

UAB UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES Academic Year 2027-2028

Before You Accept Your Scholarship

Please read these guidelines carefully. Accepting your scholarship confirms that you understand the enrollment, renewal, appeal, and eligibility requirements connected to your award. Scholarships are an important investment in your education, and students are responsible for understanding and meeting all scholarship requirements to remain eligible.

Quick Guide: What Students Need To Know

MOST UAB UNDERGRADUATE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS MUST:

- ▶ Enroll full-time each fall and spring semester.
- ▶ Complete at least 24 UAB credit hours during the fall and spring semesters of each academic year.
- ▶ Maintain a minimum cumulative UAB GPA of 3.0.
- ▶ Accept scholarship offers in BSMART by the stated deadline.
- ▶ Submit an appeal by the deadline if requesting an exception.
- ▶ Check their UAB email regularly, and monitor BSMART, BlazerNET, and student account information for scholarship notices and updates.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ▶ Full-time enrollment generally means 12 or more UAB undergraduate credit hours.
- ▶ Transfer, transient, AP, IB, CLEP, and other alternative credits do not count toward the 24 UAB credit hour renewal requirement.
- ▶ Scholarship allotments do not automatically move to another semester.
- ▶ Summer scholarship use is not automatic and requires an approved appeal.
- ▶ Submitting an appeal does not guarantee approval.
- ▶ Failure to meet scholarship requirements may result in cancellation, reduction, reversal, or forfeiture of the scholarship.
- ▶ Ask questions before making enrollment changes.

Scholarship Glossary of Terms

The glossary is listed in alphabetical order to help students understand common scholarship terms used throughout these guidelines.

ALLOTMENT: The specific amount of scholarship funding designated for a student within an academic semester or year.

APPEAL: A formal request submitted by a student for reconsideration of a decision related to scholarship eligibility, often due to extenuating circumstances.

CANCELED: Terminating a scholarship due to ineligibility, non-compliance with policy, or voluntary withdrawal by the student.

DEFERRAL: An officially approved postponement of a scholarship award, generally granted for personal, medical, or academic reasons.

DEGREE-SEEKING PROGRAM: An academic program in which a student is formally admitted and actively pursuing a UAB undergraduate degree.

DISBURSEMENT: The process of applying scholarship funds to a student's UAB account to cover eligible institutional charges, such as tuition and fees.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES: Significant and unforeseen events, such as illness, injury, or family emergency, that may negatively affect a student's academic performance or ability to maintain scholarship eligibility.

FINAL AWARD YEAR: The final academic year in which a student is eligible to receive their merit scholarship, as outlined in the original award terms.

FORFEIT: Losing or giving up a scholarship allotment. Forfeited allotments do not automatically move to another semester.

FULL-TIME: Enrollment in a minimum of 12 UAB undergraduate credit hours during a semester, unless otherwise approved. Graduate full-time enrollment may be defined differently for approved exceptions.

GPA: The cumulative grade point average calculated from coursework completed at UAB and used to assess continued scholarship eligibility.

RENEWAL: The annual review process used to determine whether a student met scholarship requirements for continued eligibility.

REVERSAL OF AWARD: The removal of scholarship funds that were previously applied to a student's UAB account because the student's eligibility changed or a scholarship requirement was no longer met, such as dropping below full-time enrollment.

TRANSIENT STUDENT: A UAB student who temporarily enrolls at another accredited institution to transfer credits back to their UAB degree program.

Accepting Your Scholarship

Students must indicate their scholarship decision in BSMART, UAB's Blazer Scholarship Management and Resource Tool, at uab.edu/bsmart.

If a scholarship offer is not accepted by the appropriate deadline, the scholarship will be canceled.

- ▶ Spring offers for transfer and international scholarships only:
January 1
- ▶ Summer offers for transfer scholarships only:
May 1
- ▶ Fall scholarship offers:
June 1

Students must meet all contingencies for admission to the university and enroll as a full-time student during the semester for which the scholarship was awarded. If you do not enroll as a full-time student during the semester for which your scholarship was awarded, then it will be canceled, and no future disbursements will be made. Please note: Your enrollment status will be reviewed after the drop/add period ends for your first semester of award, and cancellations will be made at that time.

Students should check their UAB email regularly for scholarship notifications, reminders, renewal information, cancellation notices, and appeal updates.

Receiving Your Scholarship by Scholarship Type

FRESHMAN MERIT AND UAB INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- ▶ Freshman merit and UAB International Scholarships may be received for up to a total of four academic years or eight semesters.
- ▶ International students who are receiving governmental scholarships or other external support are not eligible to receive a merit scholarship.
- ▶ Recipients must enroll at UAB as full-time students during the fall and spring semesters each academic year and must be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree.
- ▶ Scholarship funds are equally divided between the fall and spring semesters and are disbursed to the student's UAB account on the first day of classes each semester.
- ▶ Only one scholarship allotment may be received for each semester. (No exceptions, even when graduating early.)
- ▶ Students admitted into general programs who later enroll in a certificate-only program or a baccalaureate program requiring less than full-time enrollment in UAB coursework are not eligible to receive a merit scholarship, including Dental Assistant and RN to BSN programs.
- ▶ The amount specified in the scholarship offer letter is the amount the student will receive each academic year, even if tuition increases. The amount is dependent upon residency classification and visa category, if applicable.
- ▶ A scholarship may be changed or canceled if the student's residency classification or visa category changes while enrolled at UAB.

TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- ▶ The Phi Theta Kappa, Transfer Excellence, and Transfer Pathway Scholarships may be received for up to a total of three academic years or six semesters.
- ▶ The Transfer Presidential Scholarship may be received for up to a total of two academic years or four semesters.

- ▶ International students who are receiving governmental scholarships or other external support are not eligible to receive a merit scholarship.
- ▶ Recipients must enroll at UAB as full-time students during the fall and spring semesters each academic year and must be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree.
- ▶ Scholarship funds are equally divided between the fall and spring semesters and are disbursed to the student's UAB account on the first day of classes each semester.
- ▶ Only one scholarship allotment may be received for each semester. (No exceptions, even when graduating early.)
- ▶ Students admitted into general programs who later enroll in a certificate-only program or a baccalaureate program requiring less than full-time enrollment in UAB coursework are not eligible to receive a merit scholarship, including Dental Assistant and RN to BSN programs.
- ▶ The amount specified in the scholarship offer letter is the amount the student will receive each academic year, even if tuition increases.

INCOMING TRANSFER STUDENTS STARTING IN SUMMER

- ▶ If your entry term is the summer semester, you are required to enroll full-time at UAB for that term to receive your scholarship. If you are unable to enroll full-time during the summer semester, you must choose one of the following options to prevent your scholarship from being canceled:
 1. Work with your Transfer Admissions Counselor to submit a Scholarship Deferral Appeal at least two weeks before the start of summer classes to request that your first scholarship disbursement be deferred to fall.**OR**
 2. Work with your Transfer Admissions Counselor to change your entry term from summer to fall. If you choose this option, you may not enroll in any UAB courses during the summer semester.

Full-Time Enrollment Requirement

- ▶ Most UAB undergraduate merit scholarships require students to be enrolled full-time during the fall and spring semesters.
- ▶ Students who are not enrolled full-time may not be eligible to receive their scholarship for that semester. If a student drops below full-time enrollment, the scholarship may be canceled, reduced, reversed, or forfeited.
- ▶ Students should contact the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships before making enrollment changes, including dropping or withdrawing from a course, enrolling in fewer than 12 UAB undergraduate credit hours, taking transient coursework, participating in study abroad, internships, co-ops, clinicals, sitting out, changing programs, or planning to graduate with fewer than 12 credit hours.

Renewing Your Scholarship

Renewal decisions are made once per year after the spring semester. If a student has fulfilled the renewal requirements by that time, the scholarship will be automatically renewed for the next academic year. If not, the scholarship will be canceled and future disbursements will not be made.

Cancellation notifications are sent by email. Students should check their UAB email account regularly.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL

- ▶ Earn a minimum of 24 total credit hours at UAB during the fall and spring semesters of each academic year.
- ▶ Grades or notations of F, I, N, or W cannot be applied toward the 24-hour requirement.
- ▶ If the first scholarship allotment is received in the spring semester, the student must earn 12 UAB credit hours during that semester to fulfill the renewal requirements for the current academic year.
- ▶ Maintain a cumulative UAB GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- ▶ Accept the renewed scholarship offer in BSMART no later than two weeks before fall classes begin.

CREDITS AND COURSES NOT INCLUDED IN RENEWAL

- ▶ Alternative credit, including AP, IB, or CLEP, cannot be applied toward scholarship renewal requirements.

- ▶ Transfer coursework cannot be applied toward scholarship renewal requirements.
- ▶ Courses taken as a transient student cannot be applied toward scholarship renewal requirements.
- ▶ UAB developmental courses, course numbers 000-099, are not categorized as earned hours and are not included in the UAB GPA calculation.

DEVELOPMENTAL COURSEWORK REVIEW

- ▶ If a student earns 24 UAB credit hours with the help of developmental coursework and receives a cancellation notification, the student must contact the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships at scholarships@uab.edu and request an individual grade review.

Appeals, Exceptions, and Deadlines

Students may submit a scholarship appeal to request an exception to certain scholarship requirements.

Appeals are reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Scholarships Committee. Submitting an appeal does not guarantee approval. The decision of the Scholarships Committee is final.

SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL FORM:

- ▶ For currently enrolled UAB students, the form is available on the Links/Forms tab in BlazerNET.
- ▶ For entering freshmen and transfer students, you must work with your UAB Admissions Counselor to submit an appeal. To find your Admissions Counselor, please visit uab.edu/mycounselor.

