

2025-2026 General Policies Governing Merit Scholarships

Scholarship Glossary of Terms

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.

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

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.

FULL-TIME: Enrollment in a minimum of 12 UAB undergraduate credit hours during a fall or spring semester, unless otherwise approved.

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

Note: The glossary of terms is listed in alphabetical order, not in the order they appear in the document.

Accepting Your Scholarship

- Indicate your scholarship decision in BSMART, UAB's Blazer Scholarship Management and Resource Tool, at uab.edu/bsmart. If you do not accept your scholarship offer by the appropriate deadline below, then it will be canceled:

January 1 – for spring offers for transfer and international scholarships only

May 1 – for fall and summer scholarship offers

- Meet all contingencies for admission to the university and enroll as a full-time (12 or more UAB undergraduate credit hours) student during the semester for which your scholarship was awarded.

Receiving Your Scholarship

FRESHMAN MERIT AND UAB INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Freshman merit and UAB International Scholarships may be received for up to a total of 4 academic years (8 semesters).
- International students who are receiving governmental scholarships or other external support are not eligible to receive a merit scholarship.
- All scholarship recipients must enroll at UAB as a full-time student during the fall and spring semesters each academic year and be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree.
- Scholarship funds will be equally divided between the fall and spring semesters. The funds will be disbursed to your UAB student account on your first day of classes each semester. Only one allotment may be received for each semester.
- 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 merit scholarship (e.g., Dental Assistant and RN to BSN programs).
- The amount specified in your scholarship offer letter is the amount you will receive each academic year. It is dependent upon your residency classification (resident, nonresident, or international for tuition purposes) and visa category, if applicable. Please note: Your scholarship may be changed or canceled if either your 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 3 academic years (6 semesters).
- ▶ The Transfer Presidential Scholarship may be received for up to a total of 2 academic years (4 semesters).
- ▶ International students who are receiving governmental scholarships or other external support are not eligible to receive a merit scholarship.
- ▶ If your entry term is the summer semester, then 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, then you must choose one of the two options below to prevent your scholarship from being canceled:
 - 1. Submit a Scholarship Deferral Appeal**
Request to defer your first scholarship disbursement to fall by submitting a deferral appeal at least 2 weeks before the start of summer classes.
 - 2. Change Your Entry Term**
Work with your Transfer Admissions Counselor to change your entry term from summer to fall. Please note: If you choose this option, then you may not enroll in any UAB courses during the summer semester.
- ▶ All scholarship recipients must enroll at UAB as a full-time student during the fall and spring semesters each academic year and be pursuing their first baccalaureate degree.
- ▶ Scholarship funds will be equally divided between the fall and spring semesters. The funds will be disbursed to your UAB student account on your first day of classes each semester. Only one allotment may be received for each semester.
- ▶ 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 merit scholarship (e.g., Dental Assistant and RN to BSN programs).
- ▶ The amount specified in your scholarship offer letter is the amount you will receive each academic year.

Renewing Your Scholarship

- ▶ 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.

REQUIREMENTS FOR RENEWAL:

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ If you receive your first scholarship allotment in the spring semester, then you must earn 12 UAB credit hours during that semester to fulfill the renewal requirements for the current academic year.
- ▶ Maintain a cumulative UAB grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.
- ▶ Accept your renewed scholarship offer in BSMART by no later than 2 weeks before fall classes begin.

CREDITS AND/OR COURSES NOT INCLUDED IN THE SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL PROCESS:

- ▶ 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.

- **Scholarship Appeal Form:** Available on the Links/Forms tab in **BlazerNET**
- **Appeal Deadline:** 2 weeks before classes begin for each semester an exception is requested, unless otherwise noted. (Cancellation appeal deadlines will be noted in the cancellation email.)
- **Questions?** Contact us at scholarships@uab.edu or (205) 934-8134.

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(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 submission deadline is 2 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 them to submit an appeal on their behalf. Visit uab.edu/mycounselor to find your assigned Admissions Counselor.
- ▶ 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.

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, then your scholarship will be canceled, and no future payments will be made. To prevent your scholarship from being canceled, you must work with your UAB Admissions Counselor to either submit a scholarship appeal deferring your first payment to fall or move your start term to the fall semester.

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. The submission deadline is 2 weeks 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 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 extended drop deadline has passed?

If you are enrolled full-time after the extended drop 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 scholarship allotment will be completely removed. All removed 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 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 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 uab.edu/commonmarket 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 submission deadline is 2 weeks 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.

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

If you receive your baccalaureate degree before using all of your scholarship allotments, then you may apply remaining allotments to graduate or professional school charges at UAB. Students must be continuously enrolled (must be enrolled no later than 2 semesters after your UAB graduation date) 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. The submission deadline is 2 weeks before classes begin for each semester the exception is requested.