

# SAEP SCHOLARSHIP

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### Activating the Scholarship

#### » How do I activate my scholarship?

- Have at least a 70 GPA upon high school graduation
- Enroll in a partner institution (Alamo Colleges, UTSA, TAMUSA, UT Health, Trinity, University of the Incarnate Word, Our Lady of the Lake, St. Mary's) for the Fall or Spring semester immediately following your high school graduation year by your institution's census date (Example: If you graduate in June 2023, immediate enrollment would be Fall 2023 or Spring 2024). *The census date is 12-14 days after the first day of the semester. This is the day that the institution considers you to be officially enrolled.*
- **Class of 2023:** Be enrolled full-time, half-time, or part-time by the institution's census date and remain enrolled through the end of the semester.
- **Classes of 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019:** Be enrolled full-time by the institution's census date and remain enrolled full-time through the end of the semester

#### » What happens next?

During the summer, your High School-based College Access and Success Advisor will review all your submitted section to verify application completion and will contact you via phone, text, or email regarding any missing components.

*Note: Please ensure that your phone number, email address, and all application information are correct before you submit!*

#### » How will I receive updates about my scholarship once I'm enrolled in college?

Your college will communicate with you through your student email and student portal about your financial aid award status, which includes the scholarship. You will receive updates through both methods.

#### » How will I receive my funds?

The SAEP Scholarship is sent directly to your school and is paid against your student bill. If your student bill is less than the award amount, you will receive a refund for the difference.

**Most schools will not release scholarship funds until the end of the semester or later.**

Generally, colleges/universities will direct deposit any remaining funds into a student's banking account if you have set that up with your institution. Otherwise, colleges may send it as a paper check. Please continuously check your student portal or contact your school's Financial Aid office with any questions.

#### » When will I receive my funds?

**Most schools will not release scholarship funds until the end of the semester or later.** Distribution of your scholarship is at the discretion of your institution. Please check with your institution's Financial Aid office to ensure you are notated as an SAEP Scholarship recipient.

#### » If I start in the Fall at a non-partner college but then transfer to a partner institution in the Spring, can I receive the Scholarship?

Yes. Students can activate their scholarship at a partner institution in either Fall or Spring immediately following their high school graduation year. So, if a student attends a non-partner institution in the first semester, but transfers to a partner institution in the spring, they can still receive the SAEP Scholarship.

*Note: You will forfeit your scholarship eligibility if you transfer from a non-partner institution to a partner institution after the full academic year.*

#### » Can I take a gap year?

You must enroll in the Fall or Spring after high school graduation to maintain your scholarship eligibility. You must also stay enrolled in consecutive semesters to remain scholarship-eligible.

#### » Will I become ineligible for the scholarship if I study abroad?

You will be eligible for the SAEP Scholarship if you study abroad because you will remain enrolled in college. Studying abroad will not impact your future scholarship eligibility.

#### » I am enrolled in classes at two partner institutions during the same semester (consortium status). Will I receive two scholarship payments?

No. The award will go to the institution where the most hours are taken. If hours are equally split between schools, the award will go towards the more costly institution. Students must inform SAEP of their consortium status.

#### » I attend TAMUSA, UIW, or SAC. Am I eligible for an additional scholarship?

Students awarded an SAEP Scholarship and attending TAMUSA, UIW, or SAC may be eligible for additional funding from their institution. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at your respective university for more information.



## Maintaining the Scholarship

### » Do I need to reapply for the SAEP Scholarship?

No. The SAEP Scholarship will continue to renew if you maintain SAP, stay enrolled (**at least half-time for the Class of 2023 and full-time for Classes of 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019**), and are enrolled at one of our partner institutions in consecutive Fall/Spring semesters.

*Note: The scholarship is limited to 8-semester payments within 5 years of your high school graduation date. Additionally, the scholarship is limited to students working on their first bachelor's degree. Second bachelor's and graduate degrees are not covered.*

### » What is SAP?

At most partner institutions, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is considered a minimum of maintaining a 2.0 GPA and passing 67% of the classes that you take. Your Financial Aid office will check your SAP after grades are posted at the end of each semester.

*Note: Trinity University, University of Incarnate Word, and Our Lady of the Lake University use a 75% passing rate when determining SAP status.*

### » Do I have to send transcripts to verify my college GPA and SAP?

No, SAEP will verify your enrollment and SAP with your institution.

### » How long will I receive the scholarship?

If all eligibility requirements are met, you will continue receiving the SAEP scholarship for 8 semesters or 5 years, whichever comes first.

If you lose eligibility and successfully appeal to receive the scholarship, you will remain eligible for 5 years from the date of your high school graduation, even if less than 8 semesters have been completed. Refer to the "Submitting an Appeal" section on page 3 for appeal information.

