



**Galveston College
Foundation**

**UNIVERSAL ACCESS
COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT
SCHOLARSHIP**



2026-2027

**Eligibility and
Participation Guidelines**

Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship Eligibility and Participation Guidelines



Since 2001, the Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship has helped more than 3,000 students attend Galveston College. Created through the generosity of local donors, businesses, and community foundations, the scholarship helps eligible students who may not qualify for federal or state financial aid but still need assistance completing a degree or workforce credential.

General Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship Requirements:

Universal Access (UA) Scholarships are provided by the Galveston College Foundation to help eligible students pursue an associate degree, bachelor's degree, workforce certificate, or other career credential at Galveston College.

Eligibility

To be considered for a Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship, applicants must meet one of the following educational qualifications within the Galveston College Taxing District:

- Graduate from a public or private high school.
- Successfully complete an approved home-school program.
- Earn a General Educational Development (GED) credential.
- Qualify as an eligible Dual Credit student.

Scholarship eligibility is based on where a student completed their high school education or equivalent, not on current residency. There is no deadline after graduation to apply for the scholarship, provided all other scholarship eligibility and participation requirements are met.

Applicants must also meet all Galveston College admissions, enrollment, and scholarship requirements. Questions regarding eligibility should be directed to the Admissions Office.

Application Requirements

New applicants must submit:

1. A completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.studentaid.gov.
2. A completed Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship application.
3. A Galveston College admissions application.
4. An active degree plan on file with the Counseling and Advising Center.

Renewal applicants must annually submit:

1. A completed FAFSA.
2. An active, updated degree plan.
3. A completed Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship application to the Financial Aid Office.

A final official high school transcript, GED certificate, or other required educational documentation must be submitted to the Admissions Office before registration. All required documents should be received by the published Financial Aid Priority Deadline. Missing or incomplete documentation may delay processing.

Coordination with Other Financial Aid

The Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship is intended to help cover tuition and required fees after other eligible financial aid has been applied.

If a student's Federal Pell Grant or other qualifying financial assistance fully covers tuition and required fees, the Foundation's tuition commitment will be considered fulfilled. Qualifying assistance may include Federal Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Texas Educational Opportunity Grants (TEOG), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding, and eligible third-party scholarships designated for tuition and required fees.

If a student's qualifying financial aid covers only a portion of tuition and required fees, the Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship may cover the remaining eligible balance, up to the established funding limits outlined in these guidelines.



Universal Access (UA) Scholarship

The Universal Access (UA) Scholarship helps eligible students pay for tuition and required fees while pursuing a degree or workforce credential at Galveston College.

Eligible students enrolled at least half-time may receive up to \$6,624 toward tuition and required fees while completing up to 60 credit hours for an associate degree.

Students who complete an associate degree and continue into an eligible Galveston College bachelor's degree program may qualify for an additional UA Scholarship award. Students pursuing approved advanced technology certificates beyond an associate degree, such as Computerized Tomography (CT) or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) following completion of the Radiologic Technology program, may also be eligible for additional scholarship support.

Unused scholarship funds remaining after a semester or at the conclusion of a student's eligibility period will be returned to the Galveston College Foundation.

To maintain eligibility, students must:

- Remain in compliance with Galveston College Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements.
- Maintain an approved degree plan on file.
- Use their scholarship allocation within five years of their initial enrollment at Galveston College.

UA+ Award

The UA+ Award provides additional financial assistance for required educational expenses beyond tuition and fees. Eligible students may use UA+ funding for items such as:

- Required textbooks
- Program equipment and tools
- Online access codes
- Required licensing or certification fees
- Other approved educational expenses

The UA+ Award provides up to \$35 per semester credit hour, with a lifetime maximum of \$2,100.

Students must initiate the UA+ voucher process through the Financial Aid Office and comply with all program requirements. The voucher may be used during any eligible semester while the student remains in good academic standing.

Stewardship Requirements:

Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship recipients are required to fulfill the following:

1. Write a letter of appreciation to donors and upload it into the award dashboard
2. Attend the reception recognizing donors and scholars held in the Spring semester.
3. Take individual and/or group photographs as needed.
4. Participate in Galveston College Foundation activities and events including visits to area schools as needed.

To remain eligible for the Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship, students must:

- Be enrolled at Galveston College as either a full-time or part-time student.
- Enroll in a minimum of 6 semester credit hours during each fall and spring semester.
- Enroll in a minimum of 3 semester credit hours during the summer semester.
- Be enrolled in an eligible academic or technical credit program listed in the Galveston College Catalog or in an approved contact hour program consisting of at least 360 contact hours.

The Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship may be applied toward up to 18 semester credit hours of developmental coursework.



Academic Requirements For Receiving Financial Aid (Satisfactory Academic Progress)

The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, mandates institutions of higher education to establish a standard of satisfactory academic progress for students who receive financial aid. This standard must apply to the student's entire academic history, whether Title IV financial aid was received or not. In order to remain eligible to receive aid students must meet the standard specified for acceptable academic performance and for satisfactory progress toward completion of their eligible program of study. This standard should not be confused with Probation or Good Standing as defined by academic regulations, nor is satisfactory progress affected by "academic fresh start".



Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship recipients are subject to the Galveston College Financial Aid Standards of Academic Progress including the process of appeals related to financial aid probation and suspension.

Galveston College's definition of satisfactory academic progress for receiving financial aid includes the following components with some exclusions:

I. Academic Standard Component

Galveston College uses the 4.0 grade point average (GPA) system and numerical code:

4.0 = A 3.0 = B 2.0 = C 1.0 = D

Students are expected to maintain an overall cumulative GPA of 2.0 based on the number of semester hours attempted at Galveston College.

