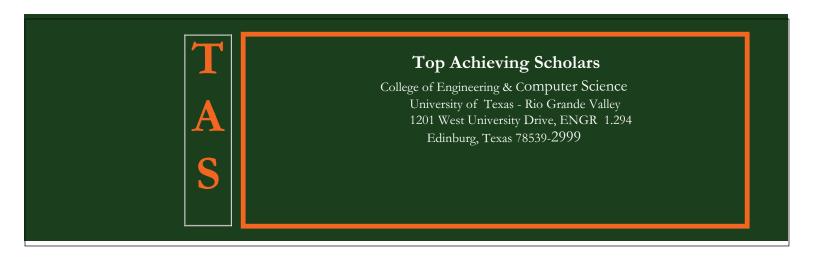# Top Academic Scholars

Scholarship Application

for Freshmen & Sophomore

Postmark Deadline: July 7, 2015

Funded through the
National Science Foundation S-STEM Program

The **TOP ACHIEVING SCHOLARS grant at UTRGV** offers funds to outstanding students with the potential for superior academic performance. Scholarships are awarded to students without regard to race, creed, religious preferences, or gender. Applicants must be enrolled at UTRGV as a freshman or sophomore in the 2015 fall semester and have declared a major within the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Factors which are considered are: class rank, test scores, grades, extracurricular activities, and experience. Scholarship applications evaluation include faculty/mentor recommendation letters, a 500 word essay that discusses applicant's career goals and plans (signed by a family member), updated resume (with academic accomplishments with extra curricular participation), applicable letters of support, leadership skills, and transcripts. Unfortunately, the TAS at UTRGV cannot offer scholarships to all of the excellent students who apply. However, we can assure each applicant that he or she will receive consideration and fair treatment in what is a very competitive situation.

Eligibility/Selection Criteria

* All UTRGV Top Achieving Scholars must be either U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents,
* have declared Engineering or Computer Science as their major, and qualify for financial aid
* Scholars must be UG students registered full time for the Fall and Spring semesters
* Candidates should be high school valedictorians or salutatorians and/or have a demonstrated academic talent and interest in their education, and significant involvement in extracurricular activities

NOTE: **Renewal of scholarship for the following semesters is contingent upon full-time enrollment with a cumulative grade point average of 3.30 or better at UTRGV.**

Competitive Academic Scholarship Requirements

HIGH SCHOOL GPA - Minimum unweighted high school GPA of 3.50 on a 4.00 scale on file with the Office of Undergraduate Admission. Students who do not meet the unweighted minimum GPA requirement cannot be considered for scholarship awards.

STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES - Minimum 31 ACT composite score OR 1360 SAT (MATH+Reading) total score on file with UTRGV Office of Admissions by July 7, 2015. Minimum test scores are based on the composite or total score from one test date. Combined scores, from two or more tests will not be considered for scholarship awards. Students who do not meet minimum test score requirements cannot be considered for scholarship awards.

IN ADDITION - Applicants must be officially admitted into the university and must have submitted the complete scholarship application by July 7, 2015 and declared a major in Engineering. All students must have submitted complete academic scholarship application.

Application Package - Checklist of Items to be submitted

1) Completed Top Achievement Scholar - Scholarship Application
2) Essay (500 words) What are your future career goals and plans? (Ensure it has a family members signature acknowledging your plans)
3) Resume (with academic accomplishments and extra-curriculum participation
4) Transcripts
5) SAR (Student Aid Report)
6) Three recommendation letters from faculty members or mentors

FINALIST PACKAGE

Finalists that declare their major in any of College of Engineering and Computer Science degrees, meet the eligibility and academic requirements, submit complete application packet by deadline are eligible for the NSF S-STEM sponsored scholarship of $4,500 which is awarded in $500 monthly increments per academic semester. A formal letter will be sent to all students applying notifying them of the scholarship committee's decision.

LATE OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Top Achievement Scholars
Scholarship Application

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

UTRGV Student ID: _____

Address: _____

SSN: _____

State _____

Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Cell #: _____

High School Information

School Name: _____

County: _____

Address: _____

Rank in Class:
(e.g., 5th in class of 250) _____

State: _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average:
(based on 4.0 scale) _____

Phone #: _____

College Information

Intended Major(s) at UTRGV (1st Choice) _____

Name and address of Parents or Guardians: _____

Intended Major(s) at UTRGV (2nd Choice) _____

I understand that the application is incomplete and void unless the following documents are *attached and received in the Top Achieving Scholars Office at the College of Engineering and Computer Science or postmarked by July 7, 2015*. (Please verify with a check mark by each item.)

❑ Essay of approximately 500 words that **discusses applicant's career goals and plans (signed by a family member)**, updated resume with academic accomplishments with extra curricular participation (with applicable letters of support), and leadership skills along with transcripts. Please attach a copy of the essay with this application.

IN ADDITION to the above documents:

❑ I understand that my qualifying GPA of at least a 3.50 on a 4.0 scale and my qualifying standardized test score of at least 31 ACT or 1360 SAT (Math+Reading) must be on file UTRGV Admissions by July 7, 2015.

❑ I certify that I have applied for admission to UTRGV and I understand that I must be admitted to the University through the Office of Undergraduate Admission to be considered for this scholarship.

❑ I verify that the information submitted is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

_____

Signature   Date

Mail Application Package to:

Top Achieving Scholars Grant Office

College of Engineering & Computer Science - UTRGV
1201 West University Drive, ENGR 1.294 Edinburg, Texas 78539-2999

Standardized Test Scores

ACT Scores

Test Date	English	Mathematics	Reading	Science Reasoning	Composite

SAT I Scores

Test Date	Mathematics	Reading	(Total M+R)

PSAT Scores

Test Date	Verbal	Mathematics	Writing Skills	Selection Index

Extracurricular Activities (List in the order of importance to you)

Activity	Leadership Position	Hours per week/Frequency

Awards & Recognition (List in the order of importance to you)

Awards/Recognition	Level (Local, Regional, State, National)

Work Experience/Community Service Experience

Organization	Leadership Position	Hours per week/Frequency

Hobbies