Program Agreement 2023-24
New Transfer Scholars

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, incoming Scholars receive a free laptop to be fully paid on your behalf through the Cal Poly University Bookstore (more information about how to order available laptops will be communicated in July).

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 & Scholarships 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. Academic advisors in your college are essential partners in developing an efficient and rewarding graduation plan, and New Transfer Scholars are encouraged to meet with them as early as possible and as often as needed.

Community Engagement
Supplemental social gatherings will be offered by the program throughout the year to encourage meaningful interactions among all Scholar cohorts. Transfer Scholars are also encouraged to engage with the Transfer Center to learn of offerings specific to you and meet fellow transfer students at Cal Poly.

Additionally, Transfer Scholars are welcome to reside on campus in the Transfer & Graduate residential learning community or the Year 2+ Scholars 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.

**Commitments of Cal Poly Scholars, 2023-24: New Transfer Scholars**

By accepting the Cal Poly Scholars’ scholarship award, you agree to the following requirements and expectations for the 2023-24 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 Transfer Scholar Academic Coaching and engaged in a minimum of one (1) individual or group event with your Transfer Scholar Academic Coach per quarter, for a total of three (3) interactions. (Details regarding sign-ups will be shared this summer).

**Academic Advising**

- You are highly encouraged to meet with an academic advisor or retention specialist from your college at least once per year. Key reasons to meet with these members of your support network include:
  - Planning for future quarters to meet your desired graduation term
  - Exploring academic support and planning resources including tutoring, study tips, etc.
  - Discussing impacts of withdrawals, Leaves of Absence, CR/NC, etc.
  - Checking academic requirements for graduation
  - Interpreting academic policies and procedures

- All Scholars on Academic Probation (AP) are required to participate in one or more AP interventions to ensure you have support and guidance to reach your academic goals. The options for satisfying this requirement vary by college. You'll be notified after grades post each term about how to meet the conditions of your college and the Cal Poly Scholars program.
  - Note: Being on AP does not impact your eligibility to be a Cal Poly Scholar, though depending on your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), it may impact your scholarship and other financial aid (see the Academic Achievement section for more details regarding SAP)

**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 67% 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:
  - 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