



# Universal Access Scholarship Eligibility and Participation Guidelines

## Rationale

Universal Access Scholarships are provided to ensure that every eligible high school graduate, or equivalent, who resides in the Galveston College taxing district, has the opportunity to attend college, receive an associate's degree, or acquire technical training through a workforce development program and obtain a certificate.

## General Requirements

- Recipients must be a resident of the Galveston College taxing district for a minimum of 12 months prior to graduation from accredited high schools, successful completion of a General Educational Development (GED), or home schooling prior to enrollment into Galveston College, or otherwise qualified for an in-district waiver under state law. **Student must continue to be a resident of the Galveston College taxing district while enrolled at Galveston College and receiving Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship funds.** Residency requirements are determined by the Admissions Office and should be contacted for further information.
- All applicants must complete and submit: (1) a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)\*; (2) a Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship application; (3) file a degree plan in the Counseling Office; and (4) submit a Galveston College admissions application. \*The FAFSA is completed online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- Renewal applicants must complete: (1) a FAFSA; (2) submit an updated degree plan signed by the Counseling Office; and (3) complete a Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship application. The plan and application are turned in to the Financial Aid Office at Galveston College.
- A final high school transcript or GED certificate must be submitted to the Admissions Office prior to registration. Forms should be turned in by the **Financial Aid Priority Deadline date** indicated on the Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship application. Incomplete or insufficient forms will cause processing delays.
- **If the student has received a Federal Pell Grant or any other assistance that satisfies the costs for tuition and fees, the commitment of Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship will be considered fulfilled.** Other assistance includes Federal Pell Grant, Federal SEOG, Workforce Investment Act, and state financial aid such as TEOG and any 3<sup>rd</sup> party Scholarship/Source that is directly committed to the payment of tuition and fees. If the student receives assistance that is under the total cost of tuition and fees for the academic year or workforce program, Universal Access Community Endowment will pay the difference between the amount received and the cost of tuition and fees up to the established funding limits cited below.

**In fall 2018, the Galveston College Foundation Universal Access Community Endowment scholarship instituted a new lifetime limit of \$4,620 for full-time and part-time students, which covers tuition and required fees for a 60-credit hour associate degree.** All students must have a degree plan on file. Upon enrollment for the Universal Access Community Endowment award, a student's allocation must be used within a five-year period. **Beginning in fall 2019, Universal Access Community Endowment alumni in pursuit of a baccalaureate degree at the College are eligible for UA Plus funds to a maximum of \$500.00.** In Fall 2020, Universal Access Community Scholarship recipients (UA) may receive a total of \$300.00 under the Universal Access Plus Award. Additional funds up to \$450.00 may be available in spring 2021. UA Plus is a multi-year non-tuition educational expenses scholarship (awarded on a semester by semester basis) to aid students during the tenure of their academic career to purchase books, related program equipment and tools including internet access codes, etc. Students must initiate the UA Plus award voucher through the Financial Aid office and comply with the requirements as stated in the application. The Galveston College Foundation Board of Directors approved the increase for UA eligible students on April 30, 2020.

## Stewardship Requirements:

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

- Write and submit a letter of thanks to the donor in care of the Office of Development and Foundation.
- Attend the President's Reception Recognizing Donors and Scholars held in the Spring.
- Take individual and/or group photographs as needed.
- Participate in Galveston College Foundation activities and events including visits to area schools as needed.

## Enrollment Requirements:

- Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship recipients are required to be enrolled as full-time or part-time students. Students must be enrolled in at least six or more credit hours per semester.
- The applicant must be enrolled and initiate the Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship, Pell Grant, or any other assistance within 16 months of graduation from high school, receipt of a GED certificate, or completion of home schooling. If a program does not start at the beginning of the fall or spring semester, enrolled students will be eligible for support provided they fulfill the requirements.
- Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship recipients may enroll in an academic or technical credit program as identified in the Galveston College Catalog or an approved contact hour program of at least 360 hours.
- Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship will pay up to a total of 18 semester hours of developmental coursework.

### Satisfactory Academic Progress Responsibilities:

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. The Director of the Galveston College Foundation will review all Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship probation and suspension decisions each semester to confirm compliance with the guidelines. 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 or above** 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 **90 hours**.

III. Rate of Completion

Student's overall completion rate (percentage) of credit hours attempted is expected to be at least 75%.

### 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 Universal Access Community Endowment 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      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.

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 Scholarship will not be available for courses taken by audit or credit hours earned by placement tests.

II. 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. Once a student has attempted 90 hours, he/she is ineligible to receive consideration for Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship after that semester. The student may appeal to have the Universal Access Community Endowment Scholarship reinstated by providing supporting documentation.

III. 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 the Director of the Galveston College Foundation. The Director may consider appeals only if current endowment funds are available. All appeals must be sent to the Director in writing by the student within 10 working days from receipt of notification from Galveston College Financial Aid. The Director is restricted to appeals for eligibility based upon the student's failure to meet the requirements listed above. All decisions are final. A student may be allowed by the Director to continue on a probationary status.



The Galveston College Foundation Board of Directors approved these guidelines on April 30, 2020 and reserves the right to change them.

It is the policy of Galveston College to provide equal opportunities without regard to age, race, religion, national origin, sex, disability, genetic information or veteran status.