

ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS POLICY MANUAL	
4-323	Tuition Waiver Scholarships and Institutionally Supported Financial Aid Programs
<u>Revision Dates</u> 11/20/2025, 2/13/2025, 2/9/2023 (effective 12/13/2022), 11/17/2022, 2/10/2022, 11/21/2019, 6/14/2018, 4/7/2017, 11/18/2016, 11/20/2015, 11/21/2013, 9/26/2013, 12/6/2012 (adopted)	

A. Institutional Financial Aid

1. The board will approve institutional funds to be used for financial aid awards as part of the annual financial aid plans.
2. Each university shall establish and administer selection criteria for grants and scholarships to assure fair and equitable access. Criteria for scholarships shall be appropriated to students from public, private, charter, and home schools.
3. Each university shall establish and publicize minimum requirements for the continuation of scholarships and grants.

B. Tuition Waiver Scholarships

1. Tuition Waiver Scholarships for the Children and Spouses of:
Arizona Peace Officers,
Arizona Fire Fighters,
Arizona Emergency Paramedics,
Arizona Military Service Personnel,
Arizona Correctional Officers, and
Arizona National Guard Members Killed in the Line of Duty;
 - a. This tuition waiver scholarship program entitles eligible students to the lesser of:
 - (1) A tuition waiver scholarship for credit hours that are necessary to obtain a baccalaureate degree; or
 - (2) A tuition waiver scholarship for 144 credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree including any waived transfer credits from an Arizona community college or university.
 - b. In accordance with the state law, the Arizona Board of Regents authorizes each university to award these tuition waiver scholarships for sessions occurring within a calendar year to students who meet the following criteria:

- (1) The student meets the university's regular admission requirements;
 - (2) The student maintains a record of satisfactory academic progress in accordance with each university's standards;
 - (3) Students eligible for the program due to their status as a child of an individual must be 30 years of age or younger on the first day of any semester to which the scholarship would apply;
 - (4) Students eligible for the program due to their status as a spouse of an individual may not have remarried;
 - (5) The eligibility of the student must be verified by the appropriate entity:
 - (a) The eligibility of a student to participate as a child or spouse of an Arizona Peace Officer, Arizona Fire Fighter, Arizona Emergency Paramedic, or Arizona Correctional Officer (as defined in A.R.S. §15-1808(D)(4)) killed in the line of duty must be verified by the Arizona Peace Officers Memorial Board, the Arizona Fallen Firefighters Memorial Committee, or the appropriate correctional official in the relevant state agency, county, city or town.
 - (b) The eligibility of a student to participate as a child or spouse of Arizona military service personnel killed in the line of duty in response to a Presidential Executive Order, and for severely disabled combat survivors, must be verified by the U.S. Department of Defense or either the Federal or State Department of Veteran Affairs;
 - (c) The eligibility of a student to participate as a child or spouse of an Arizona National Guard member killed in the line of duty must be verified by the Adjutant General of the National Guard.
2. An Arizona National Guard Member who received a Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001; and former members of the Arizona National Guard who were medically discharged from the Arizona National Guard due to an injury or disability suffered during status under Title 10, United States Code, in weekend training status, in annual training status or in response to a state of emergency declared by the Governor, as specified

by A.R.S. §15-1808.

- a. In accordance with the State law, the Arizona Board of Regents authorizes each university to award these tuition waiver scholarships for sessions occurring within a calendar year to students who meet the following criteria:
 - (1) The student meets the university's regular admission requirements;
 - (2) The student maintains a record of satisfactory academic progress in accordance with each university's standards;
 - (3) The eligibility of the student must be verified by the Adjutant General of the National Guard.
3. Arizona military service personnel who received a Purple Heart citation as specified by A.R.S. §15-1808.
 - a. In accordance with the state law, the Arizona Board of Regents authorizes each university to award tuition waiver scholarships for sessions occurring within a calendar year to students who meet the following criteria:
 - (1) The student meets the university's regular admission requirements;
 - (2) The student maintains a record of satisfactory academic progress in accordance with each university's standards;
 - (3) The student was a resident of the State of Arizona or was stationed in Arizona at the time of the injury that resulted in the Purple Heart citation, and ;
 - (4) The student had a disability rating as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs of 50% or more; and
 - (5) The student has never been convicted of a felony.
 - (6) The eligibility of the student must be verified by the Arizona Department of Veteran's Services.
4. Non-resident tuition waiver scholarships for students from Sonora, Mexico, as authorized by A.R.S. §15-1626.

