

## Program Criteria and Details

- Open to Arizona residents, admitted to ASU for fall 2012 who are degree-seeking, full-time freshmen (pursuing first undergraduate degree). This includes Native American high school seniors who are not residing in Arizona who meet the Arizona residency criteria for tuition purposes at ASU.
- Admission to the university does not guarantee eligibility for the program. You must meet all course competencies and at least one of the aptitude requirements for admission described at [students.asu.edu/freshman/requirements](http://students.asu.edu/freshman/requirements).
- You must enroll in ASU at the beginning of the fall 2012 semester immediately after Arizona high school graduation. If you do not enroll at ASU in fall 2012, you will forfeit eligibility for any future participation in this program.
- You must demonstrate a total annual family income of \$42,400 or less on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Obama Scholars Program will be closed for the year when program funds have been exhausted.
- ASU Online degree programs are not eligible. If you change your major to an ASU Online major, you will be removed from the Obama Scholars Program and adjustments will be made to your awards.
- You must submit a FAFSA and have a complete ASU admissions application on file (application, test scores, transcripts and application fee) by **March 1, 2012**, to be eligible for consideration. **There are no exceptions to this date.** The FAFSA must be free of errors. Apply early to resolve any errors before March 1.
- You must submit all requested documents for financial aid verification by **June 1, 2012**, to be eligible for consideration. **There are no exceptions to this date.** These documents must be complete and free of errors. Submit all requested documents early to resolve any errors or issues before June 1.
- This program covers you for full-time enrollment for eight continuous semesters (fall and spring), provided you meet eligibility for renewal each year.
- **Your awards may be adjusted**, under the terms of the program, if you receive any additional funding (e.g., merit award) **after** you have been awarded from the Obama Scholars Program.
- Classes and costs associated with enrollment at any other institution are not covered.
- Special class fees, study abroad program fees, academic program fees or summer tuition/fees will not be covered as part of the program.
- You may choose to spend one semester in an ASU-sponsored study abroad program only after completion of your first year in the Obama Scholars Program. This will count as one semester toward the eight-semester maximum. Your funding will continue to be based on ASU cost of attendance and will not cover any study abroad program fees. Your cost of attendance will reflect ASU's standard off-campus budget.
- In your first year at ASU, you will be expected to participate in the ASU Obama Scholars Success Program. The program is designed to connect you with resources and services to ease your transition and enhance your success at ASU. You will be connected with a mentor, who will help you navigate through your first year at ASU. A full description of the success program will be emailed to you.

## Renewal: Criteria and Process

- You must maintain a **cumulative GPA of 2.50** by the end of **spring 2013**, and a **cumulative GPA of 2.75** by the end of **spring 2014** and **spring 2015** to continue in the program.
- You are required to successfully complete a minimum of **24 ASU credit hours** during each academic year (a minimum of 12 credits in fall and spring semesters).
- If you are awarded scholarships or outside resources, you may have higher annual renewal criteria unique to those awards.
- You must remain eligible for federal aid to participate in this program each year. Visit [students.asu.edu/policies/aid-criteria](http://students.asu.edu/policies/aid-criteria) for details.
- You must maintain satisfactory academic progress as detailed at [students.asu.edu/policies/sap](http://students.asu.edu/policies/sap); however, the GPA requirements of this program supersede the Satisfactory Academic Progress GPA.
- You must file a FAFSA by **March 1** each year for continuation in the program. **There are no exceptions to this date.** The FAFSA must be free of errors. Apply early to resolve any errors before March 1.
- The program is designed for students whose family income is consistently \$42,400 or less, as demonstrated on the FAFSA. Renewal for fall 2012 freshmen for future years in the program will be based on the family income level at which the program closes for fall 2012. This family income level will be announced in the fall 2012 term. Family assets sufficient to help pay for college costs are considered.

- ASU will verify your FAFSA information. All documents required to complete the verification process must be submitted by **June 1** each year for continuation in the program. **There are no exceptions to this date.** These documents must be complete and free of errors. Submit all requested documents early to resolve any errors or omissions before this date. If, after verification, you do not meet the program criteria, you will not be eligible for program participation for that and future semesters.
- You must confirm your housing by **June 1** for your housing assignment to be finalized by **Aug. 1**. If your housing assignment is not finalized by Aug. 1, your budget will be reduced to a commuter budget and your awards will be adjusted accordingly.
- ASU students are expected to abide by the Student Code of Conduct. Violation(s) of the Student Code of Conduct resulting in a suspension, expulsion or administrative withdrawal will result in loss of your scholarship. This decision may not be appealed. A student in violation is otherwise eligible to file the FAFSA and receive need-based aid.

## Options for Students Not Meeting Renewal Criteria

- If you do not meet the renewal criteria, or you exceed it, you may file an appeal for reinstatement into the program provided you experienced significant, extenuating circumstances beyond your control (such as an extended, serious medical emergency). Completed appeals must be submitted no later than close of business **July 1**.
- If you experience other challenges throughout the year, such as difficulty with classes, time management, work or family responsibilities, or other co-curricular commitments, be aware these are not considered extenuating circumstances. In these cases, consult your academic advisor and use ASU resources to ensure you receive the guidance and assistance necessary to remain on track and continue to meet criteria for renewal and graduation.

**Estimated Direct Costs**

Includes actual tuition and mandatory fees plus a standardized allowance for room/board and books/supplies.

**Expected Family Contribution**

We subtract the amount your family is expected to contribute. This amount is determined when you file your FAFSA.

**Obama Scholars Program Funding**

Made up of funding from various sources (gift aid from federal, state, private and institutional sources) combined with \$2,500 in Federal Work-Study.

