

Issue:

*How can UA be more competitive with schools outside of Alaska for first time and transfer applicants?*

Financial aid and admissions officers contend that to be competitive for first time and transfer students UA needs to *offer* renewable scholarships earlier in the application process. Such renewable awards may incentivize students to:

- 1) Apply to a UA campus;
- 2) Keep that UA campus on the student's list of potential schools and not summarily dismiss UA as an option once schools from outside begin to offer financial incentives soon after the student has applied for admission, and;
- 3) Ultimately, these incentive awards should help more Alaska students matriculate at UA.

Potential options:

**a. Move the UA Foundation scholarships deadline to earlier in the fall.**

Simply moving the deadline earlier in the fall does not help with incentivizing students to apply to the university.

A fall date would then pose a challenge for the UA Foundation: would the Foundation now maintain two deadlines - one in the fall for new first time and transfer students and another in spring for continuing students?

If both new and continuing students were held to a fall deadline, new continuing students would be applying for the following years scholarship after only a month on campus. Committees or decision makers would still need to wait until the end of fall (i.e. they would need fall grades) before they could determine who might be eligible for any awards.

**b. Develop a process to utilize information gathered at the time of admission to determine eligibility for UA Foundation scholarships.**

On it's face this option has potential. However, the information gathered during the application for admission process would not suffice for the UA Foundation scholarship process (through *AcademicWorks*). The information needed - because of donor requirements and/or the specificity of the scholarship, makes using the admissions application process to determine Foundation scholarship eligibility difficult.

However, such an approach would minimize a new student having to learn multiple systems and could make the process less daunting and allow for a more seamless process for the student as they navigate the UA system.

There is a team of admissions, financial aid and foundation staff trying to develop such a process.

Questions:

- 1) Does this option address the issue of providing 4-year, renewable awards?

**c. Develop a new<sup>1</sup> systemwide, renewable incentive scholarship process that would rely on the information collected at the time of admission. These incentive awards could be made at the time of admission or close there after.**

The awards would be determined by a combination of GPA from high school or college (for transfer students) and standardized test scores (ACT or SAT.)

To be most effective the awards should be tiered with higher amounts for students with higher GPAs and test scores.

For these incentive awards, applying for admission and then submitting an official transcript would instigate a review and decision. No other application would be required. Reviews and awards could be made on a rolling basis.

New first time and transfer students could still apply for UA Foundation Scholarships using Academic Works if they chose to do so.

Questions:

- 1) How to determine the amount needed for these renewable scholarships - total amount and individual awards?
- 2) What are the tiers or levels for these scholarships?
- 3) What are the potential sources for these renewable scholarships?
- 4) What are the requirements to renew these scholarships?

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<sup>1</sup> UAF has utilized such a program for several years. UAF Admissions offers four Merit based scholarships - Nanook Gold, Chancellor's, Cornerstone Gold, and Cornerstone - to first-year students upon acceptance to UAF.