

Scholarship FAQs

1. Should I, or may I, apply for more than one scholarship?

You may apply for more than one scholarship. You should probably apply for all scholarships for which you are qualified. It sometimes happens that students are awarded more than one scholarship. Students who have a Presidential Endowed Scholarship are not eligible for A&S Academic Achievement Scholarships.

2. How can I find out what scholarships I am qualified to apply for?

Consult the scholarship matrix at this website for information about basic qualifications for each scholarship. For more detailed information, click on the scholarship name in the data matrix and refer to the paragraph at the top of each application form.

3. What will increase my chances of being selected?

To some extent, this depends on the scholarship under consideration. ALL scholarships include academic merit as a consideration. The members of the Biology Department's Student Awards Committee are very interested in your Texas Tech GPA (both overall and for your major). A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 is usually necessary for serious consideration. Also taken into account are the difficulty of the course load you have completed so far; whether you have been, or are, involved in undergrad research (such as BIOL 4100, 4300, CISER, or HONS); whether you are, or have been, involved in collegiate academic or service organizations (such as Tri-Beta, SACNAS, etc.); and whether you have received any academic honors at the collegiate level (such as the President's list, etc.). In the case of the H.Y. Price scholarships, there is a broader interest in the applicant's demonstrated "desire for education."

Your ability to write a skillful, enthusiastic, and convincing personal statement is important. If you are applying for a Biology scholarship (Goodin, Landwer, or Rushing), the Student Awards Committee is not interested in your high-school awards, involvements, or accomplishments, so please limit yourself to writing about your *collegiate* activities. And among your collegiate activities, please limit yourself to writing about your *academic* awards, involvements, and accomplishments. The committee is not interested in your involvement in social fraternities/sororities, religious groups, etc.

NOTE: the accuracy and completeness of your application are important. The data you include are checked for accuracy; any discrepancies can result in the disqualification of your application. If, for example, the application form asks for your "most recent SAT score," then do not instead report your highest SAT score, unless it also happens to be your most recent score. In the past, applications have been disqualified for such mis-reporting.

If you are applying for a Landwer scholarship, you must have filed a FAFSA with the University in the past year.

If you are submitting a renewal, your chances of success are much better if you have managed to improve your GPA since your initial scholarship was awarded, and if you are participating in undergraduate research.

4. How is financial need determined?

Financial need is determined on the basis of your having submitted a completed FAFSA to the Financial Aid Office of Texas Tech University within the past year. This office is asked by the Biology Department's Student Awards Committee to rank all applicants who have applied for H.Y. Price and/or Landwer scholarships on the basis of their current FAFSA-determined financial need.

5. If the scholarship for which I am applying requires me to submit transcripts, is it OK to submit a copy of my transcript(s), or do(es) it/they have to be official (i.e. printed by the Registrar)?

Unofficial copies are OK.

6. If there is something on the application form that I am unsure of, should I leave it blank?

You should NOT leave it blank. Consult with the advisors in Biology room 10 (742-2715) if you have questions. Blanks on the application form may result in the disqualification of your application, as may incorrect information.

7. Are late applications accepted?

This depends on the reason for tardiness. If it was because of a valid incident beyond your ability to control (such as hospitalization), there is a good chance that they can still be accepted. The chairperson of the scholarship committee will decide the validity of excuses for lateness (and may require documentation).

8. Whom should I list as a reference?

This depends on the scholarship(s) for which you are applying. If you are applying for one of the Biology scholarships (Landwer, Rushing, or Goodin, Harris, Burns or Stevens), then the reference you provide may be any college professor or advisor that has sufficient knowledge of your academic performance and career goals. For either the H.Y. Price or Academic Achievement scholarships, a letter should be from a faculty member (not a TA, staff member, or postdoc), though there is some leeway provided to incoming freshmen in this case. If you are now, or have been, involved in undergraduate research, then the letter should be from your faculty research mentor, in whatever department or, if you'd prefer not to include a letter from your mentor, then you should explain why not in your personal statement.

In any case, your letter should preferably be written by someone who knows you well enough to write something other than a generic letter. If you have not taken the time to get to know any of your professors, you may be at a disadvantage here.

9. Where can application forms be found?

Application forms for the Arts and Sciences scholarships can be downloaded from <http://www.scholarships.ttu.edu>
Application forms for Biology scholarships can be downloaded from http://www.biol.ttu.edu/undergrad_scholarships.php You can also get application forms from the secretary in Biology room 108C.

10. What is the earliest date that I can hand-in my application(s) to the Biology Department?

The first day of classes in the spring semester.

11. How long does it take to find out if I have been awarded a scholarship?

This depends on the scholarship. College of Arts and Sciences scholarships (H.Y. Price and Academic Achievement) are posted on, or sometimes before, April 15 at <http://www.scholarships.ttu.edu>, whereas Biology scholarship winners will usually be notified within a month of the application deadline.

12. How will I find out if I have been awarded a scholarship?

You will be notified by letter (sent to your official TTU email address) about the status of your application. Regarding the Arts & Sciences scholarships, you can also find out from the scholarship website: <http://www.scholarships.ttu.edu>

13. Can I be a freshman or a senior and still apply for any scholarships?

Yes. If you are a senior who still has one fulltime (fall or spring) semester, or more, left to graduate, then you are still eligible to apply for some scholarships. You will, however, receive only half the amount of the scholarship if you have but a single fulltime semester remaining. If you are currently a freshman, you may not apply several of the scholarships (see application form). If you are a freshman who is enrolled in, or has already taken BIOL 1403, then you are eligible to apply for a Landwer scholarship.