Program details

- Open to Arizona residents, admitted to ASU for fall 2015 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.

- You must enroll in ASU at the beginning of the fall 2015 semester immediately after Arizona high school graduation. If you do not enroll at ASU in fall 2015, you will forfeit eligibility for any future participation in this program.

- You must submit a FAFSA and have a complete ASU admission application on file (application, test scores, transcripts and application fee) by March 1, 2015, to be eligible for consideration. There are no exceptions to this date. The FAFSA must be free of errors. The most frequent error is omitting a signature. Be sure you and your parent sign the FAFSA by using your PINs. Apply early to resolve any errors before March 1.

- 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.

- You must submit all requested documents for financial aid verification by July 1, 2015, 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 before July 1.

- You must demonstrate a total annual family income of $42,400 or less on the FAFSA.

- You must be eligible to receive the Federal Pell Grant.

- This program covers you for full-time enrollment for eight continuous semesters (fall and spring), provided you meet eligibility for renewal each year.

- 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.

- 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 the Obama Scholars Program.

- Classes and costs associated with enrollment at any other institution are not covered.

- Special class fees, study abroad 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. Students with ASU tuition waivers (i.e., dependent waivers) may only use their waivers for study abroad programs that require participants to pay tuition directly to ASU. For programs that do not require this, an ASU tuition waiver cannot be used, and additional funds through the Obama program will not be awarded to cover the value of the tuition waiver.

- 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 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 July 1 each year for continuation in the program.

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**ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS**
Includes actual tuition and fees plus a standardized allowance for room/board and books/supplies.

**YOUR 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 all funding from various sources (gift aid from federal, state, private and institutional sources) combined with $2,500 in Federal Work-Study.
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.

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• 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 towards 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.

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 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, University Grants, LEAP and scholarships) from federal, state, private and institutional sources.

4. Your award package will include a $2,500 Federal Work-Study award. Upon receiving employment, this award is disbursed in 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

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 plans that exceed your 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.

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 3/15. To request this publication in alternative formats, contact Financial Aid and Scholarship Services at 855-278-5080.