

Regents' Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions



1. Q: What are the basic academic requirements for the Regents' Scholarship?

A: To earn the Regents' Scholarship Base Award a student must complete the Utah Scholars Core Course of Study during grades 9-12, with no individual course grade lower than a "C****", have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 or higher, and submit an ACT score. The Utah Scholars Core Course of Study is as follows:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of progressive Math (at minimum: algebra 1, geometry, algebra 2, and one class beyond algebra 2).
- 3.5 years of social science
- 3 years of lab based science (must be one each of biology, chemistry, and physics)
- 2 years of the same foreign language, other than English, taken in a progressive manner during grades 9-12

To earn the Regents' Scholarship Exemplary Award a student must complete the Utah Scholars Core Course of Study with no individual grade lower than a "B****", have a cumulative high school GPA of 3.5 or higher, and submit an ACT score of a 26 or higher. For information regarding approved courses please visit our website at: www.utahsbr.edu.

2. Q: What are the other requirements for the Regents' Scholarship?

A: In addition to the academic requirements, the following are requirements of the Regents' Scholarship:

- Be a United States citizen, or a noncitizen eligible for federal student aid
- Have no criminal record except misdemeanor traffic citations
- Have at least one reported ACT test score (SAT is not accepted)
- Submit a complete application file (and accompanying documents) by Feb 1.
- Enroll full-time (12 or more credit hours) at an eligible Utah institution of higher education within 12 months of high school graduation unless an approval from the Regents' Scholarship Committee for a deferral or leave of absence is obtained

3. Q: How much is the scholarship worth?

A: The Regents' Scholarship base Award is a one-time payment, worth up to \$1,000*. The Exemplary Academic Achievement Award includes the Base Award plus up to 75% of tuition** for up to 2 years, 65 credits or completion of a bachelors degree, whichever is shortest. Beginning with academic year 2010-2011 the percentage award amount will be converted to a flat rate of up to \$5000 to be paid in semester installments (must be renewed each semester).

4. Q: How does a student qualify to receive the Utah Educational Savings Plan (UESP) supplemental award?

A: In order to receive the UESP supplemental award a student must qualify for a Regents' Scholarship award. The UESP supplemental award is based on the yearly contribution to a UESP 529 account for which the student is named the beneficiary. A contribution of \$100 or more during ages 14, 15, 16, and 17 will maximize the supplemental award. Thus the student would receive up to \$400* in the form of a supplemental award. Please visit www.uesp.org for more information regarding opening an account.

5. Q: Do I have to qualify for federal financial aid to receive the Regents' Scholarship?

A: No, you do not need to qualify for federal financial aid to receive the Regents' Scholarship; however, students are highly encouraged to complete the FAFSA application as they may be eligible for an Academic Competiveness Grant upon completing the Utah Scholars Core Course of Study.

6. Q: Does the scholarship have to be used at a Utah college or university?

A: Yes. The scholarship may only be used at institutions of the Utah System of Higher Education: College of Eastern Utah, Dixie State College, Salt Lake Community College, Snow College, Southern Utah University, University of Utah, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, Weber State University or accredited nonprofit institutions in Utah: Brigham Young University, LDS Business College, and Westminster College.

7. Q: When should I apply for the scholarship?

A: Students should apply for the scholarship during the year that they will graduate; submitting the application postmarked by February 1 of that year. Please note: a priority deadline may be established each year. Please see our website for more such updated information: www.utahsbr.edu

8. Q: What is a priority deadline?

A: Students who meet a priority deadline may be given "priority" or first consideration for the Regent's Scholarship.

9. Q: How do I apply for the Regents' Scholarship?

A: The Regents' Scholarship on-line application will become available each November and is accessible through February 1 of each year. The online application can be found by visiting, www.utahsbr.edu. Please note: there may be a priority deadline established each year. You are encouraged to check the website on an annually basis for exact dates and requirements.

10. Q: What is considered a complete application file?

A: Students must submit the following documents by the February 1 deadline in order to have a completed application file:

- Regents' Scholarship online application
- Signature Page, signed and dated by the student
- Official High School Transcript (needs to list your ACT Score; SAT not accepted)
- Official College Transcript(s) (if applicable)
- Other miscellaneous transcripts (if applicable)
- High School schedule reflecting the courses work the student intends to complete by graduation

11. Q: When will I know if I qualify for a Regents' Scholarship?

A: An initial application review is conducted once the student's application materials have been received by the deadline, Feb 1. Students will be notified by mail as to their initial eligibility status by May 1. At this point students are found either, "non-eligible" or "conditionally approved". Please do not inquire about the status of the application until after May1.

