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## Board of Supervisors

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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### BOARD SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

*Adopted August 6, 2021; Effective September 13, 2021*

*The Board of Supervisors Scholarship Program Policy is authorized by Article IV of the Rules of the LSU Board of Supervisors. This document reflects the rules adopted by the Board on August 6, 2021, and is provided for the convenience of applicants and interested parties. The Board Rules are the authorizing document and all determinations and reviews should be based on the Rules and not this document.*

### **Section 1. Purpose and Mission**

The purpose of the LSU Board of Supervisors Scholarship program is to recognize and support students attending LSU entities who by their educational pursuits contribute positively to Louisiana's and society's prosperity and well-being.

The scholarship program's mission is to financially assist LSU degree-seeking individuals in achieving academic and career success by providing annual tuition-based scholarships in consideration of a student's academic potential, individual achievement or personal circumstances.

### **Section 2. General Program Guidelines**

- A. Scholarships will be awarded in consideration of academic potential, individual achievement or personal circumstances.
- B. This policy permits Supervisors and other specified individuals to award a certain number of scholarships, and may be awarded by academic year or academic term (fall, spring, and summer), but shall not apply to intersession terms. No more than the allotted amount may be active during any academic term.
- C. Normally students may receive only one tuition exemption scholarship from sources within LSU, which includes exemptions used for non-resident fees as allowed otherwise by this policy.
- D. Students who are eligible for a Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) award may also be awarded a Board of Supervisors scholarship only in the event a TOPS Opportunity award does not cover the full cost of tuition in any given semester. If awarded, the Board of Supervisors Scholarship may only be used in conjunction with, not in lieu of, a TOPS award to cover the full cost of tuition.
- E. The Student Member of the Board of Supervisors, who is elected by the Council of Student Government Presidents, is encouraged to award at least one scholarship at each degree granting LSU campus.

### **Section 3. Application and Selection Procedures**

- A. To apply for a Board of Supervisors Scholarship, students should complete the application form available through the LSU Board of Supervisors' website .
- B. Students must also submit a personal statement with the application form. Personal statements are essays no greater than 750 words. A successful personal statement should allow the scholarship donor to have an inside glimpse of the applicant's life experiences and accomplishments. The personal statement assists Supervisors in understanding the student's personal circumstances, core interests, skills and values.

- C. All completed application forms, including the personal statement, should be submitted via a process specified on the application or application portal through which all applications must be submitted. Once the application is submitted, the Board staff will work with the respective campus administration to verify information and eligibility.
- D. The Board staff shall publicly specify a preferred date for application submission, and the specified time shall be no less than 60 days prior than the start of the academic terms for which a scholarship is expected to be awarded.
- E. Supervisors are encouraged to work with the President and Chancellors in identifying qualified scholarship recipients.
- F. It shall be the responsibility of the Board staff to notify the appropriate Supervisor when students fail to meet the eligibility requirements of the scholarship program. It shall be the responsibility of the respective institution's admissions and financial aid staffs to determine if a student nominated to receive the scholarship meets the minimum qualifications set forth in this policy.

#### **Section 4. Scholarship Awards**

Each Supervisors and the President of LSU shall be authorized to award 15 scholarships. These scholarships are tuition exemptions, and two (2) of the 15 scholarships may be converted to exemptions of the non-resident fee assessed to qualified undergraduate students. Graduate and professional students are not eligible for non-resident exemptions.

Any person holding the title of President Emeritus shall be authorized to award five (5) tuition exemption scholarships each academic year valued at the cost of resident tuition.

#### **Section 5. Qualifications and Eligibility**

The Board of Supervisors Scholarship Program is available to both full-time and part-time students who are registered and enrolled in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs (with some exceptions) offered by the various LSU campuses and who meet the qualifications listed below:

##### **A. Qualifications**

##### **1. Freshman**

An undergraduate student, known as an "entering freshman", must have been officially admitted to the University.

An undergraduate who has completed at least one semester but who is still classified as a freshmen, known as a "continuing freshman", must earn a cumulative (overall) grade-point average of at least a 2.3 on all work taken during this classification to maintain their scholarships.

##### **2. Upperclassman**

Students classified as sophomores, juniors, and seniors must earn a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.5 to receive and maintain a Board of Supervisors Scholarship.

