In Arizona we have many motivated, high achieving students. For some students, a lack of family resources has been a barrier to higher education. With the right support, students can be successful, build better communities and create positive change. Arizona State University is committed to providing these opportunities.

Since President Michael Crow’s arrival, there has been a deep commitment to access to higher education, and this program is a manifestation of that commitment.

ASU has pursued the goals of access and excellence simultaneously, something that sets us apart from our peers. The Obama Scholars program has had a great response at both local and national levels. Success starts with opportunity.
The purpose of the Obama Scholars program is embodied in the Sun Devil Way.
At ASU, the Sun Devil Way is our foundation. The principles that frame how we deliver support services, activities, and guide our actions are based on the Sun Devil Way.
ACHIEVEMENT:
• In and out of the classroom
• Set academic and personal goals
• Take advantage of the learning and support resources
  ▪ tutoring
  ▪ success coaching
  ▪ career development workshops
RESPONSIBILITY:
Make responsible choices to achieve your goals. Make responsible choices as a member of a community...the ASU community.
ENGAGEMENT:
Students are encouraged to get involved on campus, whether it’s through attending a university tradition like Game Day, Homecoming or through participation in a club or organization. The Obama Scholars program is designed to specifically support student engagement through the monthly Scholar Success program activities...we will expand on later.
who are Obama Scholars

- Meet ASU assured admissions criteria
- Arizona residents who graduated from an AZ high school this past Spring
- Completed their admission application, FAFSA & aid file by the articulated deadlines
- Have a demonstrated total family income that is within the income threshold

Students identified as Obama Scholars are those students who:

Meet ASU general admissions criteria
Are Arizona residents who have just graduated from an AZ high school
Filed the FAFSA and by the articulated deadline
Are within the family income threshold ($42,400 or less)
who are Obama Scholars

- 1010 Obama Scholars
- 79.1% are merit scholars
- average high school GPA = 3.51
- average college credits = 16.9

Every college
Every campus
Male & Female
Every race and ethnicity
Students who graduated at the top of their class
Students who graduated in the second quartile
Students from large high schools
No one generalization can be made about an Obama Scholar recipient!
How does the Obama Scholars program work?

There are two main components:
Scholar Success Component:

Mentoring
Scholar Success Activities
Obama Scholars benefit from a one to one mentoring relationship during their freshman year.

- Mentors are expected to meet with their Obama Scholar at least once a month – approximately six meetings per year.
- Communication and meetings with your Scholar are safe places for students to ask questions, express concerns and celebrate successes. Mentors are in a unique position to refer students to appropriate campus resources and services, as well as provide future letters of recommendation.
• Mentors may “teach you how to fish” NOT “provide you with food.” The goal is for you to strengthen independent skills as a result of this experience
• Students will learn useful skills from the challenges that they encounter
• Mentors provide guidance and support that may be needed through this process
• Mentors are also expected to hold scholars accountable when appropriate
• Mentors provide an open, tolerant environment for the scholar to share their concerns and struggles and engage in problem-solving behavior
what a mentor does NOT do

- do homework or editing papers
- tutoring or academic advising
- counseling
- sharing confidential information about a student with anyone outside the mentoring program
Develop a collaborative relationship – get to know your Scholar, talk about your interests, fears, challenges.

Setting a few goals is important:
1) discuss their academic goals and
2) a goal the two of you agree upon for your relationship (e.g. your role as a communicative scholar, and their role as a support resource)

Discuss how they are performing on tests and homework so far, and what support systems are available.
Ask about their goals for the semester as they relate to academics, family, employment, and transition to ASU.
Review online resources and success program activities.
Review with your scholar the requirements for renewal consideration.
Discuss what there success activity is/will be for the month.
Schedule your next meeting.
Through the Obama Scholars resource page the Obama Scholars Program will provide you monthly campus activities, events and services to take advantage of.

