Purpose of this Agreement

This document outlines the commitments, expectations, and benefits of the Cal Poly Scholars community and financial award. While this is not a binding contract, failure to uphold these expectations may lead to additional interventions or loss of program benefits.

About the Cal Poly Scholars Program

The Cal Poly Scholars program seeks to support and retain high-achieving students from California schools, who come from low-income backgrounds by providing financial, academic, and community resources.

As a university-wide program, the Cal Poly Scholars program brings together a network of services including the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships, Mustang Success Center, all six academic colleges, Career Services, University Housing, Student Academic Services and other campus collaborators.

Financial Assistance

Cal Poly Scholars receive a renewable, annual scholarship award. Scholarship renewal is dependent on financial eligibility, academic standing/status and completion of program requirements.

A Scholar’s financial award is unique and may contain a funding source with additional parameters, opportunities and benefits. Therefore, Scholars should contact a Cal Poly Scholars program coordinator and the Office of Financial Aid if considering changing majors, taking a Leave of Absence or needing to stay at the university beyond five years (or 15 terms) of enrollment to learn more about how these actions may affect their financial award.

Academic Support

Working closely with all academic colleges, proactive and intentional academic advising is offered to all Cal Poly Scholars. Year 3 Scholars are strongly encouraged to meet regularly with academic advisor or retention specialist in their respective college academic advising center.

Community Engagement

Supplemental social gatherings will be offered through the program to encourage meaningful interactions among all Scholar cohorts. Year 3 Scholars are welcome to continue residing on campus in the Year 2+ Cal Poly Scholars’ residential learning community.

Personal & Professional Development

Developmental workshops, signature events, and socials are offered throughout the academic year to strengthen the Scholars community, build connections with campus resources, and develop personal and professional skills for a lifetime of success. It is required that Scholars participate in workshops or events offered by the Cal Poly Scholars program each academic year.

Additionally, it is highly recommended that Cal Poly Scholars meet with a career counselor in Career Services and/or attend a Career Services’ workshop or panel every year.
Requirements & Expectations of Cal Poly Scholars, 2020-21: Year 3 Scholars

By accepting the Cal Poly Scholars’ scholarship award, you agree to the following requirements and expectations for the 2020-21 academic year. Successfully fulfilling the expectations will result in continued program support and a renewable scholarship award while an undergraduate at Cal Poly. Not meeting the expectations may result in additional / make-up requirements or the loss of program affiliation, support and scholarship award.

Program Participation
- Participate in three (min.) workshops / events hosted by the Cal Poly Scholars program*
  - Scholars are encouraged to participate in a range of career, social and academic offerings
*Note: approved workshops, events and other engagement opportunities are indicated in publicity as to how they count toward participation requirements

Academic Advising
- Scholars are highly encouraged to meet with an academic advisor from their respective academic college at least once per year. Key reasons to meet with academic advisors include:
  - Planning for registration, including reviewing flowcharts and course sequences
  - Exploring academic support and planning resources including tutoring, study tips, etc.
  - Discussing impacts of withdrawals, Leave of Absences, CR/NC, etc.
  - Checking academic requirements for graduation
  - Interpreting academic policies and procedures

Academic Achievement
- Maintain ‘Satisfactory Academic Progress’ (SAP) for financial aid eligibility
  - SAP guidelines can be found on the Office of Financial Aid website
- Maintain ‘Expected Academic Progress’ (EAP) for appropriate degree progress
  - EAP guidelines can be found on the Cal Poly Catalog website
- Set a personal goal of 2.75 GPA or higher, and maintain a 2.0 minimum cumulative GPA
  - Scholars are expected to reach out to advisors for resources and academic support
  - Scholars with a cumulative GPA of ≤ 2.5 and/or on AP/DQ (Academic Probation/Disqualification) will have additional advising and/or participation requirements from the program, University and/or academic colleges

Personal Responsibility & Conduct
- Abide by all University Policies and expectations, and demonstrate personal responsibility and conduct consistent with the ideals of a Scholar; including, but not limited to:
  - Cal Poly's commitment to Diversity & Inclusion including the Commitment to Community
  - The tenants and expectations of the Mustang Way
  - University Housing Resident Handbook and Community Standards Guidelines
  - Office of Financial Aid policies and eligibility requirements (i.e. completing FAFSA/CA Dream Act paperwork by March 2, in order to assess eligibility status for scholarship renewal)
  - Additional policies or procedures outlined by the respective academic colleges