

2025 - 2026

Program Guidelines

| Nursing Students Scholarship

**Texas Higher
Education**
COORDINATING BOARD



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Nursing Students Scholarship Program

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Program Guidelines are intended to support institutions by highlighting requirements that appear in the Texas Education Code (TEC) and Texas Administrative Code (TAC). When administering this program, institutions should always refer to the relevant statutes and rules. The information in this document is to be used solely as a resource and does not override the statute or rules for this program.

TAC Citations

The THECB is proposing nonsubstantive amendments to rules found in these program guidelines at the April 24, 2025, board meeting. If adopted, these amendments (effective May 15, 2025) may cause temporary discrepancies between rule citations found in the current program guidelines and the revised rules found in the [TAC](#). However, the informational content of the guidelines will remain unchanged. Updated guidelines reflecting any rule changes will be published in subsequent versions.

Program Authority and Purpose ([TAC Section 22.360](#))

The Nursing Students Scholarship Program is authorized by [TEC, Title 3, Subchapter L](#). Rules for administering the program can be found in [TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 22, Subchapter R](#). The program is funded by appropriations from the Texas Legislature and from any gifts and grants to the program. The purpose of the Nursing Students Scholarship Program is to promote the health care and educational needs of this state by providing scholarships to eligible professional and vocational nursing students.

State Priority Deadline ([TEC Section 56.008](#) and [TAC Section 22.6](#))

⚠️ ALERT: The THECB extended the 2025-26 (Fiscal Year 2026) state financial aid application priority deadline to **February 15, 2025**, due to exigent circumstances related to federal financial aid development, as authorized under [TAC Section 22.6\(a\)\(3\)](#).

The THECB sets the same priority deadline for all applications that qualify for state-funded financial aid in an academic year. General Academic Teaching Institutions (GATIs) in Texas (*including* Lamar State College Orange and Lamar State College Port Arthur), as defined in [TEC Section 61.003\(3\)](#), must publicize and use **January 15** as the state priority deadline for identifying eligible students to be given priority in receiving offers through the state financial aid programs.

Institutions may define how their students must meet the priority deadline and are encouraged to adopt a policy describing the actions they must take to meet the deadline. The priority deadline is neither a guarantee to receive funding if a student applies by the applicable date for the academic year nor is it a restriction to those that apply beyond the date. It is a mechanism used to evaluate similarly situated students to prioritize limited funding and to encourage students to complete their applications timely to increase the likelihood of receiving state funding.

Eligible Institutions ([TAC Section 22.362](#))

Any institution of higher education (public, private, or independent) as defined in [TEC Section 61.003](#), or an institution described by [TEC Section 61.651\(1\)\(C\)](#), is eligible to participate in this program.

Program Eligibility

Eligibility Requirements ([TAC Section 22.363](#))

To be eligible for a scholarship through the program, a student must:

- ✓ Be a Texas resident.
- ✓ Be registered with Selective Service or be exempt (see [Selective Service Statement](#)).
- ✓ Show financial need.
- ✓ Be enrolled in a professional or vocational nursing program on at least a half-time basis.
- ✓ Have made satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the student's institutions' financial aid academic progress requirements.

Discontinuation of Eligibility or Non-Eligibility ([TAC Section 22.365](#))

Unless an extension of eligibility (due to a hardship circumstance) is granted, a student's eligibility ends once the student has attempted 15 semester credit hours, or the equivalent, more than the amount required to complete the degree or certificate program in which the student is enrolled.

In determining eligibility, a student who has received this scholarship during a previous course of study is considered to have started the student's new course of study with zero credit hours, or the equivalent, attempted if the student:

- Meets all other eligibility criteria.
- Completed the previous course of study by earning the intended degree or certificate.

Child Support Arrearages

Per [Texas Family Code, Title 5, Section 231.006](#), a student who is obligated to pay child support and is more than 30 days delinquent is not eligible to receive a state-funded grant.

Institutions determine how best to comply with this state requirement and should work with their legal counsel on questions related to this statutory mandate.

Hardship Provisions ([TAC Section 22.366](#))

In the event of a hardship or for other compelling cause, a student who is ineligible to receive the Nursing Students Scholarship may be eligible to receive a scholarship:

- While failing to make satisfactory academic progress in accordance with the institution's financial aid academic progress requirements.
- While enrolled less than half-time.
- While enrolled beyond the scholarship receipt limit (relating to Discontinuation of Eligibility or Non-Eligibility).

