The UTSA Family of the Year essay contest is intended to celebrate the supportive role families play in the lives of students and the University community. At UTSA, family is defined as individuals and group members who support their student. Family members include parents, spouses, partners, siblings, grandparents, cousins, extended relations, and close friends. While most consider support to be financial assistance, UTSA recognizes that it comes in many other ways to students.

**Contest Guidelines**

All applicants must complete the 2015-2016 Family of the Year Essay Content Application along with a Family of the Year Essay. The essay must be no more than two pages in length, typed, double spaced, with one inch margins and using a 12 point font. All applicants must also be available to attend the Family of the Year award session and photo session as a part of the acceptance process. This date is TBA. All current, full time UTSA, good standing students for fall 2015, are eligible to nominate their own or any family by submitting a completed application and essay by **4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2015** to Orientation & Family Programs. The nominated family must have a membership with the UTSA Family Association. For information on UTSA’s Family Association membership please visit [www.utsa.edu/family](http://www.utsa.edu/family).

**Essays will be judged according to the following criteria:**

- Evidence of family's support for the student applicant’s college success
- Evidence of family's enthusiasm for UTSA
- Explanation of how student’s college experience would have been without the nominated family
- Creativity
- Grammar

A selection committee consisting of UTSA faculty, staff and administrators will review all submissions. The Family of the Year recipient will be notified by **4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 30, 2015**. Once submitted, all applications and essays will become property of The University of Texas at San Antonio.

**PRIZES**

The winner of the contest will receive:

- A gift basket with various UTSA gifts and prizes valued at over $1,000
- A gift certificate to a San Antonio hotel
- Six tickets to a UTSA Football Game
- A commemorative Family of the Year plaque
- Your Family featured in the 2015-2016 edition of the Family Association Calendar
- Featured on The Family Connection newsletter and on the Orientation and Family Programs’ Wall of Fame
2015-2016 Family of the Year Essay Contest Application

Student Information

Student Name: ____________________________

Last                   First                   Middle Initial

Address: __________________________________________

Street               City               State               Zip

Preferred Phone: _______________ myUTSA Email: ________________________________

Banner ID#: @ _______________ Number of hours enrolled for fall 2015: __________

Hometown: _______________ Classification/Number of Hours Earned: __________

Family Information

Number of Family Members nominated including self: ___________

Name each family member nominated, relationship to student, and state if member is UTSA Alum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>UTSA Alum/Graduation Year</th>
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Essay Information

The essay must be no more than two pages in length, typed, double spaced, with one inch margins and using a 12 point font.

Essays will be judged according to the following criteria:

- Evidence of family's support for the student applicant’s college success
- Evidence of family’s enthusiasm for UTSA
- Explanation of how student’s college experience would have been without the nominated family
- Creativity
- Grammar

Please submit a separate page for your Family of the Year Essay and attach it to the Family of the Year Application.

Deadline

The deadline to submit a completed application and essay is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 18, 2015.

Questions

Questions about the Family of the Year Contest or the selection process should be addressed to Orientation and Family Programs at Orientation@utsa.edu.