

# Financial Aid and Awards

Financial assistance in the form of scholarships, grants, loans and employment is available to qualified students. Information regarding programs, policies, rules, regulations, consumer information and eligibility criteria can be obtained from the Student Financial Aid Office, P.O. Box 10042, Beaumont, Texas 77710 or from the Office of Recruitment and Scholarships, P.O. Box 10009, Beaumont, Texas 77710.

## When to Apply

Applications for need-based financial assistance should be received by the university by April 1 for the following academic year. Notification of awards will be mailed in late spring and early summer. The University will continue to award student aid as long as funds are available. The most desirable types of aid, however, are normally expended early. Therefore, students should make every effort to meet the April 1 deadline.

## How to Apply

### Scholarships

Students wishing to be considered for scholarships only should request and complete the Lamar University Academic Scholarship Application. Academic transcripts must be submitted with the application. Beginning freshman applicants should arrange to have SAT or ACT test scores on file with the Lamar University Admissions Office. Scholarship funds are limited and recipients normally must have a grade point average in excess of 3.50 to be considered. Students are encouraged to contact their major department in order to secure application information for scholarships, which may be offered directly through the department.

Applications for scholarships should be completed by February 1 for the following year. Completed applications should be forwarded to the Scholarship Office, P.O. Box 10009, Beaumont, Texas 77710 or to Room 203 Wimberly Building.

### Grants, Loans, College-Work Study

All students applying for need-based aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Need-based assistance includes numerous federal and state grants, loans and employment programs. Students are strongly encouraged to use the Web for electronic submission of the FAFSA, available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). The FAFSA is also available from high school counselor offices. Students must be accepted to Lamar University before financial aid is offered. After the FAFSA and required admission documents have been submitted, students will be mailed a request for supplemental information. The awarding of funds considers the student's financial need as well as the student's demonstration of satisfactory academic progress. Students are notified by letter or LU e-mail of the amount and types of assistance awarded and have the opportunity to accept or reject any assistance offered. Students must apply annually for continued financial assistance.

## Minimum Qualifications

Scholarship awards to entering freshmen are determined by applicants' high school academic records, scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) or American College Testing Program (ACT), leadership and high school class rank. Scholarship awards for upper-class students are determined by their cumulative grade point average as well as displayed leadership abilities.

Those applying for need-based grants, loans or work-study employment must have their eligibility established by the FAFSA. In order to be eligible for federal educational assistance, the student must:

- a. Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the United States;
- b. Possess a high school diploma from an accredited high school;  
*Note: Students who graduate from home schools or unaccredited high schools must submit passing ACT or GED scores.*
- c. Be admitted to Lamar University; and
- d. In the case of continuing students, meet reasonable academic progress standards.

Satisfactory Academic Progress—Students receiving aid must maintain a 2.00 cumulative Grade Point Average. Students must also complete 75% of the hours they attempt and earn their first degree within 180 earned hours. Students who feel that extenuating circumstances prevented them from achieving the academic progress standard may address a written appeal to the Director of Financial Aid.

## Grants

The Pell Grant is the foundation source for all other need-based aid programs. No other need-based assistance (grants, loans, work-study) can be awarded until the student's eligibility for the Pell Grant is determined. The filing of the FAFSA should cause the Student Aid Report to be sent to the student and an electronic record will be sent to the school(s) listed on the FAFSA.

## Scholarships

### Policy Regarding Competitive Scholarships

Competitive scholarships are awarded under the authority of the Lamar University Scholarship Committee, or other University committees specifically authorized by the Lamar University administration to commit scholarship funds. Students applying for academic scholarships administered through the university should complete the Lamar University Scholarship Application. Students seeking scholarships on the basis of specialized skills should contact faculty or staff in the specific area of interest.

### Selection Factors

Scholarships offered through the Lamar University Scholarship Committee are awarded on a competitive basis. The application process is open to all potential and current students. Scholarships may be awarded to graduating high school seniors, transfer students, or currently enrolled Lamar University students. Factors indicating academic achievement used in determining recipients of competitive scholarships include: 1) class ranking and/or grade point averages; 2) standardized test scores such as SAT, ACT, or

GRE; 3) previous high school and/or college academic transcripts; 4) academic awards, honors, or achievements; and 5) academic major. Displayed leadership abilities and participation in extra curricular activities are used as secondary factors.

Competitive scholarships are also awarded on the evidence of specific skills. Specialized skill-based scholarships are competitively awarded to applicants having demonstrated abilities and prior successful participation in such areas as music, writing, art, dance, or athletics. Factors in the awarding of competitive skill-based scholarships include evaluation by faculty and/or staff in each specific area. Evaluations may include but are not limited to video, film, audio-tape, auditions, student submitted works, or personal observations.

McMaster Honors Program scholarships of up to \$10,000 each are available. Students may contact the director of the program (see page 69) for details.

### **Waiver of Non-Resident Fees**

Students receiving competitive academic scholarships of \$1,000 or more may be exempt from the payment of nonresident tuition rates. To be eligible for this waiver the scholarship must meet all institutional requirements of competitive awards and comply with all rules governing tuition rates and waivers as established by the State of Texas.

