College of Natural Sciences
Scholarship Information for Prospective Freshmen

1. How do I apply for a scholarship in the College of Natural Sciences as an entering freshman?
   All prospective CNS freshmen who have been admitted into the College of Natural Sciences and who have selected CNS as their first choice major will be considered for scholarships awarded by the College of Natural Sciences. There is not a separate scholarship application for CNS awards. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to submit the Freshman Scholarship Application (FSA) by the December 1st deadline, and are also strongly encouraged to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the March 15 priority deadline in order to be considered for university-wide awards.

2. What criteria do you use for entering freshman scholarship offers?
   The College of Natural Sciences looks at a variety of factors when making scholarship decisions. Scholarship decisions are based on items such as but not limited to merit, leadership and/or need. Since scholarship funding comes from various sources, criteria used to make scholarship selections can vary too.

3. Is the scholarship process competitive?
   Yes, the scholarship process is extremely competitive for our prospective students. Roughly 8% of the admitted CNS class received scholarship offers for the 2017-2018 academic year. However, there are many opportunities for students to apply for scholarships as a continuing student.

4. Who makes scholarship decisions for the College of Natural Sciences?
   Prospective student awards are decided upon by administration, faculty and staff directly involved with the admissions process. A committee made up of College of Natural Sciences faculty members and the CNS Scholarship Coordinator evaluates continuing student scholarship applications.

5. What can I do if I don’t receive a College of Natural Sciences scholarship offer as an entering freshman?
   Prospective students should not be discouraged if they do not receive a scholarship offer from the College of Natural Sciences. All students are encouraged to submit their FAFSA by the March 15th priority deadline so that they can be considered for any and all financial aid they might be eligible for including other UT scholarships, grants and loans. Students should be sure to visit http://finaid.utexas.edu/scholarships. This website contains information not only on UT specific awards, but also scholarships from outside sources. Please also keep in mind that students are able to apply for scholarships awarded by the College of Natural Sciences on an annual basis.

6. Can I apply for more scholarships after I enroll at UT Austin?
   The College of Natural Sciences invites all CNS undergraduates to submit the CNS Common Scholarship Application every spring. Most CNS departments also have their own awarding process for undergraduate scholarships available to students in specific majors or programs. Students are also invited to submit the university scholarship application through the Office of
Student Financial Services every year. There are many opportunities for students to apply for scholarships throughout their four years on the Forty Acres.

7. When will I be notified if I received a College of Natural Sciences scholarship?
The College of Natural Sciences typically notifies prospective students of their CNS award via U.S. mail throughout the month of March.

8. Will I be notified if I did not receive a College of Natural Sciences scholarship?
Only students who have received a CNS scholarship will be notified of their status.

9. How can out-of-state students qualify for an Out-of-State Tuition Waiver?
In order to be eligible for a waiver through CNS, students must be a recipient of a scholarship worth at least $1000 that has been administered and awarded by the University. Being a recipient of a scholarship does not guarantee a student of a waiver, it simply makes them eligible should they complete the proper waiver application and should the scholarship committee rank their application highly enough. We normally receive 30-40 waiver applications and usually only have between 5-7 waivers to award per year. It is a highly competitive award.

Also, CNS waivers are awarded on a semester-to-semester basis (though the intention is to award them for an entire academic year). They are non-renewable awards, which means students must apply for a waiver on a yearly basis. There is no guarantee that a student would receive a waiver from one year to the next. Out-of-state students should plan on paying out-of-state tuition for the entire four years at UT as waivers for undergraduates are extremely limited, not only through CNS but across campus as well.

10. How can I apply for an Out-of-State tuition waiver?
Prospective out-of-state students interested in applying for a waiver through CNS should contact the CNS Scholarship Coordinator for the link to the waiver application. The waiver application typically becomes available at the beginning of the spring semester with an application deadline of March 15 for the upcoming year. It consists of an online portion and students may opt to submit one letter of recommendation from a high school science teacher. If you opt to have letters submitted on your behalf, they must also meet the March 15 deadline. Since applications are only accepted one time of year, students should submit an application by the deadline regardless of their admissions and/or scholarship status at the time of the deadline.

11. When will I be notified if I received a waiver through CNS?
Since the competition for the award includes both incoming and current students, final decisions are made during the summer, after the May 1 deadline for incoming freshmen to make their admissions decisions. Students will have to make an admissions decision before they know of their waiver status for the upcoming year.

Please feel free to send questions to scholarships@cns.utexas.edu.