The universities are authorized to award a maximum of fifty non-resident tuition waiver scholarships to students from Sonora, Mexico participating in the Educational Exchange Program authorized by A.R.S. §15-1626.

5. Tuition Waiver Scholarships for Students in the Foster Care System at the Age of 14.
 - a. The universities shall award tuition and mandatory fee waiver scholarships to a student who:
 - (1) Resides in Arizona, and
 - (a) Is currently in foster care and at least 14 years of age, or
 - (b) Was in foster care when the person was at least 14 years of age, or
 - (c) Was adopted from foster care and the adoption was finalized after the person attained 14 years of age, and
 - (2) Has total assets, not including scholarships or grants, received by the student that are worth less than \$10,000; and
 - (3) Is under 23 years of age; and
 - (4) Meets the university's regular admission requirements and is accepted into or enrolled in a program at a university under the jurisdiction of the Arizona Board of Regents; and
 - (5) Has completed and submitted to the United States Department of Education the FASFA form before each year in which the student receives a tuition waiver scholarship pursuant to this policy;
 - (6) Is a United States citizen or is a noncitizen who is lawfully present in this country; and
 - (7) Eligibility for this program must be verified by the Arizona Department of Child Safety.
 - b. The tuition waiver scholarship provided is to be reduced by the amount of any other federal aid, scholarships, or public grants and any other public aid received, except the tuition waiver scholarship

- shall not be reduced by the amount of federal grant received by the individual from the Department of Child Safety under the Arizona Education and Training Voucher Program.
- c. The student who has been awarded the tuition waiver scholarship will receive the scholarship in accordance with the following until:
 - (1) The student reaches the age of 23.
 - d. The student will also continue to receive the tuition waiver scholarship as long as:
 - (1) The student maintains a record of satisfactory academic progress in accordance with each university's standards;
 - (2) The student remains in good standing with the policies established by each university; and
 - (3) The student completes thirty hours of volunteer service each year after the first year the student receives the tuition waiver scholarship.
 - e. If the tuition waiver scholarship is terminated before a recipient of the tuition waiver scholarship completes a degree and before the student reaches 23 years of age, that student shall continue to be awarded a tuition waiver scholarship until the student reaches 23 years of age, or completes their degree, whichever occurs first, if the student continues to meet the scholarship criteria prescribed by this policy.
 - f. ABOR will periodically collect and report aggregate data concerning the scholarship recipients, including number of applicants, enrollment, attendance, graduation rates, academic performance, educational outcomes, withdrawal rates, demographic information, scholarship award amounts and total program costs.
6. Tuition waiver scholarships for the children and spouses of:
Arizona veterans of the United States Armed Forces,
Current and former Arizona peace officers,
Current and former Arizona firefighters, and
Active duty or inactive duty Arizona military service personnel who suffered a post-traumatic stress injury in the line of duty and died by suicide;
- a. This tuition waiver scholarship program entitles eligible students to the lesser of:

- (1) A tuition waiver scholarship for credit hours that are necessary to obtain a baccalaureate degree; or
 - (2) A tuition waiver scholarship for 144 credit hours toward a baccalaureate degree including any waived transfer credits from an Arizona community college or university.
- b. In accordance with the state law, the Arizona Board of Regents authorizes each university to award these tuition waiver scholarships for sessions occurring within a calendar year to students who meet the following criteria:
 - (1) The student is the child or spouse of an individual who meets all of the following requirements:
 - (a) Was a veteran of the United States Armed Forces or was serving or previously served as a peace officer, a firefighter or a member of the United States Armed Forces at the time of the individual's death;
 - (i) It is not a requirement that the individual was employed as a peace officer or firefighter or was serving on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces at the time of the individual's death.
 - (b) Was a resident of Arizona at the time of the individual's death;
 - (c) Suffered a posttraumatic stress injury in the line of duty; and,
 - (d) Died by suicide.
 - (2) The student meets the university's regular admission requirements;
 - (3) The student maintains a record of satisfactory academic progress in accordance with each university's standards;
 - (4) Students eligible for the program due to their status as a child of a qualifying individual under subsection (6)(b)(1) above must be 30 years of age or younger on the first day of any semester to which the scholarship would apply;

