

# LAKE LAND COLLEGE

## PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

### **What is the Presidential Scholarship?**

The Presidential Scholarship recognizes outstanding graduating seniors from district high schools by granting them a full-tuition scholarship to Lake Land College for up to two years and saving them \$4,000-\$14,000 annually! Recipients will need to pay fees which are approximately \$500 per semester depending upon the number of credit hours and types of courses the recipient registers for.

### **What are the eligibility requirements for the scholarship?**

All graduating seniors meeting the eligibility requirements will be guaranteed the scholarship if they choose to attend Lake Land College the fall semester immediately following high school graduation. To be eligible, the graduate must be within the top 15% of their senior class **OR** have an ACT composite score of 26 or higher/SAT total score of 1230 or higher. Seniors must also: 1) reside in the Lake Land College District, 2) graduate from a high school located in the Lake Land College District, or 3) graduate from a high school serving a portion of the Lake Land College District.

### **When can Verification & Acceptance forms be submitted?**

Acceptance & Verification forms should be submitted once your high school's 7<sup>th</sup> semester grades are posted. If a student meets the ACT/SAT score criteria, please wait to submit his/her form until after your 7<sup>th</sup> semester so that the class rank information can be included.

### **When are Verification & Acceptance forms due?**

While we encourage students to submit their forms as early as possible, we will continue to accept forms until the start of the Fall Semester. If students wish to be recognized at their high school awards banquet, they should submit their forms by April 1.

### **What are some best practices counselors have found for the verification and award process?**

Based on feedback we have received from counselors, there are certain processes that seem to work well. One suggestion is to analyze the class ranking list once 7<sup>th</sup> semester grades are posted and to identify the students in the top 15% of the class. The chart on the next page identifies the number of students that make up the top 15% of the class based on total class size. All of these students are eligible to receive the award. Then, look at the remainder of your students and identify anyone who has an ACT composite of 26 or SAT total of 1230 or higher; these students are also eligible. Once your eligible students are pinpointed, please make them aware of the scholarship opportunity. We would also recommend that you repeat the process once 8<sup>th</sup> semester grades are posted to check if any additional students meet the requirements based on their final grades and ranking.

We have had counselors collect the majority of the forms once they are signed by their students and return them to us as a group in order to ensure we receive them all. They then send any additions that may follow as they receive them. We do appreciate this method as we can make certain that students' certificates are completed in time for your high school awards ceremony.

As always, our office and the Admissions Representative who visits your high school are able to help answer any questions you may have regarding the process.

### How do I determine the top 15% of my graduating class? How are ties in ranking handled?

We have found that ranking systems differ among high schools. For your convenience and our consistency, we created a chart to identify the number of students considered to be the top 15% based on total class size. Regardless of a tie in ranking, the number of students in the top 15% would remain the same.

Class Size	# of Students in Top 15%	Class Size	# of Students in Top 15%
7-13	1 student	154-159	23 students
14-19	2 students	160-166	24 students
20-26	3 students	167-173	25 students
27-33	4 students	174-179	26 students
34-39	5 students	180-186	27 students
40-46	6 students	187-193	28 students
47-53	7 students	194-199	29 students
54-59	8 students	200-206	30 students
60-66	9 students	207-213	31 students
67-73	10 students	214-219	32 students
74-79	11 students	220-226	33 students
80-86	12 students	227-233	34 students
87-93	13 students	234-239	35 students
94-99	14 students	240-246	36 students
100-106	15 students	247-253	37 students
107-113	16 students	254-259	38 students
114-119	17 students	260-266	39 students
120-126	18 students	267-273	40 students
127-133	19 students	274-279	41 students
134-139	20 students	280-286	42 students
140-146	21 students	287-293	43 students
147-153	22 students	294-299	44 students

### What if I have a student that did not qualify at the end of 7<sup>th</sup> semester but changed rank to qualify at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> semester? Are they still eligible for the scholarship? Will the student who qualified at 7<sup>th</sup> semester and no longer does be required to give up the scholarship?

One great aspect of the scholarship is that it provides multiple opportunities for a student to qualify for it. Students may qualify based on rank at the end of their 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> semester as well as by taking the ACT or SAT as many times as they would like.

If a student does not qualify at the end of 7<sup>th</sup> semester but does at the end of 8<sup>th</sup>, he/she is still eligible to receive the scholarship. If a student qualifies following 7<sup>th</sup> semester but not 8<sup>th</sup>, he/she is still eligible to receive the scholarship and will not be required to relinquish it.

### Can a student re-take the ACT or SAT to try to score high enough to receive the scholarship?

Absolutely! Students can re-take the ACT or SAT as many times as they would like in order to acquire a score high enough to receive the scholarship. Scores will need to be obtained by the start of the Fall semester following graduation so that the Verification & Acceptance forms can be submitted.

### Does the Presidential Scholarship include summer courses?

Yes, with the exception of the summer term immediately following a student's high school graduation. The scholarship begins with the Fall Semester and continues for two consecutive academic years. Therefore, the summer terms following a student's first and second year of enrollment are included (i.e. Fall, Spring, Summer, Fall, Spring, Summer).

**What if I have a student that is graduating mid-year and is eligible for the scholarship? Can they receive the scholarship for the Spring semester?**

Mid-year graduates who meet the criteria are certainly eligible to receive the scholarship. However, students should be advised the scholarship will not begin until the Fall semester following their high school graduation.

**What if a student submitted the Verification & Acceptance form and decides not to attend Lake Land?**

The scholarship will be available to the student beginning with the Fall semester. If the student does not enroll in the Fall semester, the scholarship will no longer be available.

**What if a student is receiving a Lake Land College Athletic or Livestock Judging Scholarship? Are they still eligible for the Presidential Scholarship?**

Yes, students can absolutely be eligible for both. As long as the student meets the eligibility requirements for each scholarship, we will recognize him/her accordingly. We believe it is wonderful to be able to recognize students from both standpoints.

**Are students required to complete the FAFSA in order to receive the scholarship?**

No. We do strongly recommend that students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and the Lake Land College Foundation Scholarship application at [www.lakelandcollege.edu/scholarship-opportunities](http://www.lakelandcollege.edu/scholarship-opportunities) each year in order to qualify for additional financial assistance to help cover the cost of fees and living expenses not covered by the Presidential Scholarship.

**What if a student's program of study is longer than two years? Will the scholarship continue?**

The Presidential Scholarship is available for a maximum of two consecutive academic years. If a student continues enrollment beyond the two years, he/she will need to plan to cover the costs through other means.

**Are there requirements students must meet to keep the scholarship after they enroll at Lake Land College?**

Yes. Presidential Scholars must fulfill certain requirements to remain eligible to continue to receive the award including: 1.) successfully completing a minimum of 12 semester hours each semester and 2.) obtaining either a 3.25 semester or cumulative GPA every semester or term.

**For more information, contact:**

Michelle Zumbahlen, Coordinator for Strategic Student Communication & Initiatives  
Lake Land College  
5001 Lake Land Blvd.  
Mattoon, Illinois 61938  
Phone: (217) 234-5230 Fax: (217) 234-5400  
[mzumbahlen4077@lakelandcollege.edu](mailto:mzumbahlen4077@lakelandcollege.edu)