



STUDENTS ENTERING ARIZONA AS A FIRST YEAR UNDERGRADUATE IN FALL 2024

The Arizona Assurance Program (AZA) at the University of Arizona is a financial aid program for low-income students in the state of Arizona. The program is designed to assist students in attaining a bachelor's degree by providing financial aid and academic support services. The Arizona Assurance Program partners with colleges and departments on campus to provide scholars with comprehensive programming from their freshman year through their senior year. The mission of Arizona Assurance is achieved through academic programming, mentoring, career development, and graduate/ professional school preparation.

ELIGIBILITY

This is an invitation-only program. If all stated eligibility requirements below are met, students will be invited to be considered for the program and may be required to submit supplementary information using the Resource Evaluation. Based on the information provided on the University of Arizona Admissions application, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and the Resource Evaluation, students will be considered for selection to receive Arizona Assurance funding at the discretion of the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid (OSFA) based on funding availability. Students are conditionally selected using self-reported grades, and even if they have been asked to verify student and/or parent tax information provided on the FAFSA form but have not submitted yet. This conditional selection will be revoked if a student (A) is no longer meeting minimum GPA and high school graduation requirements originally evaluated based on self-reported grades, or (B) if tax verification changes to the student's 2024-2025 FAFSA form result in no longer satisfying one or more of the eligibility criteria below. Final selection for AZA is based on a thorough review of all documents submitted. **Priority for Arizona Assurance selections may be given to first-generation college students.**

- Submit a 2024-2025 FAFSA form. The FAFSA form must be official and free of errors by May 1 of your senior year in high school.
 - Demonstrate a total annual family income on the FAFSA form of \$30,000 or less (for parents of dependent students) or \$14,580 or less (for student and spouse for independent students).
 - Have a Student Aid Index (SAI) as calculated by the FAFSA form of zero or less AND be eligible for the Federal Pell Grant.*
**Families who have experienced changes to their financial situation that are not reflected in 2022 tax information may be able to be placed on a waitlist for AZA consideration by submitting a FAFSA Data Appeal. Please contact OSFA directly for more information.*
 - Submit a completed University of Arizona Admissions application (including transcripts and application fee) by May 1 of your senior year in high school. There are no exceptions to this date. Admission to Arizona does not guarantee eligibility for the Arizona Assurance Program.
 - Earn a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.0 in required core academic courses from the first six semesters of high school. Semesters seven and eight (your senior year) will not be considered in the GPA requirement for the Arizona Assurance Program.
 - Be admitted to the University of Arizona Main Campus.
 - Be a confirmed Resident of the State of Arizona for tuition purposes no later than June 1, 2024.
 - Enroll in courses at the University of Arizona as a first-time, full-time, degree-seeking first year student (i.e. students who did not attend any higher education institution including Community Colleges, Universities, or International post-secondary education schools after high school graduation).
 - Submit all requested documents for federal verification (if applicable). Submit all requested documents early to resolve any errors or issues. All requests from OSFA will appear in your UAccess Student Center To Do List.
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FUNDING DURATION

Arizona Assurance provides up to \$10,000 in funding per academic year and is stackable with any merit scholarship, Federal Pell Grant, Arizona Promise Grant and most other gift aid awarded, up to the student's calculated financial need. Please see the Program Funding Limitations section below for more information about specific grants intended for Pell eligible Arizona resident students that cannot be combined with Arizona Assurance. This funding is intended to help cover the cost of tuition and housing for a maximum of four consecutive years (8 semesters), provided all renewal requirements are met each year.

