The University of Alaska designed the Scholars Program to provide an incentive for Alaska’s middle and high school students to achieve academic excellence, to nourish efforts of schools to provide high quality education, and to encourage high school graduates from every community in Alaska to attend the University of Alaska.

Award amount, distribution and deadline for use

- **Current award amount:** $11,000 (will increase to $12,000 beginning fall 2015).
- **How it is paid:** The university provides eligible Scholars $1,375 per semester for eight semesters. (The cost of tuition for 12 credits in FY15 is $2,088 at the 100-200 level and $2,520 at the 300-400 level.)
- Since the UA Scholar Program began in fall 1999, a cumulative total of 6,713 students have enrolled and received a UA Scholar distribution from the University of Alaska.
- **Deadline for use:** Expires after a total of eight semesters or within five years of the Scholar’s class graduation from high school.

Eligible expenses

The Award is applied as a payment on the Scholar’s student account and may be used for expenses such as undergraduate tuition, fees, room, board, books, supplies and other education costs incurred for attendance at the University of Alaska.

Eligibility

- Top 10 percent in the high school junior class at the end of the spring term (May or June) in every qualified Alaska high school.
- To remain eligible as a university student for the Scholars award:
  - Maintain satisfactory academic progress;
  - Enroll in at least 12 credits, each fall and spring semester (will increase to 30 credits per academic year in year two of the award beginning fall 2015);
  - Be in good standing in accordance with the UA Student Code of Conduct (Board of Regents policy 09.02.02 and University Regulation 09.02.020);
  - Maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5.

Eligible UA Scholars, enrollment and degrees at the University of Alaska by fall terms 2004-2013

UA Scholars are tracked by their enter terms as a cohorts (see table below).

- During its inaugural semester in fall 1999, the UA Scholars program attracted 271 top Alaskan students to the University of Alaska. By fall 2013, the number of newly paid UA Scholars grew to 456, an increase of 68 percent from the inaugural semester.
- In fall 2013, 456 out of 1,967 (23 percent) UA Scholars received a UA Scholar distribution for the first time.
Over the last ten years, the number of UA Scholars entering the program in the fall term grew from 431 students in fall 2004, to 456 students in fall 2013, an increase of 6 percent.

Each fall term over the last ten years, more than 40 percent of eligible Alaska high school graduates benefited from the UA Scholars program. The fall 2013 percentage (44.1 percent) was the highest since fall 2006.

The six-year graduation rate for first-time full-time UA Scholars who entered the program and were seeking any undergraduate degree in fall 2007 was 54 percent; this rate is 1.7 times higher than the first-time full-time freshman graduation rate of 31.7 percent for the UA System.

As of fall 2013, 11 percent (49 students) of UA Scholars who entered the program in 2004, were still enrolled at the University of Alaska. Out of those 49, 40 students already received at least one undergraduate degree and were currently enrolled or pursuing another degree at the university.