APPEAL DEADLINE:

- ▶ Two weeks before classes begin for each semester during which an exception is requested, unless otherwise noted. Cancellation appeal deadlines will be listed in the cancellation email.

QUESTIONS:

- ▶ Contact scholarships@uab.edu or (205) 934-8134.

COMMON APPEAL REASONS

- ▶ Medical hardship or injury
- ▶ Family emergency or death of an immediate family member
- ▶ Military service
- ▶ Education Abroad, internship, co-op, or similar approved academic experience
- ▶ Final award year enrollment below full-time, but at least half-time
- ▶ Request to use a future allotment during summer
- ▶ Request to use remaining allotments for UAB graduate or professional coursework after early graduation
- ▶ Other documented extenuating circumstances that affected scholarship eligibility

Frequently Asked Questions

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, you must submit a scholarship appeal requesting an exception to the renewal requirements and possibly the disbursement timeline for your award. The submission deadline is two weeks before classes begin for the semester you will be away.

- ▶ Currently enrolled UAB students must submit the scholarship appeal form in BlazerNET.
- ▶ Entering freshmen and transfer students who cannot enroll in their first semester of award must contact their UAB Admissions Counselor and request that an appeal be submitted on their behalf.
- ▶ Students attending Education Abroad programs must also complete additional requirements through the Office of Education Abroad and should contact educationabroad@uab.edu.

I am an incoming transfer student starting UAB in the summer. What happens if I choose not to enroll full-time that semester?

If you do not enroll full-time in your first semester, your scholarship will be canceled and no future payments will be made. To prevent cancellation, work with your UAB Admissions Counselor to either submit a scholarship deferral appeal to move your first payment to fall or change your start term to fall. If you change your start term to fall, you may not enroll in UAB courses during the summer semester.

What happens if I am not enrolled full-time in UAB undergraduate coursework during a fall or spring semester?

If you are not enrolled in 12 or more UAB undergraduate credit hours, your scholarship will not pay and you will forfeit that semester's allotment. The allotment will not roll to another semester. Students may submit a scholarship appeal by the deadline for qualifying exceptions.

What exceptions may be considered if I am not enrolled full-time?

Students may submit an appeal if they are in their final award year and will be enrolled at

least half-time during the semester, meaning six or more UAB undergraduate credit hours. Students may also submit an appeal if they are degree-seeking graduate or professional students enrolled full-time in graduate coursework, generally nine or more UAB graduate credit hours, or professional coursework.

I am a Joint Enrollment Pathway student in the School of Nursing. Will I still receive my merit scholarship?

You may receive a percentage of your scholarship if you are currently enrolled in UAB coursework and have an approved consortium agreement on file, confirming full-time enrollment.

What happens if I withdraw from courses after the extended drop deadline has passed?

If you are enrolled full-time after the extended drop deadline and later withdraw from a course, your scholarship will not change for that semester if no tuition or fees are refunded. If you completely withdraw from all courses and a portion of tuition is refunded, your scholarship amount may be reduced to pay only actual tuition charges. If tuition charges are completely removed, the semester's scholarship allotment will be removed. Removed funds are forfeited.

What do I do if my scholarship is canceled?

If extenuating circumstances occurred, you may appeal the cancellation by submitting an appeal form. The appeal process allows you to explain your circumstances, submit an academic plan for the next year, and provide supporting documentation, if applicable. If you do not appeal the cancellation, the award will not be reinstated later, even if you return to good standing. Submitting an appeal does not guarantee approval.

Will my out-of-state freshman merit scholarship amount change if my tuition rate changes to the in-state rate?

Yes. If you qualify for in-state tuition due to military benefits, an approved residency reclassification, or participation in the Academic Common Market, your scholarship will be adjusted to an in-state award. Students with military benefit questions should contact veteransaffairs@uab.edu. Students seeking residency information should visit uab.edu/instateresidency. Academic Common Market information is available at uab.edu/commonmarket.

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

If you will be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student during summer, meaning 12 or more UAB credit hours, and want to move one of your allotments to summer, you may submit a scholarship appeal form. The deadline is two weeks before classes begin for the semester in which you want to receive the award. Submitting an appeal does not guarantee approval. If approved, only one allotment may be received each semester.

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

If you receive your baccalaureate degree before using all scholarship allotments, you may apply remaining allotments to graduate or professional school charges at UAB. You must be continuously enrolled, meaning enrolled no later than two semesters after your UAB graduation date, and you must be a degree-seeking graduate or professional student enrolled full-time in graduate or professional coursework. Since you will not be enrolled in undergraduate coursework, you must submit a scholarship appeal by the deadline.

Questions and Contact Information

Students with questions about undergraduate scholarship requirements should contact the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships before making enrollment changes that may affect scholarship eligibility.

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Email: scholarships@uab.edu

Website: www.uab.edu/bsmart

Phone: (205) 934-8134