ARIZONA ASSURANCE PROGRAM FUNDING LIMITATIONS

- You must enroll in at least 12 University of Arizona credit hours each fall & spring semester to receive Arizona Assurance funding.
 - Classes and costs associated with dual enrollment at any other institution are not covered by Arizona Assurance funding.
 - Tuition and fees for Summer/Winter course enrollment will not be covered by Arizona Assurance funding.
 - Arizona Assurance funding cannot be combined with the Arizona Native Scholars Grant or University Grant.
 - Arizona Assurance funding can be received for a maximum of 4 consecutive years (8 semesters).
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DEFERMENT OF ARIZONA ASSURANCE FUNDING

- If an Arizona Assurance recipient must be away from the university for a semester or longer for reasons such as participation in a non-UA sponsored study abroad program, faith-based mission, health/medical needs, or military service, the student must submit a [Financial Aid Deferment Request](#) form to OSFA.
 - Students requesting a deferment of AZA funding:
 - must have completed at least one semester at the University of Arizona at the time of the deferment request.
 - must be currently meeting renewal requirements for the award.
 - must not be enrolled at the University of Arizona or any other institution during the deferred semester(s).
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STUDY ABROAD

After completing your first year at the University of Arizona, you may choose to participate in a [University of Arizona sponsored study abroad program](#) for up to two semesters and use your Arizona Assurance funding toward the cost of the program. All semesters used will count toward the 8 total semesters of eligibility. Coursework successfully completed through a University of Arizona sponsored study abroad program will count toward unit completion requirements for funding renewal.

Please [review our website](#) for further information regarding the use of Arizona Assurance and other types of financial aid for Study Abroad.

- **Important:** Students choosing to participate in a **non-UA sponsored** study abroad program must submit a *Financial Aid Deferment Request* form to OSFA to resume receiving AZA funding upon returning. AZA funding cannot be used for such programs. Please refer to the deferment section above for details.
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ARIZONA ASSURANCE PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS

In order to maintain funding eligibility, you will be expected to complete specific [Arizona Assurance Program Requirements](#) each academic year. The program is designed to connect you with resources and services to ease your transition from high school and to enhance your success at the University of Arizona.

Each year, incoming Arizona Assurance recipients are welcomed to campus in a mandatory informational session held via Zoom prior to the start of fall classes. The welcome session will cover how AZA funding and renewal requirements work, so students are informed about how to maintain their eligibility for all four years. Any questions regarding AZA Program Requirements should be directed to the Thrive Center by calling 520.626.3656, emailing aza@arizona.edu, or visiting their office in the Bartlett Academic Success Center, Suite 102.

ARIZONA ASSURANCE RENEWAL CRITERIA AND PROCESS

To be eligible for renewal of Arizona Assurance funding each academic year, students must:

- file a FAFSA form no later than March 1 of each year. The FAFSA form must be official and free of errors by May 1. Submit as early as possible to allow sufficient time to resolve any errors prior to the May 1 deadline.
 - remain eligible for the Federal Pell Grant each year as determined by the financial data provided for you and/or your parent(s) on the FAFSA form.
 - enroll in a minimum of 12 credit hours each fall and spring semester at the University of Arizona main campus.
 - successfully complete/pass a minimum of 24 University of Arizona credit hours each academic year.
 - maintain a minimum 2.0 University of Arizona grade point average (GPA).
 - remain classified as a resident of the State of Arizona for tuition purposes.
 - complete all [Arizona Assurance Program Requirements](#) for each year of participation.
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OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS NOT MEETING RENEWAL CRITERIA

Students who do not meet the renewal criteria may file a [Financial Aid Appeal](#) for reinstatement of Arizona Assurance Program funding provided they experienced significant, extenuating circumstances beyond their control. Completed appeals must be submitted to OSFA by the published deadline on our website.

If you experience other challenges throughout the year, such as difficulty with classes, time management, work or family responsibilities, or other co-curricular commitments, [consult the Arizona Assurance Program Staff](#) at the Thrive Center. There are many university resources available to ensure that you receive the guidance and assistance necessary to remain on track and continue to meet renewal criteria for the Arizona Assurance Program and persist to graduation.

QUESTIONS? WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid

<https://financialaid.arizona.edu/contact>

520-621-1858

<https://financialaid.arizona.edu/>

Arizona Assurance Office

aza@arizona.edu

520-626-3656

<https://assurance.arizona.edu/>

