time have no consequence on student loans. Half-time enrollment for an undergraduate student is defined as 6 hours for the Fall and Spring semesters.

### Part-Time Student Employment

The Student Employment Office in Scholarships & Financial Aid coordinates student part-time employment. Students seeking part-time job opportunities on campus and in the Bryan/College Station area may search the Jobs for Aggies (https://jobsforaggies.tamu-csm.simplicity.com/students/?signin_tab=0&signin_tab=0) job board. On-campus departments are required to post their open positions on the job board. Local Bryan/College Station employers are also able to post part-time employment opportunities. Students secure their employment through their own initiative. The Student Employment Office offers advising to students who have not had previous job seeking experience or those seeking assistance in navigating the job board.

On-campus student employees are paid minimum wage or higher and are paid in accordance with the University's biweekly pay schedule. University student employees are not eligible for paid holidays, retirement, vacation, or sick leave.

Professional development workshops are available for student employees and supervisors of student employees. The student employee workshop topics include, but are not limited to, communication skills, preventing sexual harassment in the workplace, customer service skills, and work place etiquette. To view the current workshop schedule and register, please visit the Jobs for Aggies (https://jobsforaggies.tamu.edu/TRAINING-WORKSHOPS/) website.

### The Federal/Texas College Work Study Programs

Federal and state programs provide part-time employment for U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and eligible non-citizens (within fund limitations) who have an established financial need and desire off-campus employment. Off-campus employment may also be considered if it is at a Texas A&M System member institution, with a Community Service Program partner, or for the Reads & Counts program.

To qualify for the Federal/Texas College Work Study Programs, a student must have submitted a financial aid application, have financial need, be eligible to work in the United States, be enrolled at least half-time or are accepted for enrollment and plan to enroll at least half-time, and be making Satisfactory Academic Progress if enrolled.

The Community Service Program allows students who qualify for the Federal Work Study Program to work part-time with participating local non-profit, governmental, and community-based organizations. This program is designed to improve the quality of life for community residents, particularly low-income individuals, or to solve problems related to community needs.

The Texas A&M University Reads and Counts program is a partner of the national Every Student Succeeds Act (established initially as a part of the No Child Left Behind initiative). It is based on the philosophy that children are our nation’s greatest asset. It calls on all Americans to support teachers and help ensure that every child can read well by the end of the third grade. Eligible and dedicated college students are called to serve as reading and math tutors, as well as mentors and role models for area elementary and middle school students.

All Work Study students are paid minimum wage or higher, work an average of 20 hours per week, and are not eligible for paid holidays, retirement, vacation, or sick leave. For more information on Federal/ Texas College Work Study, the Community Service Program, or Texas A&M University Reads and Counts, visit Jobs for Aggies (http://jobsforaggies.tamu.edu/) or the Student Employment Office on the second floor of the Pavilion.

### The Money Education (ME) Center

The Money Education (ME) Center provides Aggie students with the education and resources they need to make smarter personal finance decisions during college so that they can lay a foundation of financial success for a lifetime. Through the following resources, the ME Center teaches Aggies about budgeting, saving and banking, building and protecting credit, investing, buying a car and home, and more. The ME Center offers the following services and resources:

- Foundations of Money Education Course (AGLS 235)
- Scheduled Appointments
- Walk-in Advising
- Scheduled Presentations
- Class Presentations
- Student Group Presentations
- Resource Tables
- Online Resources

Visit money.tamu.edu (http://money.tamu.edu/) to learn more about these free resources and Get in Line for advising (http://money.tamu.edu/Get-in-Line-for-Advising/), or contact money@tamu.edu.