

ROCKEFELLER STATE WILDLIFE SCHOLARSHIP

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q-1. What is the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship?

- A. The Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship offers competitively awarded scholarships to both undergraduate and graduate students majoring in forestry, wildlife, or marine science as it pertains to wildlife.

Q-2. Who determines whether a degree program is in forestry, wildlife, or marine science as it pertains to wildlife?

- A. LOSFA maintains a list of programs approved by the Board of Regents and designated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as majors in forestry, wildlife, or marine science as it pertains to wildlife.

Q-3. What is the award amount of the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship?

- A. The annual award is \$1,000. The award is disbursed at the rate of \$500 each fall and spring term. The cumulative maximum award is \$7,000 for up to five years of undergraduate and two years of graduate study.

Q-4. Must the funds received be repaid?

- A. In accepting the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, the student agrees to attain a degree in one of the approved majors at a Louisiana public college or university offering such degrees. Part of the agreement includes signing a master promissory note. If the student graduates from college with a degree in one of the approved majors, the amount of the loan, including interest, is forgiven. If the student does not graduate with a degree in one of the approved majors, the total amount of all awards received must be repaid with interest.

Q-5. How does a student qualify for the first time for payment of the award for the fall semester?

- A. To establish first time eligibility for the fall semester, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or national or eligible noncitizen; and
2. Be a resident of Louisiana for at least one year prior to July 1 of the academic award year; and
3. Submit the completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so that it is received by the federal processor **and LOSFA** no later than July 1 immediately before the fall semester of the academic award year for which the Scholarship is sought; and
4. Submit the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Application, including a signed master promissory note, so that it is received by LOSFA no later than July 31 before the academic award year for which the Scholarship is sought; and
5. Agree the award proceeds will be used exclusively for educational expenses; and
6. Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at a Louisiana public college or university and be majoring in a program designated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as forestry, wildlife or marine science with the intent of earning a degree in one of the approved majors; and
7. Meet the minimum academic requirements.

Q-6. How does a student qualify for the first time for payment of the award for the spring semester if funds are available?

A. To establish first time eligibility for the spring semester, the student applicant must meet all of the following criteria and there must be funds remaining from the annual appropriation:

1. Be a U.S. citizen or national or eligible noncitizen; and
2. Be a resident of Louisiana for at least one year prior to July 1 of the academic award year; and
3. Submit the completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so that it is received by the federal processor no later than July 1 immediately before the academic award year for which the Scholarship is sought; and
4. Submit the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Application, including a signed master promissory note, so that it is received by LOSFA no later than December 1 immediately before the spring semester of the academic award year for which the Scholarship is sought; and
5. Agree the award proceeds will be used exclusively for educational expenses; and
6. Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at a Louisiana public college or university and be majoring in a program designated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries as forestry, wildlife or marine science with the intent of earning a degree in one of the approved majors; and
7. Meet the minimum academic requirements.

Q-7. What are minimum academic requirements?

A. If a student applicant has earned less than 24 hours college credit, he must either:

- graduate from an eligible high school with a cumulative high school grade point average of at least 2.50 calculated on a 4.00 scale for all courses completed in grades 9 through 12 and have achieved a minimum ACT score of at least 20 or an equivalent SAT score; or
- complete a BESE approved home study program at the twelfth grade level and have achieved an ACT score of at least 22 or an equivalent SAT score.

If the student applicant has earned 24 or more hours of college credit, the applicant must have at least a 2.50 cumulative college grade point average.

If the student is in graduate school, the applicant must have at least a 3.00 cumulative grade point average on all credits earned in graduate school.

Q-8. How are award recipients selected?

A. Recipients are competitively selected for an award based on the merit rank score computed and assigned to each eligible applicant. The merit rank score is computed on the applicant's academic information. Qualified students with the highest merit scores are selected in descending order until the available funds are allocated.

Q-9. If two students have the same merit ranking and there are only funds for one award, who is awarded?

A. The rules provide two tie breakers. First, the applicant with more college hours earned and second, if neither student has college hours, the student with the highest ACT (or equivalent SAT) score.

Q-10. How many awards are made annually?

- A. The scholarship's academic year appropriation is \$60,000; therefore, a total of approximately 60 awards are made annually. Awards are first issued to renewal recipients. First time awards are issued using the balance of the scholarship funds. On average, 20-30 first time awards are made each academic year.

Q-11. Where can a student obtain an application?

- A. There are two required applications: the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Application, including the master promissory note.
- The FAFSA may be obtained by phoning the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) at 922-1012 or 1-800-259-5626, ext. 1012, or in writing addressed to P.O. Box 91202, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9202. The electronic FAFSA may be accessed at www.osfa.la.gov by selecting the link to FAFSA on the Web.
 - The Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship Application, including the master promissory note, may be downloaded at <http://www.osfa.la.gov/ROCKEFELLER.pdf>.

Q-12. What is a “master promissory note”?

- A. A master promissory note is a legally enforceable promise to repay the award if you do not graduate with a degree in one of the approved majors. The note only requires repayment of the amounts actually awarded, plus interest. However, you also agree to pay attorney fees, court costs, other costs, and charges necessary for the collection of any amount not paid when due.

Q-13. If selected for award, how does a recipient maintain eligibility?

- A. To continue receiving the Rockefeller State Wildlife Scholarship, recipients must:
1. Have received the scholarship for not more than seven academic years (five undergraduate and two graduate); and
 2. As an undergraduate student, earn at least 24 hours total college credit during the fall and spring semesters or the fall, winter and spring terms and, as a graduate student, earn at least 18 hours total college credit during the fall and spring semesters or the fall, winter and spring terms; and
 3. Achieve a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.50 at the end of each academic year as an undergraduate student or 3.00 as a graduate student; and
 4. Continue to enroll as a full time student each semester or quarter (excluding summer) at the same institution unless granted an exception for cause or approval for transfer of the award; and
 5. Continue to pursue a course of study leading to an undergraduate or graduate degree in an approved major.

Q-14. If awarded, must an applicant reapply each year?

- A. No. No further FAFSA submissions or Rockefeller applications are necessary to continue the Rockefeller Scholarship. However, to continue eligibility for federal grant aid and federal student loans, the recipient must submit a Renewal FAFSA for each academic year the student enrolls. In addition, if the student is eligible for a TOPS award and federal grant aid, the student must submit a Renewal FAFSA for each academic year the student enrolls.

Q-15. How are award payments made?

- A. Payments are made directly to the college or university. Funds remaining in the student's account are disbursed to the student by the school.