The institution will determine any acceptable reasons to grant a hardship decision. Each institution must adopt a hardship policy and have the policy available for public review. All hardship decisions must be documented in the student's record and be available for submission to the THECB upon request.

Selective Service Statement ([TAC Section 22.3](#))

Under [TEC Section 51.9095](#), an individual must file a statement of their Selective Service status with the institution confirming registration or exemption.

This statute applies to all state-funded financial aid, as well as “federal funds or gifts and grants accepted by this state.” The statement is required from students receiving federal aid, state-appropriated funds, or institutional funding, which includes programs funded by tuition set-asides, exemptions, and waivers.

Any of the following can be used to meet the statutory statement requirement:

- THECB Selective Service Statement of Registration Status ([English Statement](#) or [Spanish Statement](#))
- Printout from [SSS.gov](#) website
- Institutional Student Information Record (ISIR) if status is available*
- THECB Selective Service Statement of Registration Status embedded in the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA)

*As of Fiscal Year 2023-24, registration status is no longer reported on the ISIR. Institutions can use any prior year ISIR that confirms registration to meet the statutory requirement for a student's status.

Institutions are **not** required to collect “proof” of registration or exemption from students or to verify the accuracy of the statement against external databases or other resources if conflicting information does not exist. See [Updated Guidance on Statutory Requirements that Impact Financial Aid Memo](#).

SELECTIVE SERVICE STATEMENT OF REGISTRATION STATUS

In accordance with [Texas Education Code, Section 51.9095](#), male students must file a Selective Service Statement of Registration Status with their institution or other entity granting financial assistance. For more information about the Selective Service System, visit [sss.gov](#).

Please mark **one** option below:

<input type="checkbox"/> I was born female and not required to register. <input type="checkbox"/> I was born male and am under the age of 18 and not currently required to register. <input type="checkbox"/> I was born male and am REGISTERED with the Selective Service. <input type="checkbox"/> I was born male and am over the age of 18. I am not registered with Selective Service and I am not exempt from registration with Selective Service.	<input type="checkbox"/> I was born male and am EXEMPT from registration because: (please briefly explain why you are exempt in the box below.) <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 60px; margin-top: 5px;"></div>
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I, _____, hereby certify that the Selective Service status statement provided above is true and accurate.

Student ID: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Complete and return to the Financial Aid Office at your institution of higher education.

Selective Service Statement of Registration Status As of 09/28/2021

Additional Information

Collection Method

The institution has flexibility to create an online, paper, or alternate method to collect the statement as long as it uses the content developed and required by the THECB.

Frequency of Collecting the Statement

If the student's status will NOT change, the statement collected can be used for subsequent semesters at the same institution.

If the student is NOT registered for Selective Service, a statement must be collected each time they apply for financial aid or a student loan until the statement indicates registered or exempt.

Males Age 26 or Older

Individuals older than the maximum age at which an individual is required to be registered with the Selective Service System under federal law are not required to complete this status statement.

Retention Schedule

The status statement must be retained in the student's record based on the retention schedule outlined in the institution's Program Participation Agreement.

Packaging

Scholarship Amount [\(TAC Section 22.367\)](#)

The maximum scholarship amount per semester varies based on the type of institution the student attends. Institutions eligible to participate in the Toward EXcellence, Access, and Success (TEXAS) Grant and Texas Educational Opportunity Grant (TEOG) programs may offer scholarships each semester up to the maximum grant amount for their respective programs. Institutions eligible to participate in the Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) program or institutions described by TEC Section 61.651(1)(C) may offer scholarships each semester up to half the annual TEG exceptional need maximum.

2025-26 SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS		
Program	Institution Type	FY 2026 Sem Max
TEXAS Grant	Public Universities & Health Related Institutions	\$5,429
TEOG	Public State Colleges	\$1,833
	Public Technical Institutes	\$4,493
	Public Community Colleges	\$2,134
TEG	Private/Independent Institutions*	\$3,203

*Defined by [TEC Section 61.003\(15\)](#), or an institution described by [TEC Section 61.651\(1\)\(C\)](#).

Note: This scholarship cannot be used as financial aid to fulfill the TEOG or TEXAS Grant matching requirement for students simultaneously receiving both the scholarship and a TEOG or TEXAS Grant.

