

Undergraduate Scholarship, Financial Aid, and Professional Development Support Policy

The Jackson School provides financial support to continuing and entering undergraduate majors in Geological Sciences. This aid is in the form of scholarships, grants based on demonstrated financial need, student loans, and professional development support. For single semester or summer session awards, applications are required the preceding semester with the following due dates: October 15 for the Spring Semester, March 15 for the Summer Session and April 15 for the Fall semester. Some awards, such as endowed presidential scholarships, are provided for an entire academic year, with an application due date of April 15. A single application form for all support types is available from the Undergraduate Office, GEO 2.326A and on the Jackson School website. The undergraduate support committee reviews the applications and forwards its recommendations to the Dean of the Jackson School for approval.

Scholarships: The School may provide scholarship support to freshmen who are enrolled in the Jackson School and who have exhibited excellent academic achievement in high school. Currently enrolled undergraduate majors may apply for scholarships if their overall or Geological Sciences GPA's are 3.0 or above. Transfer students may be considered based upon their previous academic record. Consideration may be given to undergraduates who have not declared their major, but have completed lower division courses in Geological Sciences, and are continuing to take courses in the department. One scholarship, the Bloomer Scholarship for Motivated Students, is exempt from the 3.0 GPA minimum requirement provided the student has made substantial improvement and has attained a 3.0 overall GPA during the two long semesters previous to application. Scholarship support for students in the Geosystems major will be recommended in a manner consistent with practices of the Department of Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering.

Grants based on financial need: The Jackson School provides funds for undergraduates with demonstrated financial need, in good academic standing, who are enrolled in courses which follow their Geological Sciences degree plan. Grants are awarded without regard to GPA. If a student wishes to be considered for such awards, the student must file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Information about the FAFSA application is available through the UT Office of Student Financial Services (OSFS) See: <http://finaid.utexas.edu/>. The FAFSA application needs to be completed by March 1 for Summer Session award consideration, and by March 31 for consideration for an award during the following academic year. The OSFS will provide an evaluation of need (dollar amount) for each student who applies to the Jackson School in the category of financial need.

Note to International Students: Non-citizens or non-residents who have graduated from a Texas high school may submit financial information on an FAFSA form to the OSFS. Other international students may be considered for need-based financial aid.

Student Loans: The Jackson School maintains a Student Loan Program. Loans are available at an annualized rate of interest of 3.0 percent. The maximum term of the loan is 18 months. Loans must be paid off before graduation.

Professional Development Support: Undergraduate students who are authors or co-authors of papers presented at meetings of scientific societies may request travel support to attend the meeting where the paper is presented. Support for expenses associated with Department Honors or other research activities may also be available, including matching of funds secured by the student from external grant sources. A letter of support from the research supervisor must accompany the application. The same deadlines listed above apply to requests for professional development.