12. Q: What does it mean to be "conditionally approved" for an award?

A: If a student is found "conditionally approved" for an award, they must still submit final documentation indicating they have completed the core course of study as outlined for a Regents' Scholarship award as well as earned the necessary grades in each of those core courses to satisfy requirements. Conditional Approval of an award is not a guarantee of award receipt. A student who is found "conditionally approved" will receive a request to submit final documentation demonstrating completion of all of the scholarship requirements at the time of high school graduation. Deadlines for submission of this document will be provided to the student. Once all documentation is provided, the student's application will receive a final review. The final approval and award disbursement process may take 4-6 weeks (subject to the volume of applications received).

13. Q: How long do I have to use the scholarship?

A: A student must enroll full-time (a minimum of 12 credit hours) within 12 months of high school graduation in order to receive the scholarship. The scholarship must be used within 5 years of receipt.

14. Q: How do I apply for a deferral or leave of absence?

A: If a student does not plan to enroll full-time due to humanitarian/religious service, major medical problems or military service, a student can seek approval for a deferral or leave of absence in order to retain the scholarship award upon their return to full-time status. Upon return from an approved leave, it is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of enrollment to our office in order to receive the award payment. The form for a deferral and leave of absence can be found online at www.utahsbr.edu.

15. Q: When and how often do I need to renew my scholarship award?

A: Students who receive the Exemplary Academic Achievement award must renew their scholarship each semester of full-time enrollment. To renew your scholarship you must submit the following documents by the subsequent dates listed:

- Proof of enrollment (class schedule) for Fall Semester and proof of completion of the previous semester (i.e. transcript) submitted by September 30th.
- Proof of enrollment for Spring Semester and proof of completion of the previous semester by February 15th.
- Proof of enrollment for Summer Semester and proof of completion of the previous semester submitted by June 30th (if applicable).

If you are attending Brigham Young University:

- Proof of enrollment during Winter Semester and proof of completion of the previous semester by February 15th.
- Proof of enrollment during Spring Semester and proof of completion of the previous semester submitted by May 30th.
- Proof of enrollment during Summer Semester and proof of completion of the previous semester by July 30th (if applicable).

16. Q: Will certain grades be "weighted?"

A: Yes. Advanced Placement (AP), and concurrent enrollment (CE), will be weighted half the value of the credit earned for the course. The individual grades are added together, averaged, and then receive the additional weight. The Scholarship committee does maintain the discretion to use different weighting criteria based on a variety of factors, including but not limited to, school schedules (e.g. terms, trimesters, etc.) student scores on AP, and exceptional or unusual individual circumstances.

17. Q: If I complete a college course how many credits will I receive towards the scholarship?

A: If a student completes a college course worth 3 or more college credits, this will be equal to 1 credit for the scholarship purposes only. However, a student must submit the college transcript in order to have the "3:1" ratio conversion applied to their application. The student will also be evaluated on the college grade earned.

18. Q: May I still receive and use the Regents' Scholarship if I already have another scholarship?

A: Yes. You may "stack" the Regents' Scholarship on top of other scholarships and federal aid, including Pell Grants and the Academic Competitiveness Grant, but you may not be awarded both the Regents' Scholarship Exemplary award and a New Century Scholarship.

19. Q: Where should I mail documents related to the Regents' Scholarship?

A: Documents should be mailed to:
Utah System of Higher Education
Regents' Scholarship
PO BOX 145114
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5114

20. Q: Where can I obtain more information about Utah Scholars Initiative and the Regents' Scholarship?

A: More information about the Regents' Scholarship may be obtained at the Utah State Board of Regents' website (www.utahsbr.edu) or call 801-321-7294.

* Award amounts are subject to the availability of funds.

**Award levels for students attending an eligible private institution are based on the average cost of tuition of the institutions within the Utah System of Higher Education for the class of 2011; the Exemplary Academic Achievement Award will be worth up to \$5000* (to be paid in installments).

***Additional weights may be given for advanced placement courses and college courses. See FAQ sheet question 14.