The University of Southern Indiana Academic Achievement Award (AAA) is intended to reward academic achievement. For selected scholars, the University provides a limited number of competitive scholarships which waive a portion of tuition. These awards are coordinated with other tuition-specific assistance (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. Scholarships are valued at $1000 per academic year and are divided equally between the fall and spring term.

1. Initially matriculating community college graduates are eligible to be considered for these scholarships under certain conditions. Students must have been members of Phi Theta Kappa, a Chancellor’s Scholar, or the equivalent during their community college experience.

Candidates for this scholarship must also have earned an A.A. or A.S. from an accredited community college and enroll at USI as a sophomore or junior. A 3.0/4.0 minimum transfer GPA (as determined by the USI Admissions Office) is also required.

NOTE: Application for admission to the University as a degree or certificate-seeking student must be completed by March 1 for fall admission and November 1 for spring admission. Scholarships are subject to approval by the Office of Student Financial Assistance based on availability of funding.

2. Scholarship recipients must officially enroll as full-time students during the next regular semester (fall/spring) and each successive regular semester following scholarship notification. In addition, award recipients must successfully complete at least 24 official semester hours each academic year (fall/spring). 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).

3. Students selected to receive the Academic Achievement Award may participate in the program for no more than (2) consecutive calendar years from the date of initial enrollment or a total of 90 semester hours that have been earned at USI, whichever comes first.

4. Students who decline USI’s offer of an Academic Achievement Award forfeit all future entitlement to this award. The Academic Achievement Award offer is valid only during the next regular semester (fall/spring) of the year in which the grant is awarded and will not be offered a second time.

5. The scholarship may be renewed automatically if the student enrolls full-time and successfully completes a minimum of 24 official semester hours each academic year (fall/spring) with the required minimum cumulative GPA. The Office of Student Financial Assistance will evaluate attempted and earned hours after two full-time semesters of attendance and at the conclusion of each spring semester thereafter. Grant recipients may make up deficits in earned hours or cumulative GPA during the summer at their own expense. GPA deficits must be made up by taking classes at USI. Students who make up earned hour deficits in the summer must submit a written request for review of scholarship eligibility to the Director of Student Financial Assistance after summer grades are officially recorded on the student’s transcript.

The required minimum cumulative GPA required for grant renewal is as follows:

- a. after earning 0 to 59 hours, a cumulative GPA of 2.50;
- b. after earning 60 to 90 hours, a cumulative GPA of 2.75;

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 Academic Achievement Award.
6. Appeals Process:

Students may request exceptions to these 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.