



Department of Physics Scholarships

MYTHS & FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

MYTH #1: I have to qualify for federal loans or financial aid grants to receive a scholarship. Not true! While need might be a consideration if all other things are equal, undergraduate and graduate scholarships offered by the Department of Physics consider other merits first: for example, GPA, research projects, involvement in ASU Physics community.

MYTH #2: I must be a “straight A student” to receive a scholarship. While your grade point average is relevant to assessing your academic performance, your involvement in the ASU Physics community and your contributions to research are also very relevant in establishing the more complete picture upon which the committee bases their decisions.

MYTH #3: Scholarship applications are too much work for the results. The Department of Physics has organized scholarship information and the application in a very user-friendly format. It will require some time, but the material you create for college applications, such as essays and résumés, can often be updated and used for your scholarship applications. You can find everything you need to begin the application process by going to <http://physics.asu.edu/scholarships/scholarships.php>.

MYTH #4: I can only apply for one scholarship at a time. Not true! You can apply for multiple scholarships at one time. So long as you fulfill the eligibility criteria of each scholarship, there is no limit to the number of scholarships you can apply for.

MYTH #5: A scholarship will not affect my financial aid. When you accept your financial aid award, you agree to report to the Financial Aid Office any additional resources awarded and/or received including scholarships, stipends, educational grants from campus and outside sources. If the Financial Aid Office determines you have been over-awarded, your financial aid award may be reduced.

FAQ #1: Does the Department of Physics have scholarships for both undergraduate students AND graduate students? Yes. The Department of Physics has three (3) scholarships that are available to current graduate students and nine (9) for current undergraduate students.

FAQ #2: How do I apply for the scholarship(s)? You will need to access and complete the General Scholarship Application, available online at <http://physics.asu.edu/students.php>. There is one application for all scholarships awarded by the Department of Physics. In addition to submitting a separate copy of this application for each scholarship for which you are interested and eligible, please be sure to check the additional supporting documents required, as these might vary. We also recommend you keep a copy for your records. Applications and essays can be faxed to (480) 965-7954, mailed, or delivered to the Department of Physics on the fourth floor of the Bateman Physical Sciences Building F, room PSF-470.

FAQ #3: When is the scholarship application due? Monday, February 18, 2008

FAQ #4: How do I know if I've won a scholarship and when will recipients be notified? If you are selected for a scholarship, a congratulatory letter will be mailed to you stating the name, amount and criteria associated with that scholarship. Included in that letter will be information about how your scholarship will be disbursed. The award is contingent upon your written acceptance, to be returned within two (2) weeks of the date of the letter. Your award will be posted to your account once you have submitted a thank-you letter addressed to the donor/sponsor of the scholarship you are receiving.

FAQ #5: Am I required to pay taxes on the scholarship(s) I receive? The general rule from the IRS is: Any scholarship or grant income over and above the amount paid during the tax year for tuition/fees and required books/supplies is considered taxable income by the IRS. For additional information, please contact the ASU Office of Student Financial Aid: <http://www.asu.edu/fa/>.

FAQ #6: Are international students eligible to apply for Department of Physics scholarships and awards? Some scholarships and awards specify that the student must be a U.S. citizen in order to receive the award; if this is the case for the scholarship you are considering, it will be noted in the scholarship description available at <http://physics.asu.edu/students.php>.