Freshman Scholarships | FAQs

Q: What is the GO System?
A: The GO System is an abbreviation for the Golden Opportunities Scholarship Application System. This one system houses undergraduate scholarships at The University of Southern Mississippi: USM foundation opportunities, Freshman Academic Scholarships, Freshman Competitive Scholarships, Freshman Designation-Based Scholarships, Freshman National Merit and major/interest scholarships. Visit the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships’ website for FAQs and Scholarship Resources for helpful instructions.

Q: Do I have to apply for freshman scholarships?
A: For all freshman scholarships listed below, students must be admitted by December 1.

- **Academic Scholarships**: No, students will be automatically considered for the Academic Excellence Scholarship. We strongly recommend students complete the Golden Opportunities General Application for other scholarship opportunities.
- **Competitive Scholarships**: Yes, students must apply for competitive scholarships by January 15 through the GO System.
- **Designation-Based Scholarships**: Yes, students must apply and submit official documentation by July 1 through the GO System.
- **National Merit Scholarships**: Yes, students must apply and submit official documentation by May 1 through the GO System. Priority date for Semifinalist applications is December 1.

Q: Will I be considered for freshman scholarships if I am admitted after December 1?
A: Students admitted after the December 1 deadline will not be considered for freshman scholarships: Academic, Competitive, Designation-Based, or National Merit Scholarships.

*Updated September 1, 2018*
Q: If I take the December ACT or SAT test, will it count for Freshman Academic Scholarships?
A: Scores from the December test date will be used to update student scholarship offers if they were admitted by December 1st and submit their updated test scores by February 1st. Test scores must be submitted to the Office of Admissions. Letters will be sent in February if the scholarship offer is increased. We will not accept scores after the December test date.

Q: Will you superscore my ACT/SAT?
A: The University of Southern Mississippi does not super score.

Q: When will I know if I get a Freshman Academic Scholarship?
A: Freshman Academic Scholarships are called Academic Excellence Scholarships. Students will receive the first round of scholarship and financial aid award notifications by January 1 of the student’s senior year.

Q: I have questions about Freshman Competitive Scholarships: Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholars Program or Honors College: Incoming Freshman Scholarships, who should I ask?
A. It’s always best to start with your admissions counselor in the Office of Admissions. You can also call the Luckyday Scholars Program or the Honors College at:
   Office of Admissions | 601-266-5000
   Luckyday Scholars Program | 601-266-5981
   Honors College | 601-266-4533

Q: What do I do if I want to apply for Freshman Competitive Scholarships: Luckyday Foundation Citizenship Scholars Program or Honors College: Incoming Freshman Scholarships?
A: You need to complete the General Application via the Go System and Program Applications by January 15. Visit the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships’ website: FAQs and University Resources for helpful instructions on how to apply. Students must have a FAFSA on file.

Q: Do I have to complete a FAFSA?
A: A FAFSA is required to receive all undergraduate scholarships. Remember, students must be admitted by December 1 and the Southern Miss priority date for financial aid is December 15.

Updated September 1, 2018
Q: Do all scholarships stack?
A: Most freshman scholarships will stack, up to cost of attendance. However, students receiving the Honors College: Incoming Freshman Competitive Scholarships and National Merit Scholarships cannot stack with the Academic Excellence Scholarship. The Mississippi state governing board, IHL, does not allow students to receive two scholarships for the same designation (ex: two tuition or housing scholarships). Check out the FAQ titled, "What Scholarships Stack" for more information.

Q: Do dual enrollment hours impact my eligibility for freshman scholarships?
A: No, freshman scholarships are available to students the fall semester immediately following high school graduation. If you attend summer school after your high school graduation but enroll and attend at The University of Southern Mississippi that fall semester, you will be considered for freshman scholarships.

Q: Do I have to accept my scholarship?
A: Yes, students must accept their freshman scholarship(s) via the GO System by May 1. If you do not accept by May 1, your scholarship will be cancelled. Check out the FAQ titled, “How to Accept Scholarships in GO” for more information.

Q: I was selected to receive a scholarship. How do I keep it?
A: Your scholarship packet will include a stipulation agreement outlining how you will maintain your scholarship(s). Make sure you keep this stipulation agreement while you are attending The University of Southern Mississippi.

Updated September 1, 2018