Upperclassmen with a cumulative grade point average which is greater than or equal to 2.3, but less than a 2.5 may be considered for a scholarship provided that they meet all of the following criteria:

- a. They have earned at least a 3.0 grade point average, while enrolled for a minimum of 12 hours, for the full semester immediately preceding the award of the scholarship.
  - b. They are making satisfactory academic progress towards a degree.
  - c. They maintain a 3.0 semester average until their cumulative grade point average reaches the required 2.5 grade point average for upperclassmen.
3. Professional and Graduate Students

Students attending graduate or professional school at the various campuses must receive unconditional admission in order to qualify for a Board Scholarship.

Retention of the scholarship shall be based on students maintaining "good standing" with their respective academic programs.

**B. Ineligible Prohibited Recipients**

The following persons and members of their immediate family are prohibited from receiving Scholarships

1. Supervisors, unless specified otherwise in this policy.
2. U.S. Senators
3. U.S. Representatives
4. Members of the Louisiana Legislature
5. Statewide Elected Officials

**Section 6. Student Board Member**

The student Board member of the LSU Board of Supervisors is granted a Board Scholarship during the time they serve on the Board until completion of the program in which they were enrolled when they were elected to the Board of Supervisors.

If the student Supervisor does not utilize the scholarship during their term on the Board, they may be awarded a scholarship for one year for a subsequent program within two years of the completion of their service on the Board for a maximum of two years. Students must comply with all of the requirements of the Board of Supervisors scholarship policy in order to earn and maintain the scholarship.

**Section 7. Terms**

Undergraduate students may receive a Board Scholarship for a maximum of eight regular semesters and four summer terms.

Professional and graduate students may receive a Board Scholarship for the number of academic years that are considered normal academic progress toward receiving a degree.

## **Section 8. Value and Program Limitations**

The value of the Board Scholarship shall be equal to tuition only and shall not be inclusive of University fees, as fixed by the Board, for undergraduate and graduate students, unless the exemption is applied to non-resident fees as specified by the awarding Supervisor. The student shall be required to pay all other required fees, unless otherwise exempted by the respective campus.

Students who are eligible for a TOPS award may also be awarded a Board of Supervisors scholarship only in the event a TOPS award does not cover the full cost of tuition in any given semester. If awarded, the Board of Supervisors Scholarship may only be used in conjunction with, not in lieu of, a TOPS award to cover the full cost of tuition.

For the professional schools (Law, Medicine, Doctor of Nursing Practice, Physician Assistant, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Dentistry, Master of Occupational Therapy, Master of Business Administration and Veterinary Medicine), the value of the Board Scholarship shall be equal to the graduate student tuition rate at Louisiana State University and A&M College, as fixed by the Board for fifteen credit hours per semester and shall not be inclusive of University fees. The student shall be required to pay all other required fees, unless otherwise exempted by specific campus regulations. The exception to this paragraph is that Scholarships may not be awarded to students enrolled in specialized, self-supported educational program, such as the Executive Program of Master of Business Administration or any LSU Online programs.

Scholarship recipients attending professional schools who opt to enroll in a dual/conjoint degree program, such as the JD-MBA, can only apply the value of their scholarship to one of the degree programs. The student must designate to which program the scholarship shall apply. The cost of enrolling in the additional degree program is the sole responsibility of the student.

Scholarships awarded by a President Emeritus may only be for the value of tuition for a resident student.

## **Section 9. Certification of Award**

The Board staff will provide a certification of award once the verification of eligibility is completed. Ideally, that should occur within 14 days from notification of Supervisors' indication to award to a student. The award letter is the official notice to the student and the campus that the exemption will be applied to a student's account.

An individual file is maintained for all awarded scholarships which includes the following information:

- Application with financial aid office documentation
- Application attachments
- Supervisor approval form
- Copy of letter to campus awarding scholarship
- Copy of award letter to recipient
- Documentation of semesters awarded and GPA/good standing to track eligibility
- Copies of correspondence related to award

## **Section 10. Record Retention and Reporting**

The application and supporting documentation for students receiving the Scholarship shall be retained for 5 years after the award has expired. The documentation for applicants who did not receive the Scholarship shall be retained for a minimum of 3 years from the date of application being submitted.

In compliance with La. Revised Statute 17:1608 (Act 340 of the 2013 Regular Legislative Session), the Board of Supervisors annually provides to the Louisiana Legislature and posts on its website a list of all Board of Supervisor scholarship recipients and the value of the scholarship.