

Changing A Life Today Sabine Scholarship, Inc. Guidelines

ABOUT US

The **Changing A Life Today Sabine Scholarship, Inc.** is a scholarship program that helps Sabine High School students earn, on-campus, dual-credit college hours.

The on-campus, dual-credit courses are provided by Kilgore College. Each course is equivalent to 3 college hours, which gives any student the opportunity to accumulate 27 college hours by their high school graduation, if they enroll during their sophomore year.

There are currently 15 on-campus, dual-credit hours offered during the student's junior year (2 courses each semester and a mini course offered in late May) and 12 on-campus, dual-credit **hours** offered during the student's senior year (2 courses per semester). For more information concerning the on-campus dual-credit program, visit www.sabine.esc7.net/high/counselor.html.

Students applying may also indicate on the application whether they are interested in taking dual-credit courses only, or a combination of dual-credit courses and technology courses, taught on the Sabine campus. Whichever option they choose, the total award amount will not exceed \$675 over a 2-year period if you are applying as an upcoming junior, and \$300 over a 1 year period if you are applying as an upcoming senior.

HOW ARE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CHOSEN?

Who Can Apply?

The scholarship program is open to all sophomores entering their junior year, and all juniors entering their senior year with priority funding given to students in financial need. The Counselor is encouraged to announce this scholarship program to upcoming freshman and currently enrolled high school sophomores and juniors.

Financial Need Test:

A student's "financial need" will be determined by qualifying their parent's income, located on their current year's tax return, against the most recent Annual Low Income Levels used by the Federally Funded Upward Bound Program. For more information, visit www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/trio/incomelevels.html.

This information will be held in confidence.

IMPORTANT: Applicants qualifying with the Financial Need Test and meets all other requirements, will be the first students to receive a scholarship. An upcoming junior, who qualifies with the Financial Need Test AND who is currently enrolled in the scholarship program, will be the only students who can be selected for the "Financial Need-Based 'Bonus' Course" (see page 3).

IMPORTANT: It is important for all students and parents to read the "Scholarship Funding Guidelines" and the "Parent Information Letter".

The scholarship recipients are chosen through an anonymous and unbiased selection process.

Based on funds available, the CALTSS will contact the Counselor by March 2, with the number of scholarships to be awarded, per grade level, along with the number of Financial Need-Based "Bonus" Courses to be awarded. NOTE: The CALTSS makes no guarantee that the same number of scholarships will be awarded each year.

Selection Committee Members:

Selection Committee Members will be chosen by the Counselor. These Committee Members cannot be a resident or employee of Sabine ISD and all Committee Members **must be approved** by the Sabine

Independent School District Superintendent. The identity of the Committee Members must remain anonymous to the CALTSS Board members. There should be at least 3 Committee Members.

When the Board contacts the Dual Credit Counselor with the number of scholarships available each year, there will be no need for a "Selection Committee" IF the number of students is lower than the scholarships available. Reminder: The "Selection Committee" does not choose the student who receives the "bonus" class. That student is selected by the Dual Credit Counselor AFTER the scholarships are awarded and it is given to a student who qualified for "financial need".

How scholarship recipients are chosen:

1. The CALTSS will assign an identical reference number to the first and second page of the student's application - an "S" will be assigned to the number for a sophomore and a "J" will be assigned to the number of a junior. This reference # should also be written on any additional information submitted by the student.
2. All documents disclosing an applicant's identity will be held by the CALTSS (i.e. first page of the application, copy of the parent's tax return, high school transcript and college entrance exam information), until the Selection Committee has made their "recommendation lists". This will insure an anonymous and unbiased selection.
3. Only the "essay" page (second page) of the applications will be delivered to the Counselor, who will then forward them onto the Selection Committee Members. The essays will be divided into grade level, read, and placed in order of "recommendation".
4. The Committee Members will return the essay pages to the Counselor along with their "recommendation lists". There should be a list for each grade level and the reference #'s listed in order of selection. These lists should be signed and dated by all Committee Members and each Selection Committee Member should initial each essay to show that it was read.
5. The Counselor will make a copy of the "recommendation lists" to use in step 7, and then deliver the original "recommendation lists" AND the essay pages back to the CALTSS.
6. The CALTSS will then provide the Counselor with copies of all remaining documents submitted by each applicant. **This is the first time the identity of the students is revealed.**
7. The Counselor will choose the scholarship recipients using the "Scholarship Funding Guidelines" and the "Financial Need Test".

APPLICATION

Applications are available at the Sabine High School office or at <http://www.changingalifetoday.org>.