### **Loans**

Lamar University provides both short-term and long-term loans. Short-term loans for 30 to 60 days are designed to cover emergency situations and must be repaid within the semester in which the loan is made. Long-term loans with repayment after graduation may be obtained under such programs as the Stafford Student Loan Program, the Hinson-Hazelwood College Student Loan Act, and Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). Those interested in one of these loan programs should contact the Student Financial Aid Office for information on how to apply.

### **Employment**

Employment opportunities under the Federal College Work-Study Program and other employment programs of the University are available to Lamar students as part of the financial assistance program. The University, local businesses and industries provide a number of part-time jobs that enable students to earn part or all of their expenses while attending the University.

### **Valedictorians**

Valedictorians from accredited high schools of Texas are entitled to an exemption from payment of tuition and laboratory fees for the two regular semesters immediately following graduation. Other fees are not exempt. Upon registration, valedictorians should submit the "Highest Ranking Graduate Certificate" to the Student Financial Aid Office so that the appropriate fee adjustment can be made.

## **Students with Physical Handicaps (Vocational Rehabilitation)**

The Texas Rehabilitation Commission offers assistance for tuition and non-refundable fees to students who have certain disabling conditions, provided their vocational objectives have been approved by a TRC counselor. Examples of such conditions are orthopedic deformities, emotional disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, heart conditions, etc. Other services also are available to assist the handicapped student to become employable. Application for such service should be made at the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, Beaumont District Office, 5550 Eastex Freeway, Beaumont, Texas 77701 (409/898-3988).

## **Release of Records**

All records (applications and need analysis documents) submitted by a third party become the property of Lamar University and cannot be released to another institution or the student. Prior to processing, items submitted by the student may be returned upon the student's written request. Parental income tax information may be returned upon written request of the parent. A minimum of five days may be required to complete the return of the requested items. Once the application has been processed, all items must be maintained for audit purposes and cannot be released.

## **Tuition Rebates for Certain Undergraduates**

Certain students entering higher education for the first time in fall 1997 or later may be eligible for a \$1,000 tuition rebate. Specific details of this program are available in the Offices of Academic Services or the Registrar. To be eligible to apply for this rebate, students must meet all of the following conditions:

1. Enroll in higher education for the first time in the fall of 1997 or later.
2. Work toward a first baccalaureate degree.
3. Attempt all courses at a Texas state institution and have been entitled to pay resident tuition rates at all times of enrollment.
4. Attempt no more than three hours in excess of the minimum number of semester credit hours to complete the degree under the Lamar University General Catalog from which they graduated. Hours attempted include transfer credits, course credit earned by examination, courses dropped after the official census date, for-credit developmental courses, optional internship and cooperative education courses, and repeated courses.
5. Apply to the Office of the Registrar during the semester in which the student applies for graduation.

## **Refunds**

For those students withdrawing from the University and who are receiving or have received financial assistance (grants, loans, scholarships), all or a portion of the refund will be returned to the appropriate financial aid source. Recipients in attendance at Lamar University for the first time and who withdraw prior to the 60% point in the semester will have refunds calculated according to the Pro-Rata Refund Schedule listed below. All other applicable refunds will be calculated according to the Refund Policy as outlined in the Fees and Expenses section of this catalog.

## Pro-Rata Refund Schedule

### Fall or Spring Semester

1. Prior to first class day, 100%
2. During the first week, 90%
3. During the second week, 80%
4. During the third week, 80%
5. During the fourth week, 70%
6. During the fifth week, 60%
7. During the sixth week, 60%
8. During the seventh week, 50%
9. During the eighth week, 40%
10. During the ninth week, 40%
11. After the ninth week, 0%

### Summer Session

1. Prior to first class day, 100%
2. During the first week, 80%
3. During the second week, 60%
4. During the third week, 40%
5. After the third week, 0%

In allocating the refund to specific programs, Lamar University will practice a "Fixed Priority Allocation." The listing below indicates the priority in which programs will be refunded. The full amount received under each program is returned in priority order until the refund amount is exhausted. The amount returned to a specific program cannot exceed the amount the student received from that program. Refunds due to lenders of Stafford Loans and PLUS will be refunded directly to the lender. The Director of Student Financial Aid may exercise professional judgment in exceptions to the distribution hierarchy policy.

## Refund Priority

Federal Pell Grant	Sponsored Students Source
Federal SEOG	TPEG
Federal Perkins Loan	STS
Subsidized Federal Stafford Loan	SDS
Unsubsidized Federal Stafford Loan	Departmental Budgeted Funds
Federal PLUS Loan	Restricted Scholarship Funds
SSIG	Student
Other Federal SFA Programs	

## Policy Regarding Referrals of Suspected Fraud or Criminal Misconduct

In the event that an applicant is suspected of participating in fraud or other criminal misconduct in connection with the application for Title IV, HEA program assistance, the information will be referred to the appropriate university, state, and/or federal authorities. These authorities may include, but are not limited to, the following: University Discipline Officer, University Police, Beaumont Police and the Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Education.