## Award Details

ASU's goal with the Obama Scholars Program is to help minimize the amount of money you borrow while attending ASU. In some cases, you may need to accept offered loans toward your costs or as a replacement of your work-study award.

### How it works:

1. A budget of your estimated direct costs of attendance is created. This includes:
  - a. Actual tuition and mandatory fees.
  - b. Standardized allowance for housing and meals.
  - c. Standardized allowance for books/supplies.
2. ASU will take your expected family contribution (EFC), as determined by your FAFSA, and subtract it from your estimated direct costs. Your EFC is derived from your FAFSA and appears on your Student Aid Report.
3. The remaining estimated direct costs are then covered by a combination of gift aid and Federal Work-Study. The gift aid will be a combination of scholarships and grants (e.g., Pell Grants, SEOG, ASU Grants, LEAP and scholarships) from federal, state, private and institutional sources.
4. Your award package will include a \$2,500 Federal Work-Study award. This award is not disbursed in a lump sum, but through bi-weekly paychecks for hours actually worked. If you do not accept this award and secure employment, you may need to request your loan to cover any remaining direct costs.
5. Your total cost of attendance also includes indirect costs such as transportation and personal items. These items are not covered under the program.

View samples of different Obama Scholars financial aid packages at [students.asu.edu/obama](http://students.asu.edu/obama).

**Use the worksheet on the back to determine if you should accept your work-study award or borrow offered loans.**

## Budget and Planning Worksheet

Use the following budget worksheet to determine estimated expenses as well as the possibility of the need for work or to borrow your offered loans. We have listed our **standard allowances** for expenses that the Obama Scholars funds will cover as a way to compare them with your actual costs.

COSTS (BASED ON 2011-2012)	YEARLY AMOUNT	ASU'S STANDARD ALLOWANCES FOR DIRECT COSTS	
		LIVING ON-CAMPUS	LIVING WITH PARENT
<b>Total amount of gift aid (i.e., scholarships, grants and employee/veteran's benefits):</b> Listed on your award letter and My ASU ( <a href="http://my.asu.edu">my.asu.edu</a> ).	\$		
<b>Tuition and Mandatory Fees:</b> Available at <a href="http://students.asu.edu/costs">students.asu.edu/costs</a> .	- \$	\$9,720	\$9,720
<b>Program Fees (dependent upon your major):</b> Available at <a href="http://students.asu.edu/costs">students.asu.edu/costs</a> .	- \$	\$0	\$0
<b>Books/Supplies:</b> Prices listed at <a href="http://bookstore.asu.edu">bookstore.asu.edu</a> .	- \$	\$1,290	\$1,290
<b>Residence Hall or Living With Parent</b> Residence hall prices listed at <a href="http://asu.edu/housing">asu.edu/housing</a> .	- \$	\$7,164	\$1,200
<b>Meal Plan/Food/Groceries:</b> Meal plan prices listed at <a href="http://asu.edu/housing">asu.edu/housing</a> .	- \$	\$4,272	\$1,440
<b>Parking Decal:</b> Prices listed at <a href="http://uabf.asu.edu/parking_permits_locations">uabf.asu.edu/parking_permits_locations</a> .	- \$	\$0	\$0
<b>Total (gift aid minus expenses):</b>  A <b>negative amount</b> means you will most likely not have enough gift aid to pay for your expenses and will need to investigate working in an on-campus job or borrowing your student and/or parent loans.  A <b>positive amount</b> means you will most likely be expecting a refund each semester to be used for any additional educational expenses throughout the academic year.	\$		

Federal Work-Study (FWS) opportunities, along with federally funded Direct Stafford Student Loans, are programs designed to help students invest in themselves and their education.

You are encouraged to apply for on-campus employment if you have an offered FWS award. Working on campus not only allows you to earn money for college, it also creates valuable on-campus support networks while you develop marketable skills for your resume. To search for current job openings, visit [students.asu.edu/employment](http://students.asu.edu/employment). On-campus job fairs are hosted by multiple ASU departments on each campus. For more information call Career Services at 480-965-2350 or Student Employment at 855-278-5080.

Low interest rate loans are also available to you as an additional self-help option. If you are eligible for student loans, they will be listed on your award letter and on My ASU ([my.asu.edu](http://my.asu.edu)). You are encouraged to discuss your alternatives for financing your education with a counselor in the Student Financial Assistance Office.

### Why Does My Gift Aid Not Cover All My Expenses?

Remember, this program is not designed to cover all of your expenses. Program fees and special class fees associated with your specific major are not covered. In addition, if you made residence hall and meal plan selections that exceed our standard allowances, those costs are above the amount of gift aid and work-study provided for the program.

#### Did you factor in your EFC and your Federal Work-Study offer to meet your direct costs?

This program is designed to cover your direct costs, minus your EFC as determined from the FAFSA, with gift aid and Federal Work-Study.

#### Did you select housing and meal plans that exceed our standard allowances? Do your books exceed the standard allowance?

ASU uses a standardized allowance for books/supplies, room and board expenses for each student attending ASU, including Obama Scholars. You may need to use your work-study award or accept loans you were offered in order to pay your remaining costs. Remember that work-study funds are disbursed as you work (e.g., in a paycheck) and not before the semester begins like most other aid. This means you may need to accept loans you were offered to pay your ASU charges in a timely manner. You may want to consider changing your housing and/or meal plan selections in order to best use the gift aid that this program offers and minimize the amount you may need to work or borrow.

If your major **requires** specific housing that exceeds ASU's standard allowances, changes will be made to your budget and awards to reflect an adjusted standard allowance provided you have confirmed your housing by **June 1**. If your estimated direct costs (minus your EFC) are already met with your current awards after your budget adjustment, no additional award will be made. To view current residence hall prices, please visit [asu.edu/housing](http://asu.edu/housing).