- (5) Students eligible for the program due to their status as a spouse of a qualifying individual under subsection (6)(b)(1) above may not have remarried;
- (6) The eligibility of the student must be verified by the appropriate entity:
 - (a) The eligibility of a student to participate as a child or spouse of a current or former Arizona peace officer must be verified by the Arizona Peace Officers Memorial Board;
 - (b) The eligibility of a student to participate as a child or spouse of a current or former Arizona firefighter must be verified by the Arizona Fallen Firefighter Memorial Committee;
 - (c) The eligibility of a student to participate as a child or spouse of an Arizona veteran or a member of the United States Armed Forces must be verified by the Federal or State Department of Veteran's Services.
- c. The following shall be prima facie evidence that an individual suffered a posttraumatic stress injury in the line of duty:
 - (1) Documentation that a peace officer or a firefighter at any point received a disability pension under A.R.S. § 38-844 for a posttraumatic stress injury;
 - (2) Documentation that a peace officer or a firefighter at any point received benefits under A.R.S. Title 38, Chapter 5, Article 4.2;
 - (3) A discharge or other document from the United States Armed Forces showing the member or veteran of the United States Armed Forces was discharged because of, or suffered from a posttraumatic stress injury;
 - (4) Documentation from the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs showing that the member or veteran suffered from a posttraumatic stress injury.
- d. Beginning July 1, 2023, a student who meets the requirements prescribed in A.R.S. § 15-1808, subsections b and c, is eligible to receive a tuition waiver scholarship regardless of the date on which the student's parent or spouse suffered the posttraumatic stress

injury or died by suicide.

- e. A student who is eligible to receive a tuition waiver scholarship pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-1808 subsections b and c and who did not receive a tuition waiver scholarship during either the 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 school year, or both, is eligible for reimbursement from the board in an amount equal to the tuition waiver scholarship award that the person was eligible to receive for each school year, minus any gifts, grants, scholarships or other tuition benefits that the person received during each school year.

C. Programs Required by the Board

- 1. Resident tuition waiver scholarships for members of the Community College All-Arizona Academic Team.

The universities are authorized to award resident tuition waiver scholarships to community college students selected as members of the All-Arizona Academic Team by Phi Theta Kappa, The National Honor Society for Community College. Tuition waiver scholarships are to be awarded to eligible students at the time of the annual All-Arizona Academic Team ceremony. The following conditions apply:

- a. No more than two students per community college campus shall be initially awarded resident tuition waiver scholarships each year.
- b. Tuition waiver scholarships are to be available upon transfer to any Arizona university and will cover 60 semester hours, for a maximum of 10 semesters excluding summer sessions.
- c. To renew a tuition waiver scholarship each semester within the 60 semester hours, for a maximum of 10 semesters, a student must be in continuous attendance, enrolled in a minimum of 6 credits per semester, and maintain a 3.25 or higher grade point average.
- d. A student who meets the renewal criteria outlined above may transport a tuition waiver scholarship from one university to another university, but no student may receive the tuition waiver scholarship for more than a total of 60 semester hours for a maximum of 10 semesters.
- e. A student's eligibility to receive a tuition waiver scholarships shall be verified by the Arizona Community College Presidents' Council in the form of a list provided to the Arizona Board of Regents. The list shall provide student names, mailing addresses and phone

numbers, community college attended, and other information as shall be required by the universities.

- f. Tuition waiver scholarships must be claimed by the student enrolling at one of the universities within one year of the tuition waiver scholarship offer. Special consideration of unique situations may be exercised by each university. In particular, students should be encouraged to complete their Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC), or their Arizona Associate Degree, prior to transfer to the university.

2. Resident Tuition Waiver Scholarships for recipients of a Regents High Honors Endorsement

The universities are authorized to award partial resident tuition waiver scholarships to Arizona High School graduates who meet the board-approved qualifications for an endorsement of high honors. Awarding of these scholarships is subject to the following conditions:

- a. The Arizona Board of Regents High Honors Endorsement Program is established by the board for the purpose of recognizing high school students for outstanding academic achievement, as demonstrated through performance in high school courses and test scores.
- b. The board is responsible for implementing the program, for approving program criteria and for determining how the program shall be administered.
- c. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is authorized to administer the program for the Arizona Board of Regents and to recommend to the universities students who qualify for the High Honors Endorsement. The recommendation shall be in the form of a list provided to the Arizona Board of Regents which includes student names, mailing addresses and phone numbers, high school attended, and other information as shall be required by the universities.
- d. The universities may choose not to award a tuition waiver scholarship to any student who receives other scholarship assistance intended to cover the cost of tuition.
- e. The universities may choose not to award a tuition waiver scholarship to any student who does not apply for financial aid, or whose application is incomplete, incorrect, not submitted in a timely fashion, or for any other reason fails to meet university guidelines

for applying for financial aid.

