1. Tenure of Scholarship

Cal Opportunity scholars are appointed as entering freshman and for eight semesters (four years). Summer sessions are not covered by the scholarship.

2. Financial Award and Renewal

U.S. citizens and eligible noncitizens (those holding permanent resident cards) are eligible for the Cal Opportunity Scholarship. If documentation cannot be produced you may be eligible for the scholarship by completing the California Dream Act application for undocumented students.

Scholars may not receive more than their financial need as determined by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office, and must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA: http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/) to the Federal Student Aid Information Center by the March 2 deadline for each academic year of their scholarship tenure. The FAFSA must be complete (i.e. not in Reject status). A United States Social Security Number is required to complete the FAFSA.

Scholarship amounts are subject to the availability of funds, and are determined annually, according to financial aid guidelines. Awards may not exceed the Undergraduate Student Budget for California residents set each year by the University, and are applied to the financial aid package after federal and state grants and outside agency or departmental scholarships or awards.

Conditional financial aid offer letters are not final. Please be aware that your final offer letter will not be available until you file your taxes. Your FAFSA may currently be in the verification process, or in reject status, or may fall into such status within the course of an academic year. If you do not meet the financial need criteria after your file has cleared the verification process, reject status, or conditional offer letter status, you are not eligible to receive the Cal Opportunity Scholarship award.

3. Reporting Requirements and Scholarship Award Revisions

Scholars must report to the campus Financial Aid and Scholarships Office all financial assistance received from any source, as well as all increases and reductions in financial resources. Scholars receive notification of revised scholarship amounts when they have returned all required documents and these documents have been reviewed and approved by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office.

Annual Assessment of Need: The financial need of each scholar is evaluated annually and may be reevaluated within a given year based on information reported to the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office.

Verification: Reevaluation of the scholarship amount may occur when UC Berkeley financial aid recipients are selected for Verification of information provided on the FAFSA. Financial aid files may be selected for verification during any academic year of scholarship tenure. Receipt of the award is contingent upon having a minimum financial need as established by the Financial Aid and Scholarships Office and the faculty Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors, and Financial Aid (CUSHFA).

Outside Aid: Re-evaluation may occur if a scholar receives other financial assistance, including outside or departmental scholarships, or if unforeseen circumstances cause a reduction or increase in a scholar's resources. Outside agency and departmental awards are applied toward a scholar's gross need and may require the campus to reduce or eliminate the amount of the Cal Opportunity Scholarship award.

4. Budgetary Increases

The Cal Opportunity Scholarship may not exceed a scholar's financial need within the Undergraduate Cost of Attendance Budget. The Financial Aid and Scholarships Office approves or denies student appeals for budgetary increases above the Undergraduate Cost of Attendance Budget. Such increases are awarded as self-help funding (e.g. Work Study or Direct Subsidized Loan) unless the scholar has an outside agency or departmental award, in which case the budget increase will be awarded as scholarship funding up to the amount of the outside or departmental award.
5. Scholarships and Tax
Scholarships may be subject to tax. Contact the Internal Revenue Service, http://www.irs.gov/, each calendar year for current laws and regulations.

6. Academic Requirements and Renewal
Scholars are expected to maintain a minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA during their scholarship tenure, and must be enrolled for a minimum of six units each semester. Scholars who are not meeting these benchmarks must contact their scholarship advisor.

7. Leave of Absence and Suspension of Semesters of Scholarship Eligibility
Scholars granted an official leave of absence by the University must notify the Undergraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Honors Office. Scholars on official leave may suspend their semesters of scholarship eligibility for a maximum of two semesters.

Scholars who do not notify the Undergraduate Scholarships, Prizes and Honors Office of a leave of absence will lose semesters of scholarship tenure equivalent to the time not enrolled. Without an approved leave of absence, scholars not enrolled for more than two consecutive semesters will have their scholarship discontinued and must appeal for reinstatement.

8. No Transfer Privilege
Cal Opportunity Scholarships are not transferable to other University of California campuses.

9. Code of Student Conduct
To maintain eligibility for the Cal Opportunity Scholarship, you must be enrolled as a UC Berkeley student during the academic year (fall and spring semesters) and be in good academic standing with the University. Cal Opportunity scholars are members of the University community and are expected to comply with all laws, University policies and campus regulations, conducting themselves in ways that support a scholarly environment. During the tenure of your Cal Opportunity Scholarship, you must agree to be guided by the Berkeley Campus Code of Student Conduct: http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct
Cal Opportunity Scholarship
Waiver of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Indemnity Agreement for Scholarship Tenure

Waiver: In consideration of being permitted to participate in any way in Cal Opportunity Scholarship Program activities, I, for myself, my heirs, personal representatives or assigns, do hereby release, waive, discharge, and covenant not to sue The Regents of the University of California, its officers, employees, and agents from liability from any and all claims including the negligence of The Regents of the University of California, its officers, employees and agents, resulting in personal injury, accidents or illnesses (including death), and property loss arising from, but not limited to, participation in Cal Opportunity Scholarship activities for the tenure of my scholarship.

Assumption of Risks: Participation in Cal Opportunity Scholarship Program activities carries with it certain inherent risks that cannot be eliminated regardless of the care taken to avoid injuries. The specific risks vary from one activity to another, but the risks range from 1) minor injuries such as scratches, bruises, and sprains 2) major injuries such as eye injury or loss of sight, joint or back injuries, heart attacks, and concussions 3) catastrophic injuries including paralysis and death.

I have read the previous paragraphs and I know, understand, and appreciate these and other risks that are inherent in Cal Opportunity Scholarship Program activities. I further understand the participation in these activities is not required. I hereby assert that my participation is voluntary and that I knowingly assume all such risks.

Indemnification and Hold Harmless: I also agree to INDEMNIFY AND HOLD The Regents of the University of California HARMLESS from any and all claims, actions, suits, procedures, costs, expenses, damages and liabilities, including attorney’s fees brought as a result of my involvement in Cal Opportunity Scholarship Program activities and to reimburse them for any such expenses incurred.

Severability: The undersigned further expressly agrees that the foregoing waiver and assumption of risks agreement is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the law of the State of California and that if any portion thereof is held invalid, it is agreed that the balance shall, notwithstanding, continue in full legal force and effect.

Acknowledgment of Understanding: I have read this waiver of liability, assumption of risk, and indemnity agreement, fully understand its terms, and understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing the agreement freely and voluntarily, and intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law.
Cal Opportunity Scholarship
Photo and Information Consent Form

The undersigned does hereby authorize THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA and the UC BERKELEY FINANCIAL AID OFFICE and/or its associates, assistants, or subcontractors to photograph/film the undersigned and to publish biographical information/excerpts provided for the purpose of reporting on and publicizing the CAL OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

The undersigned authorizes The Regents of the University of California and the Financial Aid Office to permit the use and display of said photographs, film and information in programs, newsletters, brochures and all related publications and displays, hereinafter referred to as “the Work”.

The undersigned agrees that The Regents of the University of California and the Financial Aid Office may use name, likeness, voice, or biographical information supplied by the undersigned as used in “the Work” which will be used for the purpose of reporting on or publicizing the Cal Opportunity Scholarship Program.

The undersigned releases and forever discharges The Regents of the University of California and the Financial Aid Office, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with the use of said photographs, film or printed information, including but not limited to, any and all claims for invasion of privacy or defamation.

I have read the above description and give my consent for the use of my information as indicated above.