



2011-12

General Scholarship Application Instructions

Students who complete this application will automatically be considered for all Cal State San Marcos scholarships awarded for the fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters. The Application Deadline is **March 2, 2011**. Applications submitted with the required essay will be considered for all applicable scholarship opportunities.

Scholarship applicants should review the scholarship listing on our website at http://www.csusm.edu/finaid/scholarship_all/index.html

Please note that eligibility requirements for scholarships vary and some have very specific eligibility requirements. Students will be considered for any scholarship for which they meet the application criteria. All students must submit an autobiographical essay with your application.

Minimum Requirements for Cal State San Marcos Scholarships:

- ▣ Must be enrolled at Cal State San Marcos in at least 6 units in the 2011-2012 academic year.
- ▣ Must be admitted to and enrolled in a program of study leading to a degree or certificate program.
- ▣ Must submit a typed essay (see below)

Autobiographical Essay Instructions:

Begin your essay with a strong introduction. Be personal. Make sure the scholarship committee can assess what type of person you are, what motivates you, and what adversities you have overcome. You may wish to think of the essay as an interview with the scholarship committee - introduce yourself and explain your life history. Be succinct, clear and make your essay interesting. Discuss community involvement; extra-curricular activities; leadership experiences or positions; high school and/or college life and your family. Discuss your strengths, weaknesses and any obstacles you may have overcome or are currently confronting. Adhere to standard grammar and writing rules. The essay should be two pages in length and must be typed. Include your name and Campus ID in the upper right-hand corner of each page of your essay.

Essay Writing Tips

- ~ Plan your essay before you write.
- ~ Think about what you want to say before you begin to write
- ~ Determine key pieces of information you feel the interview committee should know about you, remember this is your opportunity to introduce yourself.
- ~ The Faculty Scholarship Committee will review hundreds of applications and the essay is one important factor of the process and can sometime be used to differentiate applicants.
- ~ Utilize the on-campus Writing Center, located in Kellogg Library, 1st floor. They can assist you in crafting a coherent essay and give you ideas for improvement.

Scholarship Time Line

Scholarship decisions are generally made throughout the summer. Students will be notified whether or not they are selected in early to mid August.



2011-2012 CSU San Marcos General Scholarship Application

Section I.

Name _____ Campus ID# _____
Last First M.I.

Street Address _____ Phone # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Section II. Please answer the questions listed below:

1. What will be your grade level when you begin the 2011-12 school year at CSUSM? Check One Only

- First Time Freshman* *Continuing Freshman* *Sophomore* *Junior* *Senior*
- Teaching Credential Candidate* *Second Bachelor's Degree* *Graduate Student*

2. What is your CSUSM Major? _____

3. Have you filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for 2011-12? Yes No

If you have not completed a 2011-2012 FAFSA, we suggest you complete one at the federal processor's website at www.fafsa.ed.gov Most CSUSM scholarships require that a 2011-2012 FAFSA be on file at the CSUSM Financial Aid and Scholarship Office. The CSUSM School Code is 030113.

4. Were you ever in the AVID program in high school? Yes No

5. Are you a single parent? Yes No

6. When do you expect to graduate from Cal State San Marcos? _____ (e.g., Fall 2013)

I understand that by signing this statement, I have read and understand the scholarship application and essay directions. I understand that my completed application and essay may be released to applicable donors and that my application and essay information may be used for external and internal communication purposes. I further understand that members of the CSUSM Financial Aid and Scholarship committee comprised of faculty and staff may review information related to my enrollment, academic records, financial aid application information, disciplinary action within the past twelve months, and any other appropriate university records in the course of their review of my scholarship application.

Your Signature Date

Submit the completed application and essay to:
Cal State San Marcos Financial Aid and Scholarship Office
3rd floor Craven Hall –Cougar Central or fax to (760) 750-3047
Application Deadline is March 2, 2011