Discuss with your Obama Scholar what Scholar Success Activities they are interested participating in. One purpose of the scholar success activities are to broaden students understanding of resources on campus and encourage them to explore the numerous opportunities. Highly academic students may need additional encouragement socially or with co-curricular activities. Highly social students may need additional guidance toward academic resources: tutoring, First Year Success Coaches, the writing centers, and math labs.

Participating in campus activities, events and services is not only the Sun Devil Way, these features are all designed to connect students with campus resources, discover more about ASU, provide opportunities to meet new people, assist students to do well in their classes and reach their academic goal... graduation!

Participating in a monthly scholar success activity is an expectation of the Obama Scholar’s Program.
How do I find out who my Obama Scholar is?

who is my Obama Scholar:

how and when do I find out who they are?
MATCHING WILL BE POSTED AND LIVE SEPT. 21ST on the Obama Scholars Resource webpage

CONTACT YOUR SCHOLAR button is where your Obama Scholar contact information is found
Click on it to view your Obama Scholar. If no information is listed, or an error message is receive, please contact obamascholarsprogram@asu.edu

SCHOLARS NEWS button is where the monthly e-news will be newly posted on or about the 1st of each month.
You will receive monthly email reminders and updates to meet with your Obama Scholar as well as involvement opportunities on and around campus.
How does the Obama Scholars program work?

There are two main components:
Scholars Success and Financial award.
As an Obama Scholar, your estimated direct costs are covered for eight consecutive full time semesters.

Aid is provided through a combination of sources and will vary for every student.

- Obama Scholars program is designed to meet these estimated direct costs through three sources
  1. scholarships and grant aid
  2. work-study
  3. expected family contribution (EFC) as determined from the FAFSA

- the sum of these three sources will equals the estimated direct costs

- the program is funded for eight consecutive semesters (fall and spring) as long as student continues to meet renewal criteria

http://students.asu.edu/obama
estimated direct costs include:

• actual tuition and mandatory fees
• standardized allowances for room, board and books/supplies

  • special class/college fees and academic program fees are not covered
  • summer tuition/fees are **NOT** covered through the Obama Scholars program
  • Scholars may choose to spend one semester in an ASU-sponsored study abroad program

Note: If your major requires specific housing that exceeds ASU's standard allowance (e.g., Barrett Honors or majors based on the Downtown Phoenix campus), the Student Financial Aid Office will review your budget and awards to reflect your required housing charges.

**special class/college fees, study abroad program fees and academic program fees are not covered**

**summer fees are not covered** through the Obama Scholars program
• Remember, the program is not designed to cover ALL of the students expenses. The program was designed to reduce the amount of student loan debt. It covers estimated direct costs, minus the estimated family contribution (EFC) with gift aid and Federal Work-Study.

• ASU uses a standardized allowance for books/supplies, room and board expenses, not exact costs (except for specific required housing as mentioned in the earlier slide). Do housing/meal plan selections and books exceed our standard allowances for those costs? Students may need to use work-study award or borrow offered loans in order to pay remaining costs. Students also may want to consider changing their meal plan selections in order to best use the gift aid that this program offers and minimize the amount they may need to work or borrow.

• Scholars may still have a bill

• do not forget to factor in the estimated family contribution (EFC) and work-study earnings (FWS)

• understand standard allowances
• HOW DO STUDENTS CONTINUE AS AN OBAMA SCHOLAR EACH YEAR?

• Obama Scholars must maintain full-time status
  • Students must earn at ASU 24 credit hrs by end of spring semester
  • maintain satisfactory academic progress each year remain in the program as well as to receive other type(s) of financial aid assistance.
• Apply by FAFSA deadline, March 1 (free of errors)
• Submit all documents listed on your ‘To Do’ list items on My ASU by June 1 (free of errors)
• These deadlines are final.
• Meet total income requirements ($42,400 or less) and Assets are also considered.
• Appeals available for only extenuating circumstances.

