Maintaining My Admissions-Based Scholarship | FAQs

Q: What if I drop a class, how many hours do I need to maintain in order to keep my scholarship?
   A: Students that received their admissions-based scholarship(s) before the fall 2017 semester must maintain continuous enrollment in at least 12 credit hours. If you drop below the hour requirement, the scholarship(s) will be cancelled.
   A: Students that receive their admissions-based scholarship(s) fall 2017 and future semesters must maintain continuous enrollment in at least 15 credit hours. If you drop below the hour requirement, the scholarship(s) will be cancelled.

Q: When will I be notified if my scholarship is placed on probation or cancelled?
   A: Admissions-Based Scholarships are reviewed after final grades are posted for fall and spring semesters. This takes place in December and May. Letters are sent to the students home address listed in SOAR and should arrive by January 5 and/or April 1. Students can view the academic calendar at usm.edu/registrar for more details regarding when grades are available to view in SOAR.

Q: How do I know if a scholarship will be placed on probation or cancelled?
   A: Typically students receiving an admissions-based scholarship will receive one probation semester if their grades fall below the required GPA* (3.000 cumulative) and remain enrolled in the required number of hours.
   A: If you are receiving a scholarship that is only for one academic year (two semesters), you will not receive a probationary semester. Your scholarship will be automatically cancelled if you fall below the required GPA* (3.0 cumulative).
   A: If a student has already received one probation semester, their scholarship will be cancelled.
   *National Merit Finalist Scholars are required to maintain a 3.25 cumulative GPA.

Q: How will I be notified if my scholarship is placed on probation or cancelled?
   A: A letter is sent to the student’s home address listed in SOAR. It is not our policy to give out decisions over the telephone due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). If a student’s scholarship is cancelled, they can also review their SOAR account for updates regarding financial assistance – Student Center > Finances.

Q: Do summer semesters impact my scholarship status?
   A: No, the University of Undergraduate Scholarships only reviews grades for fall and spring semesters.

Q: My scholarship was cancelled, how do I appeal to get it back?
   A: Please see the FAQ – “University Scholarship Appeals Committee” located at www.usm.edu/scholarships for further details and instructions. You can submit your appeal under “Appealing a Scholarship Status.”

Q: Can I appeal my probation status?
   A: Probation semesters cannot be appealed. Students will continue to receive funds for the upcoming semester if placed on probation.
Q: I received 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. A staff member in the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships will review the information in SOAR and contact the student regarding any scholarship updates.

Q: What happens if I study abroad or participate in an internship program?
A: As long as you are continuously enrolled at Southern Miss in the required number of hours, as determined by your scholarship stipulation agreement, your scholarship will not be cancelled. If you fall below the required hours or discontinue enrollment at Southern Miss, your scholarship will be cancelled. If it is cancelled, you have the option to appeal to the University Scholarship Appeals Committee. It is recommended that you provide official documentation of your acceptance (including semesters of participation) and completion of the program.

Q: I have questions about my Luckyday, Presidential, or Discovery Scholarship. Who can help?
A: All questions regarding Luckyday Scholarships should be communicated with the Luckyday Scholars Program.
A: All questions regarding Presidential* and Discovery Scholarships should be communicated with the Honors College.
* National Merit Finalist Scholarship questions should be communicated to the Office of Undergraduate Scholarships.