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 transferable coursework completed at another institution during a leave of absence.

Again, congratulations on the receipt of a USC Merit Scholarship! Best wishes for a successful academic career at USC. If you have any questions regarding the impact of a USC Merit Scholarship on a financial aid package, please contact the Financial Aid Office at www.usc.edu/contactfao.

Other inquiries, including those regarding the nature of USC Merit Scholarships or the awards process, can be directed to Tammie Dedmon-Mason, scholarship coordinator for the Office of Admission, at tdedmon@usc.edu or (213) 740-6937.

Several financing options exist to help you pay your USC expenses. We encourage you to take advantage of the financial resources USC has to offer and we are here to help answer any questions you may have. Financial aid counselors are available by phone, e-mail or in person. Please visit www.usc.edu/contactfao for more information.

Congratulations on your University of Southern California Merit Scholarship! USC Merit Scholarships are awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate excellence in academic performance, community service and leadership. Your dedication and hard work have earned you a place at the top of the Class of 2019.
To Formally Accept the Award:

1. Read through this guide for detailed information about your award. Please pay close attention to how award amounts may affect or be affected by other scholarships and need-based financial aid you may receive from USC and other sources. The requirements for scholarship renewal are also described in detail.

2. The merit scholarship will be applied automatically as long as the Enrollment Commitment is received by May 1, 2015.

3. If you will not attend USC, please visit you.usc.edu to withdraw your application.

Once you have accepted your scholarship and registered for classes, half your annual award will be credited toward your tuition for each full-time semester at USC. If you have questions, please contact the Financial Aid Office at www.usc.edu/contactfao.

Note: No scholarship funding is available for audited courses.

Coordinating USC Merit Scholarships With Funds From Other USC Sources

Trustee, Presidential, Mork Family, Stamps Leadership, Leadership, Deans, Directors, and Associates Scholarships

These scholarships are mutually exclusive. If you are awarded more than one, you will receive only the one with the greatest value. The relative value of these scholarships is based on the cost of flat-rate tuition (which covers 12-18 units per semester) for eight semesters (10 semesters for students in the five-year Bachelor of Architecture program).

Other awards designated only for tuition may be combined with these merit-based scholarships, provided your total scholarship funds do not exceed your USC tuition by more than $8,000.

Other awards designated for general educational expenses (including room and board) may be combined with these scholarships, provided your total scholarship funds do not exceed the USC total cost of attendance, as determined by the Financial Aid Office.

Tuition Assistance Benefits & Tuition Exchange

If you receive USC tuition assistance benefits or a tuition exchange scholarship, you may also receive a USC Merit Scholarship, provided your total award amount does not exceed your USC tuition by more than $8,000.

ROTC Sponsorships & Scholarships

Students sponsored by ROTC also receive an additional $4,000 toward their cost of attendance. Any USC Merit Scholarship received will replace the $4,000 ROTC award and will be adjusted to avoid exceeding your tuition by more than $8,000 when combined with your ROTC sponsorship.

Although implementation of these policies may necessitate reducing the USC scholarship, awardees still receive all honors and benefits described in the award letter.

Coordinating USC Merit Scholarships With USC Need-Based Financial Aid

Students eligible for need-based financial aid may be offered a combination of grants, work-study and student loans. USC Merit Scholarships may reduce these aid amounts, however, depending on the source of the scholarship and the student's USC-determined financial need. The combined amount of scholarships and all financial aid cannot exceed your USC-determined financial need.

If, however, you receive only USC scholarship funds, and the amount exceeds your USC-determined financial aid eligibility, you will still receive any full 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.

If you receive state grants restricted to tuition payments (such as the Cal Grant), your USC Merit Scholarship will be reduced so that the total of scholarships and grants does not exceed your cost of tuition and mandatory fees.

Once your financial aid eligibility has been determined, the Financial Aid Office will post your Financial Aid Summary to your Financial Aid account online. Depending on when you applied for financial aid, your USC Merit Scholarships may or may not be reflected in your summary. If your initial financial eligibility was calculated—and a summary posted—before your scholarships could be included, you will receive a revised summary to reflect your scholarships and any other changes to your financial aid package.

Students must reapply each year 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 your responsibility to apply on time each year. The Financial Aid Office reevaluates your financial aid eligibility each year based on your family’s financial circumstances.

If you have not yet applied for financial aid, you still have time. Please visit www.usc.edu/financialaid for more information.

Renewing Your USC Merit Scholarship

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

• You must maintain your USC academic standing.

The university expects you to maintain a high level of academic success during your university career. If you are academically disqualified by the USC Office of Academic Records and Registrar and the Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures (CAPP), you will automatically lose your scholarship. Readmission to USC will not restore your eligibility for your scholarship.

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

If you complete fewer than 30 units in one academic year, your academic record will be reviewed to determine if you are making progress toward your degree. (You should be able to graduate within eight semesters, or 10 semesters in the five-year Bachelor of Architecture program.) Your course of study, and work at other colleges will be taken into consideration. If progress is not made, you will be placed on scholarship probation for a maximum of two semesters, during which you must complete 16 units per semester or your scholarship may be revoked. You are allowed only one probationary period for GPA or unit requirements. If you have received other need-based financial aid, you will need to maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP) to continue to receive those awards. The complete undergraduate SAP rules can be found in the USC Catalogue at www.usc.edu/catalogue.

• You must uphold USC’s conduct and academic integrity standards.

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