• must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA
  • by the end of spring semester each year
• SFAO will send out email reminders on renewal criteria and deadlines to your ASU account in fall and spring semester.
• not all Obama scholars will receive a book grant or an award titled “Obama Scholarship”

• however, for those who do...
  • the amount of the book grant awarded will be refunded to the student for the purpose of buying books
  • students are Obama Scholars regardless of receiving an award titled “Obama Scholarship”

• however, those who do...
  *the amount of the book grant awarded will be refunded to the student for the purpose of buying books
  *students ARE Obama Scholars regardless of receiving an award titled “Obama Scholarship”

• The advantage of being an Obama Scholar is that if a student loses any scholarship or grant funding in the future and continue to meet the Obama renewal criteria, the Obama scholarship will be available to replace that funding.
Obama Scholars who are work-study eligible are expected to contribute to their cost of education via federal work-study... this is considered a self-help component in their aid package; 

• Students are awarded up to $2500 in work-study funds. This is money a student has to earn through employment in an on-campus or off-campus federal work study job.

• Note that accepting the whole work study award is not required, but if declined it will not be replaced by gift aid.

• While each student is different, we recommend first year students to not work more than 15 hours/week.

• Students in work-study jobs are paid every two weeks. This may be the students first experience working. Talk with your student about developing a budget. Students should take into consideration the purchase of class books/materials at the beginning of the semester (and ensuring there are funds available to make these purchases).

• Work-study jobs can be found through the Student Employment website. There are hundreds of positions available on all parts of the campus. Positions range from office receptionists to orientation leaders. If students have been looking for and have not been able to find an on campus job within the first 3-4 weeks of school visit https://students.asu.edu/employment/search
next steps
• Mentor Assignments found on website beginning Sept. 21st:
  
  [obama.asu.edu](http://obama.asu.edu)

• Mentors click on the ‘Contact your Scholar’ tile/link on the right of the website for your Obama Scholar contact information
  – Contact your Obama Scholar the week of Sept. 21st

YOUR OBAMA SCHOLAR WILL BE ASSIGNED AND POSTED ON THE OBAMA SCHOLARS RESOURCE PAGE BEGINNING SEPT. 21ST
REMINDER: this is the Obama Scholars Resource webpage –

**CONTACT YOUR SCHOLAR button** is where your Scholar contact information is found. Click on it to view your Obama Scholar contact information. *If no information is listed please contact obamascholarsprogram@asu.edu*

**SCHOLARS NEWS button** is where the monthly e-news will be newly posted on or about the 1st of each month. You will receive monthly email reminders and updates to meet with your Scholar as well as involvement opportunities on and around campus.
are you ready?
1. What is the sun devil way?
   Achievement, Engagement and Responsibility

2. Who are Obama Scholars?
   AZ HS grads who directly enroll fulltime at ASU
   family income is < $42,400 as determined by the FAFSA and
   met assured admission by March 1.

3. Financially, the Obama Scholars program covers...?
   Estimated direct costs minus the expected family contribution
   with gift aid and federal work study

4. How many semesters can a student be an Obama Scholar?
   8 consecutive fall and spring semesters
   (summer sessions not included)
5. Academically, how do students remain Obama Scholars?
   * **Must** maintain a 2.5 GPA by end of spring semester
   * **AND** beyond first year

6. Is work-study required?
   * No, however if students are work-study eligible, this amount is factored in as part of the estimated direct costs of their financial aid package

7. Do students have to meet with their mentor monthly?
   * Yes...it is an expectation!
8. Do students have to attend a scholars success activity monthly?
   Yes...it is an expectation! As a mentor, you may assist in guiding and suggesting what activities, events, programs, workshops, lectures, etc. will best serve your Scholar’s needs.

9. Who do I contact first with question or concerns?
   Visit the Obama Scholars Resource website - plethora of information, FAQ’s, resources, etc.

10. What is expected of me as a mentor?
    Meet with my Scholar once a month and be a great resource
Again...welcome OBAMA SCHOLARS cohort 2015 and thank your for contributing directly to student success as an Obama Scholar Mentor!

- Have a great semester
- Meet with your Scholar
- Enjoy being a Obama Mentor!

obamascholarsprogram@asu.edu
PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA
Scholars
at Arizona State University