PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
Scholars
at Arizona State University

Renewal criteria
for continuing students fall 2015

Renewal criteria and process

- 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).
- You must maintain a **cumulative GPA of 2.50** by the end of each **academic year** (by the end of spring semester) to continue in the program.
- Your award package is available for up to eight full-time, consecutive fall and spring semesters. ASU recommends you enroll in 15 credit hours in order to complete your degree in four years.
- 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** for details.
- You must maintain satisfactory academic progress as detailed at **students.asu.edu/policies/sap**; however, the GPA requirements of this program supersede the Satisfactory Academic Progress GPA.
- We recommend you submit your FAFSA by **May 1** each year for continuation in the program. It must be free of errors. Apply early to resolve any errors before May 1.
- The program is designed for students whose family income is consistently $42,400 or less, as demonstrated on the FAFSA. If your total family income in any given year exceeds $42,400, you will no longer be considered for this program. Family assets sufficient to help pay for college costs are considered.
- ASU will verify your FAFSA information. We recommend that you submit all documents required to complete the verification process by **June 1** each year for continuation in the program. 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 ASU 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.

Students not meeting renewal criteria

- ASU has annual cumulative ASU GPA and credit hour standards for renewal. Students who meet the 2.50 cumulative ASU GPA and 24 ASU credit hour requirements each year are fully renewed. Students not meeting those requirements will receive one year of probation at the full award amount. Failure to maintain the renewal criteria after the year of probation will result in a decrease of the award amount to tuition, fees and books. Students can be reinstated to the full award amount for the next academic year by achieving a 2.50 cumulative ASU GPA and completing 24 ASU credit hours at the end of any academic year. Every semester you receive Obama Scholars funding, or even a portion of funding, counts toward your eight total semesters of eligibility.
- If you are not meeting the 2.50 cumulative ASU GPA and/or 24 ASU credit hour requirements after your one year of probation, you may enroll for ASU summer courses to remain eligible in the Obama Scholar program for the following academic year. Your Obama scholarship will not be available for the summer semester. We will conduct a final review of your academic records at the end of the summer session.
- If you experience challenges throughout the year, such as difficulty with classes, time management, work or family responsibilities, or other co-curricular commitments, 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.

Budget resources to pay for college

Once you've logged into My ASU (**my.asu.edu**) your educational costs will automatically populate your Undergraduate Student Budget Worksheet (**students.asu.edu/financialaid/budget**) helping you determine estimated expenses, as well as the possibility of the need for work or to borrow your offered loans.

Federal Work-Study 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. To search for current job openings, visit **students.asu.edu/employment**.

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.

If you have any questions about financial aid, please contact Financial Aid and Scholarship Services at 480-965-3355 or visit **students.asu.edu/contact/financialaid**.

Why does my gift aid not cover everything?

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

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 (i.e., 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 consider changing your housing and/or meal plan selections in order to 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 **housing.asu.edu**.

ASU Arizona State University

Changes to qualifying information or revision of federal, state or institutional policy may result in updates to aid eligibility and adjustment of financial aid awards. Information printed in this publication is subject to change. ©2015 ABOR for ASU. Published 03/15. To request this publication in alternative formats, contact Financial Aid and Scholarship Services at 855-278-5080.