II. Maximum Time Frame Component

Students may receive consideration for financial aid for up to 150% of program, with the exception of the Computerized Tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Advanced Certificate programs. The maximum number of attempted hours for the bachelors program is 180 hours. The maximum number of attempted hours for an associate degree program varies depending on the length of the program (90-98 hours). The maximum number of attempted hours for a certificate program varies depending on the length of the program (24-68 hours).

III. Rate of Completion

Student's overall completion rate (percentage) of credit hours attempted is expected to be at least 75%. Rate of completion is measured by dividing the cumulative number of hours successfully completed by the cumulative number of hours attempted.

IV. Change of Major

A student may change from one major to another during attendance at Galveston College. Students who change from one major to another are still expected to maintain satisfactory academic progress and complete the coursework within the time frame or hour limitation stated unless an appeal is approved. All attempted hours from a prior major(s) are included in the total maximum attempted hours.

Review Procedures

I. Academic Standards and Incremental Progress

The Financial Aid Office staff will determine each semester whether the student has successfully completed at least the minimum expected percentage of hours with the required GPA. The UA Scholarship is designed to encourage students to complete their education in an efficient manner, ensuring maximum utilization of the scholarship investment.

The following will be considered as semester hours successfully completed: "A" through "D" grades and "CR" credit.

The following shall be considered as semester hours not completed:

F—Failure	I—Incomplete Work*	NR—In Progress-No Grade Reported Yet
W—Official Withdrawal**	AUDIT—No Credit	NC—No Credit***
AWN—Administratively withdrawn for non-attendance/no credit		
CR—Credit***	CRA—Credit***	CRB—Credit***
CRC—Credit***	NCD—No Credit***	NCF—No Credit***

* Incomplete work must be completed on or before the end of the next long-term semester. Work not completed by the end of the next long semester (excluding summers) will automatically be changed to a grade of 'F' or 'NC'. Students with grade of 'I' will not be eligible for 'Honors' until 'I' has been completed.

**The last day to drop a course with a grade of 'W' is noted in the College Calendar.

***Developmental courses are not computed in semester or cumulative GPA, effective spring 1988.

II. Repeat Courses

For repeated courses, only the latest grade earned is included in cumulative grade point averages, but both courses will remain as a part of the aggregate hours attempted. Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarships will not be available for courses taken by audit or credit hours earned by placement tests.



III. Time Frame

At the end of each semester, the Financial Aid Office staff will determine the aggregate number of hours the student has attempted. The student must not exceed 150% of the required program hours to graduate from any one degree program. The student may appeal to have the Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship reinstated by providing supporting documentation.

IV. Developmental Classes

After a student accumulates a total of 18 (non-credit) semester hours of developmental coursework, developmental coursework may no longer be used to establish eligibility for the Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship. No exceptions will be made.

Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship Warning/Probation/Suspension

Following the first semester in which the standards of academic progress are not met, the student will be placed on a Warning status. A student who fails to meet the Galveston College Financial Aid Standards of Academic Progress during the semester of attendance while on a Warning status will be placed on suspension and denied further funding. Students who are suspended may become eligible again by bringing themselves into compliance with the requirements at their own expense.

Appeal Process

The Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship makes use of limited private dollars to ensure that all have access to higher education regardless of ability to pay. The recipient is charged with adhering to the rules and restrictions of the Community Endowment. If students lose their Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship because of failure to meet the requirements stated above, they may appeal their status to Satisfactory Academic Progress Team. Information about the Satisfactory Academic Progress Team and the appeal process is available with the Galveston College Financial Aid Office.

The Galveston College Foundation Board of Directors approved these guidelines April 2026 and reserves the right to change them.



Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Important Information for Parents and Students Completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

On the 2026–2027 FAFSA form, every contributor—anyone (you, your spouse, a biological or adoptive parent, or your parent’s spouse) who’s required to provide information on the FAFSA form—needs a StudentAid.gov account before accessing and completing their section of the online form. Contributors can access their StudentAid.gov account by using their FSA ID (account username and password).

Note: Contributors without an SSN can create a StudentAid.gov account to fill out their portion of your FAFSA form online.

Gathering the Documents Needed To Apply:

You might need the following information or documents as you fill out the 2026–2027 FAFSA form:

- Your parents’ Social Security Numbers (SSNs) if you’re a dependent student
- Tax returns
- Records of child support received
- Current balances of cash, savings and checking accounts
- Net worth of investments, businesses and farm

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) online at www.studentaid.gov.

IMPORTANT!

Galveston College
School Code: 004972

You will enter this code when applying for the FAFSA

Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship “To Do” List

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- ❑ Apply for Financial Aid by completing the 2026–2027 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.studentaid.gov.
 - ❑ Forms/documents to submit to the Financial Aid Office:
 1. Universal Access Application
 2. File a degree plan with the Counseling and Advising Center.
Set an appointment with an advisor by calling 409-944-1220.
 3. Additional documents, if requested by the Financial Aid Office, based on the information provided by FAFSA.
 - ❑ Forms/documents to submit to the Admissions Office:
 1. Final Official High School Transcript, GED, or Homeschool Documentation
 2. ALL Final Official College Transcript(s)
 3. Admissions Application
 4. Evidence of bacterial meningitis vaccination or exemption. Evidence of the vaccination must be during the 5 years preceding and at least 10 days prior to the first day of the semester in which the student plans to enroll.
 5. Please contact Admissions for any additional requirements at 409-944-1230.

All documents must be submitted by the Priority Deadlines:

For Fall: June 9, 2026

For Spring: November 9, 2026

For Summer: March 30, 2027

to ensure the Universal Access Scholarship file can be reviewed by the Financial Aid Office prior to the payment deadline date.

Missing documentation, incomplete or insufficient forms will cause processing delays.



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Foundation
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