*Note: Students are only allotted two appeals during the 8 semester or 5 years scholarship eligibility period. The scholarship is limited to 8-semester payments within 5 years of your high school graduation date. Additionally, the scholarship is limited to students working on their first bachelor's degree. Second bachelor's and graduate degrees are not covered.*

### » What if I need to drop a class? Will I lose my scholarship?

**Classes of 2022, 2021, 2020, and 2019:** You must start and end the semester as a full-time student. You will not lose your scholarship if you remain enrolled full-time (12+ credit hours) after dropping the class. If you do fall below full-time status, you will lose your scholarship eligibility and will need to submit an appeal. Email [scholarships@saedpartnership.org](mailto:scholarships@saedpartnership.org) if you have questions.

**Class of 2023 and later:** You must start and end the semester at the same enrollment status (full-time, part-time, half-time) to remain scholarship eligible. This applies to the Class of 2023 and later graduating classes. Email [scholarships@saedpartnership.org](mailto:scholarships@saedpartnership.org) if you have questions.

### » I have questions about my scholarship, but I'm too busy to contact you. Can my parents reach out instead?

FERPA laws prohibit SAEP from sharing personal information with anyone other than the student. SAEP will provide general information, but you (the student) should contact us for information about your specific award/eligibility.

### » Can I take a semester off? Will I lose my scholarship?

If you are not enrolled in consecutive Fall/Spring Semesters, you will lose eligibility for the SAEP Scholarship. If this is due to an extenuating circumstance, you can submit an appeal. Refer to the "Submitting an Appeal" section on page 3 for more information.

### » Can I use my scholarship during the summer?

No. The SAEP Scholarship is provided for Fall and Spring semesters only.

### » What if I failed my first year? Will I lose my scholarship?

If you fall below SAP standards, you will lose eligibility for the scholarship. You may submit an appeal if you fall below SAP standards due to an extenuating circumstance. Refer to the "Submitting an Appeal" section on page 3 for more information.

### » I recently changed my name, email address, phone number, etc. Do I need to inform SAEP?

Yes, please call SAEP at 210-207-4766 to update your personal information.

### » My EFC/SAI changed. Can I still receive the scholarship?

Once you are eligible for the scholarship, you maintain eligibility if you meet renewal criteria. We do not look at your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) or Student Aid Index (SAI) when renewing the scholarship.



## Transferring the Scholarship

### » Can I transfer my scholarship?

The SAEP Scholarship is transferable between our partner institutions. The scholarship amount will change to reflect the amount offered at the institution. (Example: The scholarship will increase with a transfer from San Antonio College to UTSA but will decrease with a transfer from UIW to UT Health).

### » Can I receive my scholarship if I transfer to a non-partner institution?

No. Transferring to a non-partner institution will result in the forfeiture of the remaining scholarship.

### » Can I still receive the scholarship if I transfer from a 4-year university to a 2-year college?

Yes, as long as you transfer to one of our partner institutions and continue to meet eligibility requirements.

### » Do I need to tell SAEP if I transfer to another institution?

Yes! It is helpful so we can update your student ID number in our database. No additional applications, transcripts, or receipts are needed. Email the Scholarship Assistant at [scholarships@saedpartnership.org](mailto:scholarships@saedpartnership.org) to update your information. **Most importantly, please let your new school's Financial Aid office know you are an SAEP Scholarship recipient. They will contact SAEP to verify your status.**

### » If I attended a non-partner institution but left before census day, can I receive the scholarship?

This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Email [scholarships@saedpartnership.org](mailto:scholarships@saedpartnership.org) to submit an appeal. Refer to the "Submitting an Appeal" section for more information.

## Submitting an Appeal

Students who lose SAEP Scholarship eligibility may be able to appeal for reinstatement under special circumstances, including but not limited to:

- Illness
- Pregnancy or birth of a child
- Major medical emergency
- Mental health crisis
- Death in family
- Homelessness
- Leaving the institution before census day

*Note: Students are only allotted two appeals during the 8 semester or 5 years scholarship eligibility period.*

Students who wish to submit an appeal may email [scholarships@saedpartnership.org](mailto:scholarships@saedpartnership.org).

Additional documentation may be requested to be considered. Appeals are approved on a case-by-case basis and are not guaranteed.

**The appeal deadline is January 15 for the previous Fall semester and June 15 for the previous Spring semester.**

## Questions?

For questions regarding your application status, scholarship questions, and appeals, email [scholarships@saedpartnership.org](mailto:scholarships@saedpartnership.org) or call SAEP at 210-207-4766.

In your email, please include your full first and last name, high school, and contact information.

