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. 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 five years (or 15 terms) of enrollment to learn more about how these actions may affect their financial award.

Academic Support
Working closely with the Mustang Success Center and all academic college advising centers, proactive and intentional academic advising is provided to all Cal Poly Scholars, especially during their first year of enrollment.

All incoming Scholars are block enrolled in a UNIV 100 course to help integrate them into the Scholars community, learn about campus resources, and develop skills for college success.

Community Engagement
Cal Poly Scholars are required to reside on campus in designated Cal Poly Scholars’ residential learning communities during the first two years of enrollment. Supplemental social gatherings hosted by through the program and with scholar mentors will be offered through the program to encourage meaningful interactions among all Scholar cohorts.

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: Year 1 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. Join and participate in the Scholar Mentorship Program and engage in a minimum of one (1) individual or group event with your Scholar Mentor per quarter, for a total of three (3) interactions. (Details regarding sign-ups will be shared this summer).
  2. 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.

Academic Advising

- Engage in one (min.) 1:1 academic advising interaction with assigned Mustang Success Center advisor
  - You are highly encouraged to meet with your academic advisor during Fall quarter
  - Scholars may be referred to college academic advisors as appropriate
- Participate in SLO Days during one of the session dates listed for Cal Poly Scholars, and attend the ‘Academic Toolkit’ session with the Mustang Success Center
- All Scholars with a cumulative CPSLO GPA of < 2.5 and/or on Academic Probation (AP) will have additional advising and/or participation requirements with the Mustang Success Center, and, possibly, additional requirements from your academic college
  - 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 Scholar’s financial award and other financial aid (see the Academic Achievement section for more details regarding SAP)

Residential Learning Community

- Reside in the designated Cal Poly Scholars residential learning community for Year 1 Scholars while enrolled during the academic year
  - Year 1 Scholars who are also part of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) or TRiO Achievers might only be able to select a room within those respective communities, but don’t worry, residing in either of those communities fulfills your Cal Poly Scholars Year 1 housing requirement.
- During Winter quarter, complete the housing application during the specified timeframe. Year 2 Scholars, including those who are also participating in EOP or TRiO Achievers, are expected to reside on campus, preferably in the Year 2+ Scholars Community.

University 100: First Year Seminar for Cal Poly Scholars

- Enroll in, participate in, and pass the UNIV 100 course during Fall 2023* (all Year 1 Scholars are block enrolled into UNIV 100)
Program Agreement 2023-24
Year 1 Scholars

Note: if you are not in attendance at the ‘Academic Planning’ class session, you need to either meet with your Mustang Success Center advisor or attend a make-up workshop covering the same information.

Academic Achievement
- Determine and strive for a personal CPSLO cumulative GPA goal (we recommend at least 2.75)
- Communicate regularly with your MSC advisor for resources and academic support
- 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

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