

PRESIDENTIAL LEADERS UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS
Scholarship Information
2011-2012

The PLUS scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship offered by Cameron University. It is more than just a financial award; it is a commitment to a whole program of leadership training. It recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in academics, leadership and service.

THE AWARD

Recipients of the PLUS scholarship receive the following:

- A tuition waiver covering up to 18 hours of tuition per semester during the fall and spring semesters (36 hours each academic year), for four consecutive years. *Please note that students are required to pay their own fees.* If a student does not use all 36 hours during the fall and spring semester, the remaining hours can be applied to a tuition waiver during the summer semester if the scholar is in good standing or is on probation.
- A single room waiver valued at \$1,014 per semester during the fall and spring semesters only. The room waiver can be applied in the CU Residence Halls or Cameron Village. *Meal plans are not included in the room waiver.*
- An \$800 stipend during a student's first year and a \$500 stipend during a student's fourth year in the PLUS program (Stipends are divided equally between the fall and spring semesters).
- Extensive leadership training and experience through service opportunities and leadership enhancement activities.

SELECTION

To be considered for the PLUS award, applicants must submit the general CU Scholarship Application. Students are awarded the PLUS scholarship based on the evaluation of the following:

- High school academic performance (GPA of 3.00 or higher)
- Standardized test scores (a minimum ACT score of 24)
- Participation in extracurricular and service activities
- A brief essay written by the applicant
- An interview with the selection committee

It is critical that all information the applicants provide is accurate and complete. A screening committee and a selection committee will be designated by the Vice President of Student Services and the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management. The screening committee will evaluate all applications and choose approximately 40 finalists who will be scheduled for personal interviews. The selection committee will be made up of the Vice President of Student Services, the Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, two faculty members and one current PLUS scholar. The selection committee will evaluate finalists' applications, conduct interviews and recommend scholarship recipients. The committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the Vice President for Academic Affairs for final approval.

REQUIREMENTS

Students who accept the scholarship must sign a contract committing them to all of the academic, service, campus involvement and leadership requirements for retaining the scholarship. These requirements include:

Academic Requirements

- Recipients must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours each fall and spring semester.
- Recipients must maintain status as a full time Cameron student (12 hours or more each semester).
- Recipients must achieve a semester grade point average of 3.0 and must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 3.0.

Service Requirements

Recipients are required to complete a minimum of 16 community service hours per semester.

- **Unless otherwise indicated, ALL SERVICE HOURS MUST HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL FROM THE STUDENT'S ADVISOR.** Service hours not approved in advance WILL NOT be counted.
- Service hours must be completed by the designated deadline each fall and spring semester.
- Acceptance of a student's hours is at the discretion of the advisor. Advisors will check the validity of hours and notify a student if the hours are unacceptable.
- Service hours will not be granted if a student has been paid for their time.

Recipients will be provided the opportunity to participate in group service projects each year. These projects may count as partial fulfillment of the service hour requirement at the discretion of the advisor.

Student Organization Involvement

It is expected that PLUS students are involved on campus and serve in leadership positions in campus organizations. A student's organization involvement in at least one on-campus student organization must be recorded on the Campus Organization Involvement form and submitted by the designated deadline each fall and spring semester. Failure to join a campus organization will result in an addition of five (5) service hours to the scholar's total semester community service hours requirement. The scholar will also be placed on PLUS probation.

Campus Activities

PLUS students are also required to attend five (5) campus events each semester. These events may include, but are not limited to:

- Organization Meetings
- Music/Theatre/Art Performances
- Festival Events
- Athletic Competitions
- Lectures

Attendance at five (5) campus activities must be recorded and verified on the Campus Activity Record. This form should be completed and submitted by designated deadline each fall and spring semester. If a student is placed on probation for failing to attend the minimum number of campus events, the student must make up any missed event the following academic semester.

Leadership Training

The leadership training aspect is the most important part of the program. It involves a four year commitment to leadership development. During the fall semester, first year students are required to enroll in and attend *Introduction to University Life*, a one hour course designed to assist students with the transition to higher education. In subsequent semesters, students are required to attend monthly meetings, scheduled by the advisor. **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION ARE MANDATORY!** Failure to attend mandatory PLUS meetings and events will result in an addition of three (3) service hours for each missed event to the scholar's total semester community service requirements. In addition, scholars are expected to meet PLUS program expectations and deadlines. Missing a PLUS deadline will result in an addition of five (5) service hours to the scholar's total semester community service requirements for each deadline missed.

Through the PLUS program, students will learn what it means to be a leader and they will evaluate their own "personal best" leadership style. The students will function as leaders and organize various service activities that require implementation of leadership principles. Students study current leadership topics, including communication, ethics, and diversity. During the final year, students will prepare for the career search process by developing a resume, learning how to apply to graduate and professional schools and gaining interview and presentation skills.

ADVISEMENT

Each year, students will be assigned to a PLUS advisor(s). The role of the advisors is to coordinate the leadership activities for their designated groups. Students should maintain communication with their assigned advisors. If a student's PLUS scholarship has been placed on probation and the student is not in good standing with PLUS, the student's advisor will schedule a meeting with the student in order to develop a plan for improvement and ensure complete understanding of scholarship requirements.

TO RETAIN THE PLUS SCHOLARSHIP

To retain the PLUS Scholarship, a student must meet ALL academic, service and involvement requirements each semester.

- If a student fails to meet any of the requirements or if a student is placed on university disciplinary probation, that student will not be in good standing with PLUS and the student's scholarship will be placed on probation. A student will continue to receive all awards while the student's scholarship is on probation.
- ALL service, involvement and academic requirements not met must be made up during the following semester.
- If a student's cumulative GPA falls below a 3.0, his or her scholarship will be placed on probation until the student is able to bring his or her cumulative GPA to 3.0 or higher.

While a student's scholarship is on probation, he or she must meet ALL academic, service and involvement requirements each semester, in order to maintain the PLUS scholarship. If a student fails to meet all requirements while on probation, he or she will be immediately suspended from the PLUS scholarship program.

These policies and procedures are formulated to provide a well-rounded educational experience that provides PLUS scholarship recipients with academic, leadership, campus involvement and service opportunities. Upon graduation, PLUS scholars have the skills to become leaders in their homes, work places and communities.