

Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Statement of Understanding Form TSU Financial Aid Office

Please Note: You must submit this Statement of Understanding before your Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship will be credited to your account for the spring 2012 term. Please complete and return this form to the Financial Aid Office at the address or fax listed below.

Name: _____ TSU ID #: _____
Address: _____
Street Apt. # City State Zip
Email Address: _____@mytsu.tnstate.edu Phone: (_____) _____

To help our students understand the basic rules of the Tennessee Educational Lottery Scholarship, we have developed a list of several important items that you will need to know.

Please initial each of the statements below, to indicate your understanding:

- ____ Final eligibility for the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship cannot be determined until all required academic and financial aid information is complete. I understand that my award will be **tentative** until the TSU Financial Aid Office determines that I meet all requirements.
- ____ I understand that I must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by September 1 of each year to receive a fall lottery scholarship and by February 1 for a spring lottery scholarship. (For best results, I should file my FAFSA no later than April 1 every year.)
- ____ I understand that I can receive financial aid and scholarships only up to an estimated Cost of Attendance (COA) or Need. The COA is an estimate of the cost to attend TSU (e.g., tuition and fees, books, living expenses, transportation costs, and miscellaneous expenses). If my aid is more than the COA or Need, my lottery scholarship or other aid may be reduced accordingly. (For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.tnstate.edu>.)
- ____ I verify that I am not incarcerated and am not in a work release or educational release facility.

Enrollment Requirements

- ____ I understand that I must enroll no later than 16 months after high school graduation or GED completion. This "sit out" period will end when I officially enroll in any semester, regardless of whether I exercised the full 16-month option. This means that I cannot choose to "sit out" after I have enrolled for a semester, even if it is within 16 months of my graduation date.
- ____ I understand that I must be enrolled at least half-time (6 credit hours) at an eligible institution for every fall and spring semester to receive a lottery scholarship. My award amount will be prorated, according to the number of hours in which I am enrolled. If I am enrolled in 5 credit hours or less, I will maintain eligibility but will not receive an award that semester.
- ____ I understand that if I am initially eligible for the Lottery but attend an out-of-state postsecondary regionally accredited school after graduating, I may be eligible if I transfer to an eligible school such as TSU. I must meet all continuing requirements to be eligible.
- ____ I understand that I may be eligible for a leave of absence to complete an internship or co-op which is required or encouraged by my academic department. I must submit a signed statement by the academic department.
- ____ I understand that my lottery scholarship will be based upon my enrollment status as of the 14th day of the fall/spring semester. If I begin the semester full-time, I must finish the semester with at least 12 credit hours. If I begin part-time, I must maintain at least 6 credit hours. Dropping or withdrawing below my enrollment status after the 14th day may result in the **permanent** loss of lottery eligibility.

____ I understand that I may file a Tennessee Lottery Appeal if I fail to meet enrollment requirements due to extenuating personal or medical circumstances. Eligibility may be reinstated based on my appeal and supporting documentation.

GPA Requirements

____ I understand that I must have a cumulative TELS GPA of at least 2.75 after 24 and 48 TELS attempted hours, and a 3.0 or higher after 72, 96 or any subsequent multiple of 24 semester attempted hours.

____ I understand that if I have less than a 3.0 GPA but at least a 2.75 GPA after the 48 hour benchmark that I must enroll **full-time** and have a **minimum 3.0 semester GPA** to continue receiving lottery funds. Subsequent semesters will require the same enrollment status and semester GPA until I reach another 24 hour benchmark with a cumulative 3.0 GPA.

____ I understand that any credits gained through dual-enrollment, AP credit, or other test credits do not count in my TELS GPA.

____ I understand that all classes taken after high school graduation count in my TELS GPA, including repeated classes which TSU may exclude from my institutional GPA.

____ I understand that my TELS GPA and TELS attempted hours may differ from my TSU GPA and attempted hours, due to the above differences. I should check with the Lottery Scholarship Coordinator frequently to determine my progress.

____ I understand that I may exercise a **one-time only Repeat Option** to exclude the grade of one repeated course from my TELS GPA. I must notify the Financial Aid Office of my request to use this option by submitting a Repeat Option Request Form, available in the Financial Aid Office.

____ I understand that I may use a **one-time only Regain Option** to regain eligibility for the TELS award, if I lose the scholarship due to GPA but meet the GPA requirement at a future bracket, and continue to meet all other continuing eligibility criteria for each semester. I must notify the Financial Aid Office of my request to use this option by submitting a Regain Option Request Form.

Time Limits

____ I understand that I may receive a Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship for up to 5 years from my initial enrollment or until I receive a bachelors degree, which ever occurs first.

____ I understand that if I received a Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship for the first time during the fall 2009 term or thereafter, that I become ineligible once I reach 120 hours attempted depending on degree.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please submit this form to

Tennessee State University, Financial Aid Office, 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd. Nashville, TN 37209
or fax it to (615) 963-7540.

For More Information: You may find additional information about the Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Program online at www.tn.gov/collegepays or by contacting the Financial Aid Office at (615) 963-7501.

We suggest that you make a copy of this information for your records.

For Office Use Only: __ RRAAREQ LOTF __ SZATELS __ RPAAWRD