



Scholarship FAQs for Prospective College of Natural Sciences 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.***

There is also no longer a separate university-wide scholarship application for incoming freshmen. All applicants will be considered for university-wide scholarships using the admissions application. Students wishing to be considered for the widest range of scholarships should submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by January 15. Finally, the Office of Financial Aid administers some scholarships with unique qualifications (specific majors, service components, etc.). Students fitting these unique qualifications may choose to submit the Scholarship Interest Form to be considered for these specific awards. The Scholarship Interest Form will be visible through each applicant's MyStatus page after the admissions application is received. The deadline to submit the form is December 1.

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 6% of the admitted CNS class received scholarship offers for the 2018-2019 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 January 15 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>. 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 major and/or program specific undergraduate scholarships. Students may also submit the university scholarship application through the Office of Financial Aid every year. There are many scholarship opportunities for students throughout their time 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 60-70 waiver applications and usually only have between 5-7 waivers to award per year. It is a highly competitive award.

CNS waivers 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 scholarships@cns.utexas.edu 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**. Students may also opt to submit a letter of recommendation from a high school science teacher. If you opt to have a letter submitted on your behalf, it must also meet the March 15 deadline. Applications are only accepted one time of year, so students should submit an application 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 admissions deadline. Students will have to make an admissions decision before they know of their waiver status for the upcoming year.

Questions? Please contact scholarships@cns.utexas.edu.