Application Instructions:

- If an applicant makes a 2200 with a 3 on their essay on TAKS, they are exempt from college entrance exam testing and qualify to apply. If not, the applicant should take and pass the THEA and the student is responsible for paying for this test. **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE PENDING BASED ON THESE TEST RESULTS.**
- Applicants must submit their high school transcript, which should include all completed courses through the mid-term of the 2nd semester of the year the student is applying.
- If the applicant is already enrolled in college courses, please submit the most recent college transcript.
- Applicants must be a U. S. Citizen or a Permanent Resident of the United States.
- Applicants wanting to "qualify" with the Financial Need Test should include a copy of their parent's current year's tax return. Qualifying for financial need gives the student "Priority One Funding". **Note:** All financial information will be kept confidential.
- Each applicant must fill out a Kilgore College Application and a Dual-Credit Form. Both of these documents are available from the Counselor.
- **Applications must be postmarked by April 20** and mailed to:

Changing A Life Today Sabine Scholarship, Inc.
6144 Gateway Center, PMB 249
Kilgore, Texas 75662

In order to maintain an anonymous and unbiased selection, no application will be considered that was submitted at the Sabine High School office. See page 4 for students enrolling late into the Sabine Independent School District.

- A student may not apply if a) the student has attended an "alternative campus;" b) a student has served more than five days in I.S.S (In-School Suspension); and c) a student who has declared "early graduation".

"Clean Slate" Provision:

If a sophomore or junior has already served five (5) days in I.S.S. or has attended an "alternative campus" BEFORE the scholarship program was announced to them, they must request a "Clean State" Provision letter from the Counselor, which must be submitted with the student's scholarship application.

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Sophomores, selected to receive a scholarship, will be funded through their junior and senior years. It will be mandatory for sophomore scholarship recipients to enroll in all 4 courses, with the option of taking the mini course at the end of May.

Juniors, selected to receive a scholarship, will be funded through their senior year. These students have the option to enroll in 1 or 2 courses per semester.

Scholarship Funding Guidelines:

Priority One Funding: Applicants who qualify with the Financial Need Test, in sequential order, on the "Recommendation Lists".

Priority Two Funding: All other students who are on the Selection Committee's "Recommendation Lists". These students do not have to qualify with the Financial Need Test to receive a scholarship.

Priority Funding Example: Ten students are listed on the sophomore "Recommendation List" but there are 5 sophomore scholarships available. If only three of the ten applicants meet the "Financial Need Test" (i.e. 3, 7, 9), then these students will be awarded the first three scholarships, in order of selection. The other two scholarships will be filled by the remaining applicants, in order of selection (i.e. 1 & 2), whether they qualified with the "Financial Need Test" or not.

FINANCIAL NEED-BASED "BONUS" COURSE

A **sophomore** entering their junior year, and enrolled in this scholarship program, may be selected by the Counselor to receive a financial need-based "bonus" course to be taken at Kilgore College. This course can be taken at any time as long as the student completes the course by their high school graduation. This selection will be made based on two factors: 1) a student who qualified with the Financial Need Test and; 2) the student's performance in the scholarship program. The CALTSS will pay up to \$500 to cover costs including tuition, fees, and book(s). The CALTSS should be notified of the recipient's name, the students' social security number, along with payment instructions in time **for** enrollment. Again, it is the responsibility of the CALTSS to notify the Counselor concerning the number of "Bonus" Courses available each year.

Important: Books purchased for the student for the "bonus" course HAVE to be returned to the Sabine High School Counselor.

Technology Classes:

Technology classes taught on the Sabine campus are covered by this scholarship program. The student who receives the Financial Need-Based "Bonus" Course may attend a technology course taught on the Kilgore College campus.

Additional Courses / Possible Tuition Rebate:

At the student's **own** expense and at the college of their choice, a student may attend summer courses which would enable them to acquire as many college credits as desired by graduation. Sophomores may consider enrolling in a summer course to help them acquire a total of 30 college hours by graduation, which could possibly qualify them for an additional \$1,000 (\$500 per semester) from the Early High School Graduation Scholarship (EHS). For more information, visit their web site at <http://www.collegefortexans.com/cfbin/tofa2.cfm?ID=2>.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES / DISQUALIFICATION GUIDELINES

Special Circumstances:

A scholarship recipient who makes a C or below in any course will have to receive a "letter of recommendation" from the Counselor to continue.

If a scholarship recipient is not able to complete a course due to special circumstances (i.e. death in family, illness, etc.), the Counselor may recommend the student to continue. The CALTSS should be contacted by mail, on official school letterhead, with an explanation of this recommendation.

Disqualification Guidelines for students currently enrolled in this scholarship program:

- A scholarship recipient who drops a course and who does not meet the "Special Circumstances" outlined above.
- A scholarship recipient who do not meet the Kilgore College course requirements.
- A scholarship recipient who fails any on-campus dual-credit course.
- A scholarship recipient who is sent to an "alternative campus" during their enrollment in the scholarship program.
- A scholarship recipient who has served more than five days in I.S.S. during their enrollment in the scholarship program.
- A scholarship recipient who has declared "early graduation" during their enrollment in the scholarship program.

