

Aggie Assurance Program

Texas A&M University is expanding its commitment to low and middle income students through the Aggie Assurance program. The Aggie Assurance aids students with family income below \$60,000 by pledging to provide enough scholarships and grants to pay tuition for all eligible* students. The Aggie Assurance encourages Texans to pursue higher education at a flagship, research institution.

To be eligible:

- § You must be a Texas resident and eligible to pay resident tuition
- § You must be an entering Freshman for the Summer or Fall 2008 semester (current students and transfer students are not eligible)
- § You must be a degree-seeking student
- § You (if independent) or your parent(s) (if dependent) must have an adjusted gross income of \$60,000 or less
- § You must be admitted and enrolled full-time at Texas A&M University, College Station
- § You must have financial need as determined by the FAFSA or TASFA
- § You must maintain a 2.5 GPA and meet Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements
- § You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by our March 31 priority date prior to the Fall semester

What does Aggie Assurance cover?

Aggie Assurance covers tuition – state mandated, designated tuition, and differential tuition. In essence, this is a commitment by the university that those below \$60,000 in income will always have grants and scholarships to meet the tuition costs. At this time, the program does not include fees. Tuition costs are approximately \$5000 for the 2008-2009 academic year.

How many students will be impacted?

The number of students meeting the criteria when fully implemented is expected to be over 5200, including over 1700 students in the \$40,000 to \$60,000 income range. Since this is being rolled out to new freshmen in Fall 2008, it is expected to provide an assurance for tuition to over 1500 students immediately, including over 500 students with \$40,000 to \$60,000 incomes.

How is the program being funded?

The university has allocated additional resources to meet the financial commitment for this program. It is estimated that this program will cost an additional \$3.3 million when fully implemented. For the current 2008-2009 academic year, the cost is expected to be about \$300,000.

Is the amount of funding limited to tuition for eligible students?

Absolutely not. In fact, many students will have other grants and scholarships that can be applied toward required

fees, books, housing, and other educational expenses. This is a minimum commitment. For example, Texas students with incomes below \$30,000 who are Pell eligible are already receiving scholarships and grants that meet all of their tuition and fees, primarily through Federal Pell Grants and the state's TEXAS Grant program.

Does this change the Regents Scholar program?

No, this program adds to the financial commitment the university is making to students requiring financial assistance to attend. The Regents Scholar program will continue to provide up to \$5,000 per year for eligible students.

Is there a separate application for Aggie Assurance?

No, there is not a separate application for Aggie Assurance. Once you fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Scholarships & Financial Aid will determine if you are eligible and notify you of program eligibility

Who qualifies for Aggie Assurance?

Texas residents with an adjusted gross income of \$60,000 or less qualify for Aggie Assurance. Adjusted gross income is defined as parents' adjusted gross income if the student is dependent or the student's adjusted gross income if the student is independent (as defined in the FAFSA).

When does the Aggie Assurance program begin?

The Aggie Assurance program begins Fall 2008, with the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2012.

Are transfer students eligible to receive the Aggie Assurance?

Transfer students will be eligible beginning Fall 2009.

Do I have to be enrolled full-time to receive the Aggie Assurance?

Yes, you must be enrolled at least 12 semester credit hours at Texas A&M University each fall/spring term to receive the Aggie Assurance. If you do not complete 12 hours each fall/spring semester, you may lose program eligibility for future terms.

May I receive the Aggie Assurance for the summer terms?

No, the Aggie Assurance is for the fall and spring terms only.

Can I take my Aggie Assurance with me to another school?

No, the Aggie Assurance can be used for courses registered at Texas A&M University, College Station.

How long may I receive the Aggie Assurance?

You may receive the Aggie Assurance for four years.

How do I continue to receive Aggie Assurance in subsequent years?

To qualify for Aggie Assurance in subsequent years, you must file a FAFSA by the priority deadline and eligibility must be confirmed each year.

Do I have to maintain a certain grade point ratio (GPR) to continue in the program?

Yes, you must maintain a 2.5 GPR and meet Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements.

Are housing and books included in the Aggie Assurance?

The Aggie Assurance is designed to ensure tuition is covered. However, many students will receive additional financial aid, including grants, work study, and loans that will cover housing and books.

How do Texas A&M University scholarships or outside scholarships affect the Aggie Assurance?

Such awards will be included as part of your financial aid award package. We want to be sure that your tuition is covered, but Aggie Assurance is limited to meeting financial need as demonstrated by the FAFSA.

Can I qualify for the Aggie Assurance even if my family's adjusted gross income is more than \$60,000?

No, the Aggie Assurance is designed only for students who meet all the eligibility criteria. However, other financial assistance is available.

For more information about the Aggie Assurance, please call Scholarships & Financial Aid at (979) 845-3236 or email financialaid@tamu.edu