

The University of Southern Indiana Academic Excellence Award (AEA) is intended to promote academic excellence. For selected scholars, the University provides awards which waive full tuition. These awards are coordinated with other tuition-specific aid (if applicable) to ensure that the total of tuition-specific assistance does not exceed total tuition charges. No cash refunds are made to students from tuition-specific assistance.

1. Initially matriculating freshmen who are Indiana residents and graduates of Indiana State Department of Public Instruction commissioned high schools and who meet all requirements for the USI Presidential Scholarship will be considered as candidates for this award in the event they are not selected to receive the Presidential Scholarship.

NOTE: Application for admission to the University as a degree-seeking student and the Presidential Scholarship application must be completed by March 1 of the student's senior year in high school. Awards are subject to approval by the Office of Student Financial Assistance based on availability of funding.

2. Award recipients must enroll as full-time students during the fall and each successive regular semester following award notification. A full-time student is defined as one who enrolls in at least 30 semester hours each academic year (fall/spring), for AEA purposes. Official enrollment is determined on census day (5th day of fall/spring). Failure to comply with these requirements nullifies the award and all future entitlement. Under exceptional circumstances, a student may petition the Director of Student Financial Assistance for a "leave of absence" for one semester and an extension of calendar year limits **or** an exception to the minimum enrollment requirement (only for legitimate medical or academic reasons).

NOTE: Award recipients may utilize the AEA for summer enrollment. No minimum enrollment status is required during summer.

3. The AEA is available until recipients earn their first bachelor's degree or 136 credit hours, whichever comes first.

NOTE: Semester hours earned prior to undergraduate enrollment at USI (ex. AP, CAP, CLEP, IB, etc.) are **not** included in the 136 semester hours.

4. Students who decline USI's offer of an Academic Excellence Award forfeit all future entitlement to this award. The AEA offer is valid only during the fall semester of the year in which the award is made and will not be offered a second time.
5. The award may be renewed automatically if the student earns a minimum of 30 semester hours each academic year (fall/spring) and maintains the required minimum cumulative GPA. The Office of Student Financial Assistance will evaluate earned hours after the spring semester. Any deficit in earned hours may be made up in the summer at the students' expense. A written request for review of AEA eligibility must be sent to the Director of Student Financial Assistance after summer grades are officially recorded on the student's transcript.

The required minimum cumulative GPA is 3.0/4.0 up through 62 semester hours earned and 3.2 thereafter. Students who fail to earn the required minimum cumulative GPA will be placed on probation for one semester. Failure to comply with the cumulative GPA requirement after one probationary semester will result in cancellation of the AEA and forfeiture of all future entitlement.

NOTE: All participating students must maintain good standing at USI. Students who are dismissed from the University for any reason forfeit all entitlement to the AEA.

6. Appeals Process:

Students may request exceptions to the AEA Rules and Regulations when unusual or mitigating circumstance warrants such action. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Student Financial Assistance Appeals Committee at USI. Send all correspondence to the Office of Student Financial Assistance, University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Boulevard, Evansville, IN 47712. Decisions of the Appeals Committee are final.