



# Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship Statement of Understanding Form

Student Name: _____		T# _____	
Address: _____			
Street	Apt. #	City	State Zip
Email Address: _____@my.tnstate.edu		Phone: (_____) _____	

To help you understand and maintain your Tennessee Educational Lottery Scholarship (TELS), 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:**

### ***Eligibility Requirements***

- \_\_\_\_ 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.
- \_\_\_\_ 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) for every fall and spring semester to receive a lottery scholarship. My payment amount will be prorated for less than full-time enrollment. If I am enrolled in 5 credit hours or less, I will maintain eligibility but will not receive a payment 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 census date 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 census date may result in the **permanent** loss of lottery eligibility.

## **GPA Requirements**

- \_\_\_\_ 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 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 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.

## **Appeals**

- \_\_\_\_ I understand that if I am unable to maintain continuous enrollment or full-time enrollment within a semester, I may seek an appeal to restore eligibility due to a leave of absence or for a drop in credit hours from full-time enrollment. I must provide supporting documentation in the appeal for each semester in which I was not enrolled.
- \_\_\_\_ I understand that if the IRP denies my appeal request, I may appeal to TSAC within 45 calendar days from the date on the IRP decision letter.
- \_\_\_\_ I understand that I cannot appeal TELS eligibility based on academic reasons, including GPA.

## **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 bachelor's degree.
- \_\_\_\_ I understand that if I received a Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship for the first time during the fall 2015 term or thereafter, that I become ineligible once I reach 120 hours attempted or 8 full-time equivalent semesters; whichever occurs later.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **Please submit this form to:**

Office of Financial Aid, 3500 John A. Merritt Blvd. Nashville, TN 37209  
You may fax it to (615) 963-7540 or email to [finaid@tnstate.edu](mailto:finaid@tnstate.edu).

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