13.03.99.C0.02 Athletic Scholarships

Revised: November 27, 2023
Next Scheduled Review: November 27, 2028
Revision History

Procedure Summary

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) offers athletic scholarships that recognize athletic ability. Scholarship awards are competitive, and selection is based upon athletic ability and compliance with academic standards set by the university and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). This procedure provides guidelines for the oversight, establishment, and awarding of athletic scholarships. This procedure should be read in conjunction with university procedures *13.03.99.C0.01, Donor-Funded Scholarships* and *13.03.99.C0.03, Institutional Scholarships*.

Definitions

Endowed Scholarship – An endowed scholarship is a permanent investment fund established by a donor(s). A portion of the income earned from the fund finances scholarships for students at TAMU-CC in perpetuity yearly. Endowed scholarships can be invested with the Texas A&M University System Endowment Fund or the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi Foundation.

Annual Scholarship – An annual scholarship is a current use fund that is created to award to students at TAMU-CC. Different from an endowed scholarship, funds are not invested, and instead are awarded entirely to students in the award year designated by the donor.

Procedure

1. OVERSIGHT OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

    1.1. The Athletic Compliance Office has oversight responsibility and authority for all athletic-related awards given by the university.

    1.2. The Athletic Compliance Office has three (3) roles related to athletic scholarships: developing guidelines, managing the awarding process, and monitoring.

1.3. The Athletic Compliance Office is empowered to review, evaluate, and modify all athletic scholarships that are recommended by the Athletic Department. Associated with its scholarship oversight responsibility, the Athletic Compliance Office is empowered to conduct evaluations that will assist in the formulation of guidelines regarding the awarding of scholarships.

1.4. Institutional Advancement is responsible for the maintenance of a donor database which contains scholarship information including scholarship agreements, fund values, and a history of interactions with donors. The Athletic Department is responsible for creating and maintaining a file containing a list of scholarship awards for each academic year.

1.5. Institutional Advancement is responsible for formally acknowledging all athletic scholarship contributions and for reporting a list of scholarship recipients to the donors. Scholarship Services will aid in the identification process.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

2.1. Monies to support scholarships are received by Institutional Advancement. Questions about setting up an athletic scholarship should be directed to the Athletic Director in coordination with Institutional Advancement; inquiries about the administration of athletic scholarships should be directed to the Director of Scholarship Services.

2.2. Gifts from donors can be used to fund both athletic scholarship endowments and annual athletic scholarships.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Freshman Scholarships

Minimum qualifications to be considered for a freshman athletic scholarship are defined as being a qualifier or “academic redshirt” by the NCAA Division I Financial Aid Requirements of the NCAA Manual (Bylaw 14.3).

3.2. Transfer Students

Transfer students may be eligible for athletic scholarships provided they meet the requirements set forth by the NCAA Division I Manual (Bylaw 14.5).

3.3. Graduate Students

3.3.1. New or entering graduate students must have the requisite athletic eligibility and have been accepted into a graduate program based on TAMU-CC graduate program requirements.

3.3.2. Existing graduate students must maintain good academic standing, as defined by TAMU-CC, and be enrolled full-time unless they are in their final semester prior to graduation.

4. GUIDELINES FOR AWARDING AND RENEWING ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

4.1. Decisions to award scholarships are based on factors such as the scholastic eligibility requirements, athletic ability, coach's recommendation, potential for success at the Division I level, and the amount of funding available. The Office of Student Financial Assistance, Center for Athletic Academic Services, and the Athletic Compliance Office monitor the progress of students who have been awarded scholarships and determine whether they are eligible for continuation of their scholarships. Decisions on the renewal of scholarships are based on a variety of factors (e.g., team status, maximum timeframe for awarding scholarships, satisfactory academic progress, coach's recommendation, and the continued availability of funding).

4.2. Donor-funded scholarship renewal criteria is based on each donor's scholarship agreement.

4.3. Generally, only full-time students are awarded athletic scholarships. To be enrolled full-time, undergraduates must carry at least twelve (12) semester hours. Graduate students must carry at least nine (9) semester hours. Exemptions to minimum enrollment levels must be approved by the Athletic Compliance Office.

