

2023-2024 General Policies Governing Freshman Merit 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 (If you do not accept your scholarship offer by May 1, then it will be rescinded.)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 merit 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) and be pursuing your first baccalaureate degree.
- ▶ Students who are admitted into general programs and then later enroll in either a certificate-only program or a baccalaureate program that requires less than full-time enrollment in UAB coursework are not eligible to receive a freshman merit scholarship (e.g., Dental Assistant, Joint Enrollment Pathway, and RN to BSN programs).
- ▶ 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. Only one allotment may be received 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 (e.g., AP, IB, or CLEP), transfer coursework, and courses taken as a transient student 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.

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

Frequently Asked Questions

What will happen to my scholarship 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 undergraduate credit hours at UAB, then your scholarship will not pay out, and you will forfeit that semester's allotment. (It will not roll to another semester.) Students may submit a scholarship appeal for one of the reasons below. A scholarship appeal must be submitted by the Friday before classes begin for each semester the exception is requested.

- ▶ Student is in their final award year and will be enrolled at least half-time during the semester (6 or more UAB undergraduate credit hours).
- ▶ Student is enrolled in a total of 12 UAB credit hours due to multi-level enrollment (combination of undergraduate and graduate courses). Please note: the automated payment system only reviews undergraduate hours for undergraduate students. Manual changes are needed each semester to include graduate hours.
- ▶ Student is a degree-seeking graduate or professional student who is enrolled full-time in graduate (9 or more UAB graduate credit hours) or professional coursework.

What will happen to my scholarship if I withdraw from courses after the drop/add deadline has passed?

If you are enrolled full-time after the drop/add deadline has passed and later decide to withdraw from a course, then your scholarship will not change for that semester since no tuition or fees will be refunded. If, however, you completely withdraw from all courses and a portion of your tuition is refunded for the semester, then your scholarship amount may be reduced, paying only the actual tuition charges. If tuition charges are completely removed, then the semester's allotment will be completely recovered. All recovered funds will be forfeited.

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 (e.g., 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. Please note: The submission of an appeal does not guarantee approval.

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 (e.g., 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 as a full-time undergraduate student during the summer semester (12 or more UAB credit hours) 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 by the Friday before classes begin for the semester

in which you want to receive the award. Please note: The submission of an appeal does not guarantee approval. If approved, 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 by the Friday before classes begin for the semester you will be away. Please note: Students attending Education Abroad programs will also 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. You must also be a degree-seeking graduate or professional student who is enrolled full-time in graduate (9 or more UAB graduate credit hours) or professional coursework. Since you will not be enrolled in undergraduate coursework, you must submit a scholarship appeal, as instructed in question one.