Hidalgo County Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship Application & Guidelines Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Purpose

Hidalgo County is committed to the educational advancement of its employees and their dependents and as a result, Hidalgo County offers a Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship. **Two** scholarships per year will be awarded to dependents of an eligible regular, full-time staff member who has been employed by Hidalgo County for at least one year continuously. **The scholarship will fund up to $1,000 per semester of eligible credit courses and fees from those courses taken at The University of Texas Pan American, for a total of up to $2,000 per year.**

Eligibility

The dependents of regular, full-time Hidalgo County staff members who have been employed for a minimum of one year continuously are eligible. Eligible dependents are defined as a legal spouse or an unmarried dependent (step, adoptive, foster children included), 24 years of age or younger, who resides with the employee. The dependent must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale (if he or she has previously attended college). All applicants must complete the Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship application, must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to determine need and must complete an essay to be considered for this scholarship. All applicants will be judged and scored by The University of Texas Pan American Scholarship Office and the highest scoring applicant will be considered for this scholarship. Eligible dependents must apply to UTPA to take courses that comply with a specified degree plan. A statement of educational purpose must be completed if a degree plan is not available.

General Guidelines

Eligible dependents must first apply for Admissions online at www.applytexas.org or by contacting the New Student & Visitor Services Office at (956) 381-2999. You must be admitted to the university before becoming eligible for the Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship. (The priority deadline for Fall 2013 was February 1, but the late admissions deadline is Aug. 9).

Dependents who have applied for and are eligible for state or federal grants must first exhaust these funds before becoming eligible for the Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship.

Eligible dependents are required to submit their completed Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship application to The University of Texas Pan American Scholarship Office.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE for FALL 2013/SPRING 2014: August 16th, 2013

By Mail or In Person: **The University of Texas Pan American**
Student Financial Services Office, SSB 1.192
Edinburg, Texas 78539-2999

By Fax: **956-292-7892**

***If a student wishes to drop the course(s), he/she should do so before the 1st class day of the semester. Dropping the course(s) on or after the 1st class day, will result in the participant having to pay for the course(s) if he/she decides to retake the course(s).

Hidalgo County Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship Application Responsibilities Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Responsibilities - Employees

1. Read and understand the Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship Guidelines
2. Complete Section A of the application.
3. Submit required attachments including the following:
   - Degree Plan
   - Statement of Educational Purpose (if degree plan not available)
   - Essay questions
4. Application must be completed in full and submitted to UTPA's Scholarship Office **BY THE DEADLINE: AUGUST 16, 2013.**

Responsibilities – Hidalgo County Office of Human Resources

1. Verify that the parent or spouse of this dependent has been employed for at least one year continuously in a regular full-time position. Human Resources will be contacted by UTPA's Scholarship Office after the application period is closed.

Responsibilities – UTPA's Scholarship Office

1. Validate that dependent is not receiving Financial Aid grants and is meeting all scholarship requirements.
2. Verify with Hidalgo County Human Resources that the applicant's spouse or parent has been employed for at least one year continuously in a regular full time position with Hidalgo County and is still employed before processing appropriate award amount for tuition and fees.
3. Verify application is complete.
4. Award appropriate amount for tuition and fees.
5. Keep copy for department records.

Hidalgo County Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship Application Fall 2013-Spring 2014

1. **By submitting this application, the dependent acknowledges that they have read and understand the appropriate guidelines which are an integral part of this application.**

2. **This application must be completed and submitted in full to The University of Texas Pan American Student Financial Services Office, SSB 1.192 Edinburg, Texas 78539-2999 or by fax: 956-292-7892**

A. EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

1. Employee Social Security No._____

2. Employee Name: _____

3. Department Name: _____

B. DEPENDENT INFORMATION

1. Dependent name: _____ 2. Dependent SSN:_____

Address _____City _____State_____ Zip_____

3. Dependent relationship to employee (check one) ☐ Spouse ☐ Daughter ☐ Son

4. Semester/year applying for: ___FALL2013/SPRING2014_____

5. Resident of Hidalgo? Yes: ☐ No: ☐ Other: _____

6. Educational Plan Attached:

☐ Degree Plan ☐ Statement of Educational Purpose
(Required if a degree plan is not offered for field of study)

Please indicate what courses you are enrolling in:

7. Course Name	Section No.	Class Day/Time
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

_____ _____
Employee's Signature Date

_____ _____
Dependent Signature Date

By signing you, the employee, agrees to all federal, state, and local regulations. You also agree to abide by the requirements set forth by the Hidalgo County Employee Competitive Tuition Scholarship which will be enforced by The University of Texas Pan American Scholarship Office.

C. UTPA Scholarship Office Approval

1. Cumulative GPA_____

2. Verify with Hidalgo County Human Resources that the employee of the applying dependent has been employed for at least one year continuously in a regular full time position.

   a. Full time? Y or N b. date of hire: _____

Name of employee spoken with at Hidalgo County Human Resources:

_____

All applicants shall meet all requirements set forth by the Employee Competitive Tuition Scholarship

1. The Hidalgo County Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship will only pay for up to $1,000 per semester for tuition and fees at UTPA.
2. Student must maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher on a 4.0 GPA scale
3. Student must pass all classes he/she is enrolled for or will no longer be eligible for the Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship
4. Scholarship is for tuition and fees only. Money will not be issued directly to student.
5. Hidalgo County HR must confirm that the spouse or parent of the dependent is currently a full-time Hidalgo County employee for at least one consecutive year
6. If the student must withdraw for any reason the Employee Competitive Tuition Scholarship will be canceled and the student will owe UTPA for any charges accrued.
7. Student must first apply for financial aid. If financial aid grants are sufficient to cover tuition and fees, the student will not be eligible for the Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship.
8. All recipients applying for the Hidalgo County Dependent Competitive Tuition Scholarship will be chosen by The University of Texas Pan American Scholarship Office in order to ensure all requirements are being met

Does student meet all requirements

Yes ☐ **No** ☐

Financial Aid Recipient: Yes ☐ No ☐

Has Financial Aid been applied for: Yes ☐ No ☐

Verified By: _____ Date: _____

Entered By: _____ Date: _____

Scholarship Amount:_____

FOR FINANCIAL AID USE ONLY	
Scoring: (total possible points that can be awarded – 100 points)	
Years of Service _____ (20 points)	
School or Community Service awards _____ (20 points)	
Cumulative GPA _____ (20 points)	
Essay _____ (40 points)	
Total Points awarded _____	

Please Complete Scholarship Essay Questions on Next Page, Section D.!

D. Essay Questions: Hidalgo County Dependent Competitive Scholarship

Employee Name:	

Essay questions. You must answer both questions. If you need additional space please use additional paper when submitting this with your application. You may also type your responses, if you choose to do so, please attach them to your application.

1. Volunteerism builds character, and your application will be judged partly on what you have done to make life in Hidalgo County better. List and explain your community service/volunteer work below.

2. Choose from **one** of the following:
   a. **If you are given a chance to continue your education, what major would you pursue and why?**
   b. **Where do you see Hidalgo County in the next 10 years?**
   c. **How will your degree serve Hidalgo County?**

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