If a scholarship recipient decides not to enroll in a semester after being selected, the student must receive a "letter of recommendation" from the Counselor in order to continue in the scholarship program. Students dismissed from this scholarship program, should be notified in writing by the Counselor. This letter should also state whether they can re-apply the next year, if applicable. If a student is dismissed from the scholarship program, a letter should be sent immediately to the CALTSS Board.

If a scholarship recipient is dismissed from the scholarship program or they do not receive a "letter of recommendation" to continue, the next student on the "Recommendation List" will be chosen to receive the remaining scholarship funds allocated to the original student. This selection is also made based on the Scholarship Funding Guidelines. If possible, a student should be replaced by another student in the same grade level. NOTE: Any scholarship recipient dismissed from the scholarship program may continue to take these courses at their own expense.

STUDENTS ENROLLING LATE INTO THE SABINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

If a sophomore or junior student, new to the Sabine ISD District and enrolled after April 20, is interested in applying for this scholarship program and their application is postmarked on or before April 23, their application will be considered in the review process. If the student enrolls after April 23, they may apply the next year. The Counselor is responsible for notifying these students about this scholarship program.

SCHOLARSHIP DISBURSEMENT / PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Scholarship recipients of the Changing A Life Today Sabine Scholarship will be notified by the Counselor, on or around May 7. **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS WILL BE PENDING BASED ON TAKS OR THEA TEST RESULTS.**

On or before July 15, the Counselor should contact the CALTSS by mail, on official school letterhead, with a list of scholarship recipients, their application reference numbers, the students' social security numbers and payment instructions.

Payments to Kilgore College will be made each semester. If a student drops a course, there may be a refund issued, which will be deposited back into the Changing A Life Today Sabine Scholarship, Inc. fund. Refunds will not be deposited into the student's account. If any additional fees are incurred for dropping a course over the allotted \$75, the amount due will be the responsibility of the student.

Scholarships awarded will cover the current Kilgore College "in district" class tuition rate. If a scholarship recipient is defined as a Kilgore College "out of district" student, their parents/guardian will be responsible for the difference in tuition price.

A month before the close of each semester, the Counselor should mail the CALTSS, on official school letterhead, a list of students being recommended to continue in the scholarship program for the next semester and/or year. A copy of the students' current mid-term high school transcripts and most current Kilgore College transcripts should also be provided.

A final copy of the scholarship recipient's Kilgore College transcript must be mailed to the CALTSS upon their graduation.

Changing A Life Today Sabine Scholarship, Inc.

6144 Gateway Center, PMB 249 Kilgore, Texas 75662

Email: info@ChangingALifeToday.org

<http://www.ChangingALifeToday.org>

Changing A Life Today Sabine Scholarship, Inc. is a local, non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide scholarships to Sabine high school students for on-campus, dual-credit, college courses. These scholarships will be available to sophomores entering their junior year and juniors entering their senior year. Students do not need to have a financial hardship to apply.

We are funded by donations from individuals, businesses and other non-profit organizations and our goal is to fund as many students as possible.

Please take a few moments to look over the attached scholarship **GUIDELINES**, but a full explanation is available on our web site: <http://www.ChangingALifeToday.org>.

If your child is interested in applying for one of our scholarships, they should contact the High School Counsellor as soon as possible.

Important: 1) The parents of a student receiving a scholarship award, is required to report the monetary award on their income taxes return each year; 2) Any student, interested in gaining college hours before their high school graduation, should contact the college they wish to attend to determine if they would be "disqualified" from freshman college scholarships if they graduate with more than 24 college hours.

Current Sabine on-campus, dual-credit course fee is \$75.00 (3 hours).

What are the current costs of 3 college hours at the following colleges?

Kilgore College:

3 hours, undergraduate, long semester, in district = \$135 (see: http://www.kilgore.edu/tuition_fees.asp)

University of Texas at Tyler:

3 hours, Texas Resident = \$936 (see: <http://www.uttyler.edu/catalog/tuition/>)

Texas A&M:

3 hours, Texas Resident = \$1,319.10 (see: <http://finance.tamu.edu/tuition-student-fee/>)

University of Texas at Austin:

3 hours, Texas Resident = \$1,874.00 (see: <http://www.utexas.edu/tuition/costs.html>)

Data obtained from each college's web site, dated February 2010.

Texas Tuition Promise Fund – 2009/2010 Academic Year Tuition Unit Pricing

Type III - Texas Junior College Units \$17.78 per unit = \$1,778.00 (Tuition & Mandatory fees only)
100 units = 30 semester hours = 1 academic year at a 2-year Texas public college or university with tuition prices at a weighted average price. Visit their web site for more information:
https://www.oppenheimerfunds.com/digitalAssets/57bd97ec8e23c110VgnVCM100000e82311ac____-0.pdf

Don't let your child miss out on a great opportunity to graduate from high school with college hours!

Scotti Wood
Sabine High School Counsellor

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