TERM OF NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP Spring 2014

All National Merit Scholars have three portions to their scholarship package. One part is funded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, another part is a tuition waiver (different for Oklahoma residents and out-of-state students), and the third portion is a cash stipend. The OU National Merit scholarship is not a full scholarship; you are responsible to pay charges on your account which exceed your scholarship credits. The following are the amounts, duration and criteria for maintaining eligibility for each of the three parts of your award:

1) Oklahoma Academic Scholars Program (commonly called the Oklahoma State Regents' scholarship)

Amount: $5,500 per year, $2,750 of which is credited directly to your Bursar account after the free add/drop period, and if you meet the eligibility requirements below.

Duration: Four consecutive years (eight total semesters) and is applicable towards undergraduate or graduate enrollment.

Criteria for maintaining eligibility: The requirements for continuation of this award are two-fold, grades and hours.

- Grades: At the end of each academic year (following Summer Session) the Oklahoma State Regents require us to report your grade point average. To be certified for funding for the next academic year, at that time you must have a 3.25 cumulative combined or retention combined GPA, whichever is higher.
- Hours: To be certified for your award each semester, there are two hour requirements. You must be enrolled in at least 12 hours (full-time) at the end of the second week of classes (the end of the free add/drop period), and from the prior academic year you must have earned 24 total hours (F's, advanced standing credit, audited classes, distance learning courses, independent study and correspondence courses do not count as hours earned).

Any semesters of which a student receives no award due to grade-point average or credit hour deficiency will be subtracted from the available semesters in the program. A student may be reinstated only one time and has one year to remedy the grade-point-average or credit-hour deficiency. Deficiencies due to incomplete study abroad programs are included in this policy. Visit http://www.okhighered.org/academic-scholars/program-rules.pdf for more information.

If it is your graduating semester and you will not be enrolled full time (at least 12 hours) you must contact the National Scholars Office so that we can determine your scholarship eligibility.

2) Tuition Waivers

Amount: For an Oklahoma resident, 100% of the resident tuition is waived, regardless of the number of hours you enroll in each semester (and as long as you are full-time). For a non-resident, 100% of the non-resident portion of tuition is waived, regardless of the number of hours you enroll in each semester (and as long as you are full-time). In addition, non-residents receive a $1,000 per fall/spring semester waiver of resident (base) tuition.

Duration: Five consecutive academic years (fall, spring and summer semesters) and is applicable towards undergraduate or graduate enrollment. NOTE FOR NON-RESIDENTS: only the non-resident tuition waiver may be applied year-round. The resident tuition waiver that non-residents receive is applied only in the fall and spring semesters.

Criteria for maintaining eligibility: You must have a cumulative combined or retention combined GPA of 2.80 at the end of each academic year and you must be full-time enrolled (at least 12 hours) at the end of the second week of classes each fall and spring semester. Any semesters during which a student receives no award due to grade-point average or credit hour deficiency will be subtracted from the available semesters in the program.

Your National Merit scholarship CANNOT be applied to self-supporting OU-related programs such as distance learning courses, Advanced Program courses, self-paced courses, correspondence courses, independent study, OSLEP and non-reciprocal study abroad programs.

If you are within the duration of your State Regents’ funding or tuition waiver and plan to apply either award towards graduate school or a pre-professional program, you must contact our office to fill out appropriate paperwork/determine eligibility. The graduate program must be consecutive to completion of your undergraduate degree.

Updated 3/17/2014
3) National Merit Cash Stipend

Amount: Varies dependent upon which award you receive from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

If you are a one-time, $2,500 National Merit award winner, that check will come to our office the third or fourth week of class in the fall semester of your freshman year. An e-mail will be sent to your OU e-mail account when your check is available. OU will supplement your award with another $2,500 the following spring semester, at which time it will credit to your Bursar account.

If a corporation funds your stipend (a Corporate-sponsored award) you will receive $5,000. How this is paid out to you will vary by the corporation which has agreed to sponsor you. If the corporation does not sponsor you for at least $5,000 over four years, OU will supplement the difference. The check from the corporation will come to our office the third or fourth week of class. An e-mail will be sent to your OU e-mail account when your check is available. (If you receive a supplement, it will be credited to your Bursar account.)

If you receive a College-sponsored award (the majority of our students), you will receive a $625 check each fall and spring semester, for up to four years. These checks will come to our office the third or fourth week of class each semester. An e-mail will be sent to your OU e-mail account when your check is available.

Duration: All four-year National Merit awards are good for eight semesters (fall/spring) or until the completion of an undergraduate degree, whichever comes first.