4.4. Scholarships for all types of students are generally awarded on an annual basis unless a student-athlete enrolls mid-year.

4.5. Generally, athletic scholarships will be renewed if the recipient continues to meet the athletic and academic requirements.

4.6. For awarding and maintaining scholarships, the academic year consists of the fall and spring semesters. The first and second summer sessions are awarded at the discretion of the head coach, Athletic Director, and Athletic Compliance Office.

5. ATHLETIC GRANT-IN AID AWARDING PROCESS

5.1. The selection of athletic scholarship recipients and the awarding of scholarships shall be based upon recommendations by the coaches and confirmed by the Athletic Director or designee and the Athletic Compliance Office.

5.2. Athletic scholarships are given in accordance with the head coach's recommendation which is based on the consideration of various factors (e.g.,

athletic ability, potential for development, academic record, and past accomplishments). If all requirements are met and sufficient funds are available, scholarships will be provided to student-athletes regardless of the academic year of the student-athlete (e.g., freshman, transfer, or graduate). The Office of Student Financial Assistance provides administrative support to the Athletic Compliance Office. Students who are awarded scholarships must be admitted to the university before funds may be disbursed. Notification of scholarship awards are made by the Office of Student Financial Assistance in coordination with the Athletic Compliance Office.

5.3. The Athletic Director or designee, head coach, the Athletic Compliance Office, and Financial Aid Advisor are responsible for executing a scholarship agreement between the university and the student-athlete. A copy of this agreement must be signed by the student-athlete, Office of Student Financial Assistance, and the Athletic Director (or designee) and maintained on file by the Athletic Compliance Office. The Athletic Compliance Office assigns the account and advises the Office of Student Financial Assistance.

5.4. Scholarship funds are disbursed by the Office of Student Financial Assistance at the direction of the Athletic Compliance Office.

6. SATISFACTORY PROGRESS CRITERIA

6.1. To qualify for renewal of their scholarships, freshman, transfer, and graduate students must make satisfactory academic progress.

6.2. During the year of enrollment, an athletic scholarship may only be altered as set forth by Bylaw 15.3 of the NCAA Manual. Satisfactory academic progress to maintain an athletic scholarship during the year or to be eligible for an athletic scholarship the following year is defined in Bylaw 14 of the NCAA Division I Operation Manual and the “Financial Assistance” section of the TAMU-CC Catalog.

7. CANCELLATION, REDUCTION, AND APPEALS

7.1. The Office of Student Financial Assistance will electronically notify student-athletes of any reduction or cancellation of an athletic scholarship, as well as the opportunity and guidelines for appeal.

7.2. Per NCAA rules, a student-athlete may appeal the cancellation or reduction of an athletic scholarship by submitting a letter and any supporting documentation or mitigation to the Office of Student Financial Assistance for review. A student-athlete who wishes to appeal any decision related to their athletic grant-in aid shall notify the Executive Director of Student Financial Assistance within ten (10) days of the letter.

7.3. A hearing on the appeal will be conducted by the Office of Student Financial Assistance. The student-athlete and the Athletic Department will be notified of the decision within one (1) business day. The student-athlete will submit a Student-Athlete Athletic Scholarship Appeals Request form (emailed to student) and any supporting documentation.

7.4. The Executive Director of Student Financial Assistance will schedule a hearing before the Athletic Scholarship Appeals Committee to review statements and documentation submitted by the student-athlete, the Athletic Department (Head Coach, Sport Designee, Compliance Office, Athletics Academic Services, Athletics Director) during the appeals hearing to make their decision.

7.5. The committee's decision is final, and there is no further appeal beyond the Athletic Scholarship Appeals Committee.

7.6. The student-athlete and Athletic Department will be notified of the committee's decision verbally and in writing within three (3) business days.

Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements

NCAA Division 1 Manual
System Policy *13.03, Texas Public Educational Grants*
University Procedure *13.03.99.C0.01, Donor-Funded Scholarships*
University Procedure *13.03.99.C0.03, Institutional Scholarships*

This procedure supersedes:

- *13.03.01.C0.02, Athletic Scholarships*

Contact Office

Contact for interpretation and clarification:	Athletic Compliance Office 361.825.2843