



2008-2009

USC UNDERGRADUATE COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIP GUIDE

Coordinating USC Competitive Scholarships with funds from other sources

| Note: No scholarship funding is available for audited courses.

Trustee, Presidential, Leadership, Deans, Directors, and Associates Scholarships

These scholarships are mutually exclusive. If you are awarded more than one of these scholarships you will receive only the one with the greatest value. The relative value of these scholarships is based on the cost of 18 units of tuition for 8 semesters (10 semesters for students in the 5-year Bachelor of Architecture program).

Competitive awards from other sources that can be used only for the payment of tuition may be combined with these merit-based funds provided that the total scholarship funds do not exceed the student's USC tuition by more than \$8,000.

Awards from other sources that are designated for general educational expenses (including room and board) may be combined with these scholarships provided that the total scholarship funds do not exceed the USC total cost of attendance as determined by the Financial Aid Office.

Tuition Assistance Benefits

A student who receives USC tuition assistance benefits may also receive a USC Competitive Scholarship provided that the total amount of tuition assistance benefits, when combined with the USC Competitive Scholarship, does not exceed the student's USC tuition by more than \$8,000.

Tuition Exchange

A student who receives a tuition exchange scholarship may also receive a USC scholarship provided that the total amount of the tuition exchange award, when combined with the USC award, does not exceed the student's USC tuition by more than \$8,000.

ROTC Scholarships

Students sponsored by ROTC will also receive an additional \$4,000 towards the cost of attendance. If an ROTC student receives a USC Competitive Scholarship, it will replace the \$4000 award and be adjusted so that the combined total of the ROTC sponsorship and the USC Competitive Scholarship does not exceed the student's USC tuition by more than \$8000.

NOTE: While implementation of these policies may necessitate reducing the amount of the USC scholarship, awardees will still receive all honors and benefits described in the award letter.

Coordinating USC Competitive Scholarships with USC need-based Financial Aid

Students who are eligible for need-based financial aid may be awarded a combination of grants, work-study, and student loans. USC Competitive Scholarships may reduce loan, work-study or grant money depending on the source of the scholarship and the student's USC calculated financial need. If you are receiving both USC scholarships and other forms of financial aid, the combined amount cannot exceed your USC calculated financial need. However, if you are receiving only USC scholarship funds and the amount you are awarded exceeds your USC calculated

financial aid eligibility, you will still receive the full amount of the USC scholarships for which you are eligible, based on the rules of combining your scholarship with other awards. This amount cannot exceed USC's calculated cost of attendance for your program of study. The USC Competitive Scholarships of students who receive state grants restricted to tuition payments (such as Cal Grant) will be reduced so that the combined value of the scholarships and the state grants do not exceed the value of tuition and mandatory fees.

Once your financial aid eligibility has been determined, you will receive a Statement of Financial Aid Eligibility from the Financial Aid Office outlining your total financial aid package. Your USC Competitive Scholarships should be part of that total financial aid package. Depending on when you applied for financial aid, the original statement of financial aid eligibility may not reflect all scholarships awarded at the time your financial aid eligibility was determined. If this happens, you will receive a revised Statement from the Financial Aid Office that will reflect your scholarship(s) and other changes in your financial aid package.

Students must reapply every January in order to receive need-based financial aid for the following academic year. Application instructions are available online at www.usc.edu/financialaid beginning in December. It is the student's responsibility to apply on time each year. The Financial Aid Office reevaluates the student's financial aid eligibility each year based on the family's financial circumstances.

Renewing your USC Competitive Scholarship

Most USC Competitive Scholarships are renewable for each subsequent year of the undergraduate degree program, up to 6 additional semesters (8 additional semesters for students in the 5-year Bachelor of Architecture program). The following criteria must be met in order for the USC Competitive Scholarship to be renewed each year:

- You must maintain a cumulative USC grade point average of at least 3.0.

If your cumulative grade point average drops below 3.0, you will be placed on scholarship probation for a maximum of two semesters. During that period you must bring your cumulative USC GPA to 3.0 or you will lose your scholarship. Grades earned at other colleges and universities will not be included in the calculation of the USC GPA. You are only allowed one probationary period for GPA or unit requirements.

- You must make normal academic progress toward your undergraduate degree during the academic year (not including summer).

If you complete fewer than 32 units in one academic year, your academic record will be reviewed to determine if you are making sufficient progress toward your degree to graduate within 8 semesters (10 semesters for students in the 5-year Bachelor of Architecture program). Your course of study, Advanced Placement units, and work at other colleges will be taken into consideration. If you are not making progress, you will be placed on scholarship probation for a maximum of 2 semesters, during which you must complete at least 16 units per semester, or you will lose your scholarship. You are only allowed one probationary period for GPA or unit requirements.

- You must uphold USC's conduct and academic integrity standards.

If you are found responsible, through the Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards Office, for a serious academic or non-academic conduct violation, resulting in your suspension or expulsion from the University, your competitive scholarship award will be revoked.

Leaves of Absence

Students who take a leave of absence from the University must notify the Financial Aid Office in writing to protect their remaining scholarship eligibility. General scholarships will be reserved for leaves of absence up to one year in duration. Students should notify the Financial Aid Office of their enrollment plans at least three months prior to their expected return to USC. Students will lose one semester of scholarship eligibility for every semester of coursework completed at another institution during a leave of absence.

If you have any questions regarding USC Competitive Scholarships or need-based financial aid, please contact the Financial Aid Office at www.usc.edu/contactfao.