Criteria for maintaining eligibility: NMSC will send you an annual renewal form whereby you report your academic progress either online or by mail. National Merit stipend continuation requires full-time enrollment, good academic standing, and standard academic progress as determined by the NMSC. If your GPA falls below a cumulative 2.0, OU will determine eligibility on a case by case basis. If NMSC discontinues your stipend for any reason, you must contact them to apply for reinstatement.

TECHNOLOGY ALLOWANCE

Your one-time $1,500 technology allowance check will be available in National Scholars Programs beginning the first day of freshman move-in during the fall semester. You may come by our office during business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday) to pick up your check.

TRAVEL-STUDY STIPEND

A one-time $1,500 travel-study stipend will be disbursed to you following admission to one of OU’s reciprocal exchange abroad programs and after our records indicate you are enrolled full-time (12 hours fall/spring or a minimum of three hours summer semester) in the program. This stipend must be used within your five consecutive years as an enrolled student (starting from the term you enter OU). The stipend is not automatic – you must fill out the appropriate paperwork. You must notify the National Scholars office by the following deadlines if you are studying abroad so that our office can request the stipend for you: Spring: Dec. 1, Summer and Fall: April 15. Please note: your travel-study stipend is not guaranteed to be available prior to your departure.

SUMMER SESSION

Summer Session includes courses offered in any block, A-E.

TUITION WAIVER

If you are a resident National Merit Scholar and you met the tuition waiver eligibility requirement of a cumulative 2.8 GPA for the current academic year, your resident tuition will automatically be waived if you enroll in OU Summer Session hours, regardless of the number of hours. If you are a non-resident National Merit Scholar and you met the tuition waiver eligibility requirement of a cumulative 2.8 GPA for the current academic year, your non-resident tuition will automatically be waived if you enroll in OU Summer Session hours, regardless of the number of hours. (Non-residents must still pay the resident tuition for any credit hours taken that you do not have banked, since the $1,000 resident tuition waiver you receive is available only for the fall and spring semesters.)

If you have banked hours for the summer, your National Merit tuition waiver will cover the difference in tuition charges, if you choose to enroll in more hours than you have banked. (Non-residents must still pay the resident tuition for any credit hours taken that you do not have banked, since the $1,000 resident tuition waiver you receive is available only for the fall and spring semesters.) If you have been approved for an exemption from the flat-rate tuition and mandatory fees program, your tuition

Updated 3/17/2014
waiver will automatically be applied for any number of hours you choose to enroll in for Summer Session, if you are eligible for your waiver during the current academic term.

**OKLAHOMA ACADEMIC SCHOLARS FUNDING**

If you wish to use a portion or a semester of your eight-semester cash funding from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, you must fill out the appropriate paperwork in our office no later than MAY 15. This paperwork is available in the National Scholars office in March. To qualify, you must have earned 24 hours combined from the prior fall and spring semesters. Students who receive part-time awards for summer must enroll in at least SIX credit hours and must complete a total of at least 30 credit hours during the full academic year (fall, spring, summer). Students who receive full-time awards for summer must enroll in at least 12 credit hours and must complete a total of at least 36 credit hours during the full academic year (fall, spring, summer). Visit [http://www.okhighered.org/academic-scholars/program-rules.pdf](http://www.okhighered.org/academic-scholars/program-rules.pdf) for more information.

If you meet the above criteria and fill out the appropriate paperwork (available in our office in March) your summer award will be as follows:

- Part-time awards, for enrollment of six to 11 credit hours made for the summer term will count as one-half of a semester used in the program, giving you $1,375 from the Oklahoma State Regents. Full-time awards, for enrollment of 12 or more credit hours made for the summer term will count as a full semester used in the program, giving you $2,750 from the Oklahoma State Regents.
- Tuition waiver (100% resident tuition waived for Oklahoma students; 100% of non-resident tuition waived for out-of-state students)

Some students choose only to use their tuition waiver over the summer, saving their State Regents’ award for regular fall and spring semesters. If you only wish to use your tuition waiver for summer study, you do not need to notify our office, as it will be automatically applied to your Bursar account if you are eligible.

*National Merit cash stipends are not available for summer session, under most circumstances.*

**December Intersession.** Your tuition waiver can be applied toward a December Intersession course. Tuition is waived for a December Intersession course if you were approved for your waiver in the prior fall semester. You must notify our office if you enroll in such a course so we may apply your tuition waiver.

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact National Scholars Programs, 325-1290, 877-506-7353 (toll-free) or via e-mail at natlscholars@ou.edu

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