

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the awarding of all competitive academic scholarships.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.01 Competitive Academic Scholarship. A scholarship that is publicized in a manner consistent with Section 3 and is open to both residents and nonresidents, that is designated as competitive by SHSU, and does not give preference on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, or sex.

2.02 The University Academic Scholarship Committee shall be a standing committee appointed by the President.

3. INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

3.01 A scholarship committee shall be considered to be authorized in writing by the Sam Houston State University administration upon approval by the Provost and Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs or the respective dean. This authorization shall be in effect so long as scholarships under the control of a committee are included in the list of officially recognized University scholarships.

3.02 The list of approved scholarships and their requirements shall be maintained in a manner that provides potential applicants with ready access to both the scholarships and their respective requirements prior to published scholarship deadlines. This list is currently accessible from the following website: <https://shsu.academicworks.com/>.

3.03 Donors may provide scholarship funds to the University and/or its programs after posted scholarship deadlines. Such funds may be awarded as competitive academic scholarships provided the awards are made by an authorized scholarship committee in keeping with the criteria of a pre-existing scholarship under its control that qualifies as a competitive scholarship. Whenever practical, recipients of this type of award should be drawn from a pre-existing pool of applicants for one or more qualifying competitive academic scholarships.

4. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIVE ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

To be eligible for any competitive academic scholarship, a student must at minimum meet the general criteria for admission to the University. In addition, duly empowered scholarship committees may recommend standards for any competitive academic scholarships under its control. The scholarship requirements shall be in force from the time they are approved by the Provost for inclusion in the official list of University scholarships as set out in Section 3.

5. WAIVER OF NONRESIDENT TUITION AND FEES

5.01 Section 54.213(a) of the Texas Education Code states that “an institution of higher education may charge a nonresident student who holds competitive scholarships totaling at least \$1,000 for the academic year or summer term for which the student is enrolled resident tuition and fees without regard to the length of time the student has resided in Texas. The student must compete with other students, including Texas residents, for the scholarship, and the scholarship must be awarded by a scholarship committee officially recognized by the administration of the institution of higher education and approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under criteria developed by the Board.”

5.02 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Rules, Chapter 21, Subchapter SS, Section 21.2263(b)(1), states: “The competitive scholarship must meet the following requirements:

- a. total at least \$1,000 for the period of time covered by the scholarship, not to exceed 12 months;
- b. be awarded by a scholarship committee authorized in writing by the institution's administration to grant scholarships that permit this waiver of nonresident tuition;
- c. be awarded according to criteria published in the institution's paper or electronic catalog, available to the public in advance of any application deadline;
- d. be awarded under circumstances that cause both the funds and the selection process to be under the control of the institution; and
- e. permit awards to both resident and nonresident persons.”

5.03 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Rules, Chapter 21, Subchapter SS, Section 21.2263(b)(2) and (3) states: “The waiver of nonresident tuition under this provision shall only apply to the semester or semesters for which the enabling scholarship is awarded. If the scholarship is terminated for any reason prior to the end of the semester or semesters for which it was initially awarded, the person shall pay nonresident tuition for any semester following the termination of the scholarship.” Scholarship award letters must specify the semester or semesters (not to exceed 12 consecutive months) for which the scholarship is awarded. The waiver of non-resident tuition under this provision shall apply to the semester(s) specified in the award letter, regardless of disbursement semester (e.g., full disbursement in a fall term and applicability to the academic year).

6. OTHER AWARD PROCEDURES

- 6.01 Non-academic activities/departments wishing to award competitive academic scholarships shall:
- a. Ensure the requirements of Section 4 are met.
 - b. Convene an academic scholarship selection committee consisting of at least three (3) members, one (1) of whom shall be a full-time faculty member at Sam Houston State University. This committee will ensure that candidates for academic scholarships meet the criteria for selection established by this policy.
- 6.02 The University will retain all records of the scholarship application and scholarship agreement for a period of at least four (4) years from the date of the award.
- 6.03 Eligibility for the award will be confirmed by the Scholarship Coordinator in Financial Aid and Scholarships prior to the scholarship disbursing each semester. If the student is found ineligible, the student and department will be contacted so another recipient can be selected.
- 6.04 The scholarship awardee's academic progress at Sam Houston State University will be monitored by the University to ensure the awardee's continuing compliance with the terms of the scholarship agreement.

