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 fund. Scholarship renewal is dependent on financial eligibility, academic standing/status and completion of program requirements. Additionally, there is a one-time $900 credit at the Cal Poly University Store that may be applied towards the purchase of a laptop or tablet during the first year enrolled at Cal Poly (beginning fall 2019 for incoming cohorts).

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 three years (or 9 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 provided to all Cal Poly Scholars. New Transfer Scholars are required to meet with their respective college academic advisor or retention specialist.

Community Engagement

Supplemental social gatherings will be offered throughout the program to encourage meaningful interactions among all Scholar cohorts. New Transfer Scholars are welcome to reside on campus in the Transfer & Graduate residential learning community (though not required).

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, 2021-22: New Transfer Scholars

By accepting the Cal Poly Scholars’ scholarship award, you agree to the following requirements and expectations for the 2021-22 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

- Choose one of the following two options to fulfill this requirement:
  1. Engage in a minimum of three (3) workshops / events hosted by the Cal Poly Scholars program. Approved workshops, events and other engagement opportunities are indicated accordingly via publicity and the Scholars Events webpage.
  2. Join and participate in the Scholar Mentorship Program and engage in a minimum of three (3) individual or group events with your Scholar Mentor. (Details regarding sign-ups will be shared this summer).

Academic Advising

- During fall term you will be contacted by an academic advisor or retention specialist to schedule one (1) required advising appointment or workshop to ensure you are receiving the support you need as you begin your journey at Cal Poly
- In the event you have a rough quarter and are on Academic Probation (AP), you will be contacted by an academic advisor or retention specialist to schedule a required advising appointment or workshop
  - Being on AP (Academic Probation) does not impact your eligibility to be a Cal Poly Scholar, though depending on your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), it may impact the Scholar’s scholarship and other financial aid (see the Academic Achievement section for more details regarding SAP)
  - If your academic college requires an advising appointment to meet AP (Academic Probation) requirements, that appointment will satisfy this requirement
  - Scholars are expected to follow up with advisor or retention specialist contact in a timely fashion
- You are highly encouraged to meet with an academic advisor from your 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

- Determine and strive for a personal CPSLO cumulative GPA goal (we recommend at least 2.75)
- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for financial aid eligibility
  - A general definition of SAP is to maintain a 2.0 minimum cumulative GPA and successfully complete at least 75% of attempted units for financial aid eligibility.
  - For more details, please talk with your financial aid counselor and review SAP guidelines on the Office of Financial Aid website
• Reach out to advisors for resources, academic support, and to schedule any required appointments

**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:
  o Cal Poly’s commitment to [Diversity & Inclusion](#) including the [Commitment to Community](#)
  o The tenants and expectations of the [Mustang Way](#)
  o University Housing Resident Handbook and Community Standards Guidelines
  o 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)
  o Additional policies or procedures outlined by the respective academic colleges