

Impact Scholars Program Requirements 2024/2025

Introduction

This document outlines the expectations and criteria for students participating in the Impact Scholars program within the Office of Undergraduate Studies at the University of Utah. This program also serves students enrolled at Salt Lake Community College in a programmatic capacity only and not in the provision of scholarships.

This document provides standards of eligibility and requirements for the Impact Scholars program—for participation in both retention and completion-driven programming and in scholarships. The Impact Scholars program is designed to create a supportive community for students who have experienced the foster care system at some point in their lifetime. Retention, timely degree completion, connection to an alumni network, and establishment of a support system and community relevant to those with foster backgrounds are the primary goals of this program. Through monthly program events as well as cohort dinners Impact Scholars creates an environment of support and a network students can lean on as well as individuals who have undergone similar experiences with the foster care system.

The Impact Scholars program recognizes the hurdles that students who have experienced the foster care system can face and aims to equip students with the tools to succeed. Impact Scholars is aware that those needs may look different for foster care impacted students and aims to meet those needs. By taking a holistic approach to need assessment Impact Scholars creates a network of support as well as focuses events on executive functioning and life skills.

Components of Impact Scholars Participation*

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Impact Scholars program, a student must:

1. Have background/placement in the foster care system or have been in care of the state
2. Be an actively enrolled undergraduate student at the University of Utah or Salt Lake Community College
4. Be 16 years of age or older

Program Participation Requirements:

Students who are eligible to be an Impact Scholar will be required to:

1. Meet with the Impact Scholars program manager twice a semester.
 - a. Students are responsible for setting up reoccurring meetings with the Program Manager at the start of the semester. These meetings should be scheduled out for the entire semester.
 - b. If students are unable to attend the scheduled meeting due to an emergency or illness, they must let the Program Manager know in advance and reschedule their meeting.

- c. These meetings should be scheduled for the 3rd and 4th week of the semester (after students have taken their first tests) as well as around finals to discuss grades and degree progression.
2. Participate in at least one Impact Scholars event or programs per semester (online or in-person). Once students meet their requirement of one event for program participation all other events are strongly encouraged but not required. An outline of events are listed below.
 - a. Community Engagement: Service projects and group volunteer opportunities (Bennion Cetner aligned)
 - b. Community Building: Monthly dinners and regular social events, networking events
 - c. Executive Functioning and Life Skills: Tax workshops, FASFA workshops, Time Management workshops, study halls and tutoring
3. Obtain and regularly meet with a student success coach.
 - a. Student are responsible to reach out to Lisa Lewis at lisa.lewis@utah.edu at the start of each semester to set up a meeting. Lisa will then determine how often she needs to meet with each student based on her assessment.
4. Meet with their academic advisor once or twice a semester and enroll in courses in alignment with the degree completion plan created with your advisor.

*These requirements are exclusive to program participation. To receive scholarships through the Impact Scholars program, students need to meet this eligibility, the scholarship recipient obligations, and may need to meet additional requirements for individual funding opportunities and scholarships. If requirements are not met students will not be permitted to be a part of the Impact Scholars program regardless of if they are receiving financial support or not.