- f. The board-approved criteria for High Honors Endorsement shall be designed to minimize the likelihood that qualifying students will not also qualify for tuition scholarships for academic merit as determined by the universities.
- g. Any change, or anticipated change, in conditions affecting the number of students who might qualify for a High Honors Endorsement, conditions affecting the number of resident students who might be awarded tuition scholarships for academic merit using university-determined criteria, and any instance where a student qualified for high honors but not for a university determined tuition scholarship shall be reported to the board along with a recommendation for appropriate modifications in the criteria for awarding high honors.
- h. A systematic review of the Regents High Honors Endorsement Program will be conducted every 5 years, with the results and any recommendations reported to the board.
- i. Tuition waiver scholarships must be claimed by the student enrolling at one of the universities within one year of graduation from an Arizona High School. Special consideration of unique situations may be exercised by each university.

D. Financial Aid awarded to Student Athletes

- 1. To be eligible for and to retain athletically related financial aid, a student athlete must meet all applicable National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) legislation, conference regulations, Arizona Board of Regents Financial Aid Policies, and university financial aid policies.
- 2. The universities will administer financial aid for student athletes in compliance with all applicable federal law and regulations, NCAA legislation, conference regulations, Arizona Board of Regents Financial Aid Policies, and university financial aid policies.

E. Arizona Promise Program

- 1. Universities shall award the Arizona Promise as established by A.R.S. §15-1701 to a student who:
 - a. Is admitted to an ABOR institution as a new first-time, full-time, on campus degree seeking student;

- b. Is an Arizona resident per A.R.S. §15-1802;
 - c. Graduated from an Arizona high school;
 - d. Graduated with a minimum 2.5 cumulative high school grade point average on a 4.0 scale;
 - e. Timely completes and submits to the United States Department of Education the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); and,
 - f. Meets the eligibility criteria for the Federal Pell Grant. For the purposes of this program, Federal Pell Grant means any Federal Pell Grant award.
- 2. Student must enroll at university at the beginning of the Fall semester immediately after Arizona high school graduation, with only breaks or gaps in enrollment allowed by institutional policy.
- 3. Students who submit to the United States Department of Education the FAFSA form with the ABOR university appropriately listed no later than April 1 of the Spring preceding the academic year in which the student is applying will be given funding priority.
- 4. The Arizona Promise tuition and fee award will be up to the full cost of tuition, mandatory fees, and program fees. The award shall be applied after and reduced by the amount of the following received by the student:
 - a. federal aid;
 - b. state aid;
 - c. private aid and scholarships;
 - d. public scholarships or grants.
- 5. The universities will calculate the Arizona Promise award amount one time, and after that initial award, the universities will not recalculate the award amount unless it is to benefit the student or otherwise required by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965.
- 6. Any institutional gift aid granted to qualifying students for tuition, mandatory fees, and program fees shall be identified as Arizona Promise. An Arizona Promise award, however, does not prevent a university from awarding a student other institutional need-based gift aid for other costs of attendance.

7. Students are eligible for the Arizona Promise program for eight academic semesters or their equivalent. Semesters must be continuous Fall and Spring with breaks allowed by institutional policy.
 8. To renew the Arizona Promise Program award a student must:
 - a. Complete and submit to the United States Department of Education the FAFSA form no later than April 1;
 - b. Maintain at least full-time status as determined by federal student financial aid guidelines;
 - c. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for eligibility for federal student financial aid; and
 - d. Continue to meet the eligibility criteria for the Federal Pell Grant, as defined in this policy.
 9. The Board shall administer the Arizona Community Colleges Promise Program Fund pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-1705.
-

Policy History

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 12/6/2012 | Approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 9/26/2013 | Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 11/21/2013 | Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 11/20/2015 | Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 11/18/2016 | Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 4/7/2017 | Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 6/14/2018 | Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 11/21/2019 | Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 2/10/2022 | Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 11/17/2022 | Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading. |
| 12/13/2022 | Policy revision approved by the Board on first reading with immediate implementation. |

2/9/2023 Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading.

2/13/2025 Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading.

11/20/2025 Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading.

Related Information