Priority in Scholarships to Students [\(TAC Section 22.364\)](#)

If appropriated funds are insufficient to offer a scholarship to all eligible students:

- Priority must be given to students who received a scholarship in the prior academic year (renewals).
- Priority must be given to students who demonstrate the greatest financial need.
- Priority must be given to students who are not yet licensed as a registered nurse in Texas or any other state.

The institution may set additional prioritization criteria for offering scholarships. Any additional criteria set by the institution must be compliant with [TAC Section 22.364](#) and [TEC Section 61.655](#).

Processing Funds

Each biennium (the two-year state budget period), funds not requested in the first year will be carried forward by the THECB on behalf of the institution for use in the second year. Any funds not requested in the second year of the biennium become available for redistribution as determined by the THECB.

Institutions can **begin submitting** requests for funding on **August 15, 2025**. The THECB will **begin processing** funds after **September 2, 2025**. Institutions have through **August 3, 2026**, to request program funds. An official notification will be sent to institutions in the summer to provide instructions on how to request funds for FY 2026.

Timely Distribution of Funds ([TAC Section 22.2](#))

Institutions **must** follow these requirements when processing program funds:

- Institutions have **3** business days after receiving the funds to apply the funds to a student's account.
- Institutions have **6** business days after receiving the funds to return undisbursed funds.
- Institutions have **45** calendar days from the date a student becomes ineligible to return disbursed funds.
- Institutions have **120** calendar days to return funds after a student has notified the institution of a decision to cancel the scholarship.

Late Disbursements ([TAC Section 22.11](#))

Funds that are disbursed after the end of a student's period of enrollment must only be used to pay the student's outstanding balance for the period of enrollment or to make a payment on an outstanding loan received during that period of enrollment. The institution must document the reason for a student's late disbursement. All late disbursements must be processed before the end of the state's fiscal year, unless granted an extension by the THECB. Under no circumstances should funds be released directly to the student in this situation.

Appendix 1: Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can a student who has completed a nursing credential (e.g., Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN)) using the Nursing Students Scholarship receive the scholarship again to pursue a higher-level nursing credential?

Yes. A student who has received the scholarship during a previous course of study is considered to have started their new course of study with zero credit hours, or the equivalent, attempted as long as the student:

- Has met all other eligibility criteria.
- Has completed the previous course of study by earning the intended degree or certificate.

2. Can the Nursing Students Scholarship be used to satisfy the TEOG or TEXAS Grant matching requirement?

No. The scholarship cannot be used as financial aid to satisfy the TEOG or TEXAS Grant matching requirements for a student simultaneously receiving both the scholarship and a TEOG or TEXAS Grant.

3. Can a student receive both the scholarship and the TEOG or TEXAS Grant at the same time?

Yes. A student can receive a TEOG or TEXAS Grant and the Nursing Students Scholarship concurrently as long as tuition and fees have been covered, satisfying matching requirements, and the student meets all other eligibility criteria.

4. Can any Texas institution of higher education apply for funding or is participation in the Nursing Students Scholarship Program by invitation only?

Any institution of higher education (public, private, or independent) as defined in [TEC Section 61.003](#), or an institution described by [TEC Section 61.651\(1\)\(C\)](#), is eligible to participate in this program. Institutions are invited annually to participate in the allocation process for this optional program.

Appendix 2: Quick References

Contact Information	
By phone: (844) 792-2640	
Program Rules and Statute	
Texas Program Statutes	Texas Education Code TEC, Title 3, Subchapter L
Texas Program Rules	Texas Administrative Code TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 22, Subchapter A TAC, Title 19, Part 1, Chapter 22, Subchapter R
Websites, Portals, And Guides	
General program information for institutions	Student Financial Aid Programs Information Webpage
General college enrollment and financial aid information for students	My Texas Future
Grant and Aid Processing Platform (GAPP) - Institutions can log into the GAPP to access certain state financial aid programs	GAPP Login GAPP Help Desk GAPP Account Creation Instructions [PDF]
Secure file transfer and processing portal	MOVEit DMZ Portal MOVEit DMZ User Access Guide [PDF]
Forms and Instructions	
Form for adding, updating, or removing a user's access for state financial aid web portals	User Access Form [PDF]
Instructions for returning funds electronically	Electronic Funds Transfer Information [PDF]