FAQs asked by Current USM Students on Freshman or Transfer Scholarships

The following FAQs pertain to Freshman/Transfer Academic & Designation-Based Scholarships.

Q: I have questions about my Freshman Competitive Scholarship: Luckyday, Presidential, or Discovery Scholarship. Who can help?
A: You should call your program’s office:
   Luckyday Scholarship | Luckyday Scholars Program | 601-266-5981
   Presidential or Discovery Scholarships | Honors College | 601-266-4533
   Oseola McCarty Foundation Scholarship | Undergraduate Scholarships | 601-266-4540
   National Merit Presidential Scholarships | Undergraduate Scholarships | 601-266-4540

Q: What if I drop a class, how many hours do I need to maintain in order to keep my scholarship?
A: All students were mailed a formal stipulation agreement regarding their scholarship stipulations. We encourage you to keep a record of these stipulations until you graduate from USM. You also have a positive indicator on your SOAR student account explaining the required number of hours needed to maintain your scholarship. This indicator is a hold because the scholarship will not disburse unless you are enrolled in the correct amount of hours for your scholarship.
   • If you were awarded the scholarship before fall 2017, you must enroll in at least 12 credit hours. If you drop below 12 hours and the scholarship has already disbursed for the semester, it will be cancelled for the upcoming semester.
   • If you were awarded the scholarship for fall 2017 or future semesters, you must enroll in at least 15 credit hours. If you drop below 15 hours and the scholarship has already disbursed for the semester, it will be cancelled for the upcoming semester.

Q: What happens if I study abroad or participate in an Internship program? (This includes the Disney Internship Program)
A: As long as you are enrolled in the appropriate amount of USM credit hours (see the Q & A above), your scholarship will not be cancelled. If you fall below your enrollment requirement, your scholarship will be cancelled. You can appeal to the University Scholarship Appeals Committee for the semester you are returning to USM. It is recommended that you provide official documentation of your acceptance (including semesters of participation) and completion of the program. Visit “Appealing a Scholarship Status” at www.usm.edu/scholarships. This will provide details regarding the appeals process. You can also check out the FAQ section on the website.
Q: How do I know if a scholarship will be placed on probation and/or cancelled?
A: Typically students enrolled in the required number of credit hours will receive one probation semester if their grades fall below the required cumulative GPA 3.000. If a student has already received one probation semester, their scholarship will be cancelled. If the scholarship is only awarded for two semesters, a probationary period may not be granted and the scholarship will be cancelled. We encourage you to review the stipulation agreement sent with the original scholarship offer.

Q: When will I be notified if my scholarship is placed on probation or cancelled?
A: Scholarships coordinated by the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships are reviewed after final grades are posted for fall and spring semesters. This takes place in December and May. It typically takes at least one week for scholarship decisions to be made. Students will be sent a letter to their home address listed in SOAR. Due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Undergraduate Scholarship staff will not give out decisions over the telephone.

Additional Resources: Academic calendar provides details regarding when grades are available for students. If you need to updated contact information, contact the Office of the Registrar (usm.edu/registrar).

Q: Can I appeal my probation status?
A: No, probation semesters cannot be appealed. Students will still receive funds for the upcoming semester if placed on probation; therefore, an appeal is not necessary. If the scholarship is cancelled, the student can submit an appeal at that time for reinstatement.

Q: My scholarship was cancelled, how do I appeal to get it back?
A: Visit “Appealing a Scholarship Status” at www.usm.edu/scholarships. This will provide details regarding the appeals process. You can also check out the FAQ section on the website.

Q: I’ve had a grade change. How will this impact my scholarship?
A: Once the official grade in SOAR has been updated, students should email scholars@usm.edu regarding details of their grade change including their name and student ID. Undergraduate Scholarship staff will review the information in SOAR and contact student regarding an update in their scholarship status.

Q: Do summer semesters impact my scholarship status?
A: The Office of Undergraduate Scholarships reviews cumulative USM GPA and enrollment after the fall and spring semesters. A separate audit will not be conducted after the summer semester.