



UTAH SYSTEM OF
HIGHER EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TAB A

March 6, 2024

Opportunity Scholarship FAFSA Requirement Adjustment

Pursuant to [Utah Code 53B-8-201\(5\)\(c\)\(ii\)](#), and Board Policy [R608](#), applicants for the Opportunity Scholarship are required to “complete and submit either the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the alternative financial form approved by the Board.” Though the Opportunity Scholarship is a merit-based scholarship that does not rely on an applicant’s financial need, the Legislature and the Board require the completion of this application as a mechanism to help students access other state and federal aid.

Given ongoing challenges with the federal Department of Education’s (“department”) deployment of the new 2024/25 FAFSA—including the delayed application availability until December 31, 2023, and the ongoing application problems that have limited students’ ability to complete the new FAFSA—students in the 2024 Opportunity Scholarship application cycle may not be able to complete a FAFSA for reasons beyond their control. Additionally, based on the department’s recent announcement that the institutional student information records (ISIR) will not be available until March 2024 at the earliest, the Commissioner’s Office may not be able to audit and verify an applicant’s FAFSA completion.

The Commissioner’s Office recognizes the value in the completion of a FAFSA and continues to encourage all high school seniors to complete this application that grants access to federal and additional state financial aid. The Commissioner’s Office even delayed the 2024/25 scholarship application window until the spring to accommodate the department’s delays in the availability of the 2024/25 FAFSA. However, due to the ongoing complications and uncertainty of the department’s implementation of the new FAFSA, the Commissioner recommends that the Board adjust the FAFSA completion requirement for the 2024/25 cohort, as outlined in the Commissioner’s recommendation.

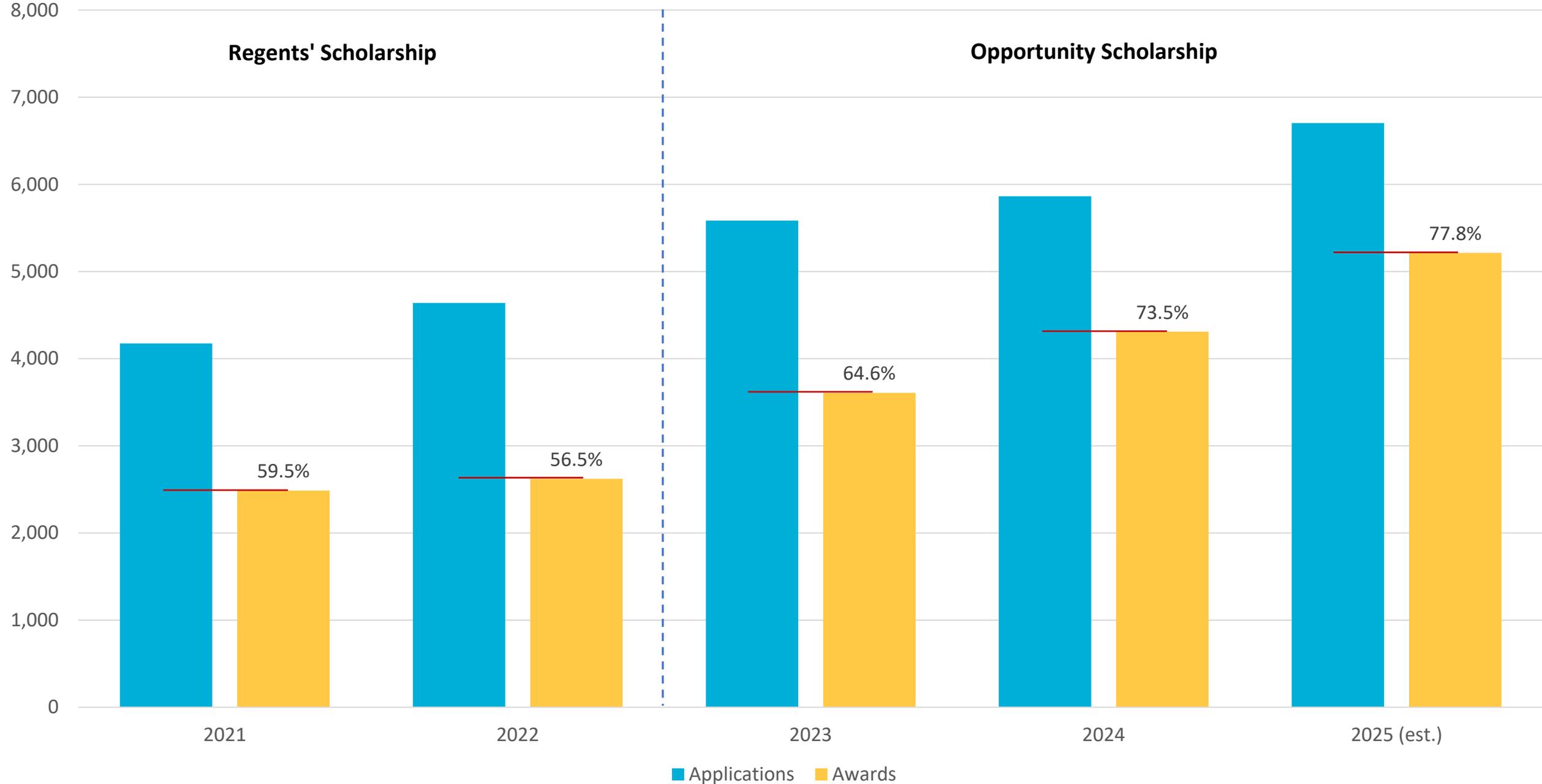
Commissioner's Recommendation

For the 2024 Opportunity Scholarship application cycle, the Commissioner recommends that the Board accept a student's written commitment to complete a 2024/25 FAFSA, where reasonably practical, prior to the beginning of the fall 2024 semester as qualifying eligibility documentation in lieu of 2024/25 FAFSA completion.

Scholarship Awards (% Awarded)

Regents' Scholarship

Opportunity Scholarship



2024 Opportunity Scholarship Acceptance

Use this form to confirm that you have or will complete the 2024/2025 FAFSA, where reasonably practical, and share your enrollment/deferment plans to expedite the award process. Recipients should submit this form by May 20, 2024.

Name

First Name Last Name

Date of Birth

Month Day Year

Student Email

example@example.com

Application Number

This number begins with SCHAPP and is included in your scholarship update emails, including your confirmation email and your application update.

SSID (State Student ID)

The number is usually included at the top of your high school transcript. It should begin with the number 1 or 2 and be 7 digits long (no letters). This is different from your school issued ID number. Please see your counselor if you need clarification.

High School

Please type the name of your Utah high school

Please check this box to confirm your status regarding the 2024/2025 FAFSA.

I have completed or will complete the 24/25 FAFSA by August 15, 2024, where reasonably practical.

Please indicate your Fall 2024 plans.

I will enroll at a Utah college or university

I have or will obtain an approved deferment during Fall 2024

Please select up to three colleges where you have received an approved deferment and plan to enroll upon return.

Ensign College

Brigham Young University (Provo)

Salt Lake Community College

Snow College

Southern Utah University

University of Utah

Utah State University

Utah Tech University

Utah Valley University

Weber State University

Western Governors University

Westminster University

Please select the institution where you will enroll for Fall 2024.