



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 not a separate university-wide scholarship application for incoming freshmen. Entering freshmen should apply for admission and complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be considered for university-wide scholarships. Students who do not submit a FAFSA will still be considered for scholarships that do not require financial need. Applicants are encouraged to submit a FAFSA by January 15 to be considered for the widest range of scholarships.

Lastly, the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid administers some scholarships with unique qualifications, such as admission to certain majors or service in the U.S. Armed Forces. 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 does the College of Natural Sciences use for entering freshman scholarship offers?

CNS 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 also vary.

3. Is the scholarship process competitive?

Yes, the scholarship process is extremely competitive for our prospective students. About 6% of admitted CNS students for Fall 2021 received scholarship offers from CNS for the 2021-2022 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 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. Please visit <https://onestop.utexas.edu/managing-costs> for more information. Keep in mind that students are able to apply for scholarships awarded by CNS and UT 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 Scholarships and 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?

CNS typically notifies prospective students of their CNS award throughout early 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 in for the link to the waiver application. The waiver application typically becomes available at the beginning of the spring semester (early January) 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. Prospective students should submit a waiver 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.