

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF TEXAS GRANT PROGRAM

Helping Texas students – especially first-generation, low-income students – achieve their dreams of earning a college degree

OVERVIEW

The Toward Excellence Access and Success (TEXAS) Grant is awarded to well-prepared Texas high school graduates who demonstrate financial need and meet academic eligibility requirements. With 71% of UTSA undergraduates leveraging some form of financial assistance to pursue their degree, the Texas Grant Program is a critical resource that permits students to pursue higher education. Continued support of this program is especially important for UTSA's first-generation, low-income students, a population that often has difficulties with accessing and affording a college education.

THE CHALLENGE

The TEXAS grant program helps reduce student loan debt for the state's neediest students. In recent years, insufficient funding for the program has meant that many eligible students did not receive TEXAS grant awards. In 2021-2022, the Legislature allocated UTSA roughly \$27M, which assisted 3,887 students with average grants of approximately \$6,054. UTSA anticipates providing TEXAS Grants to the same number of students in 2022-2023.

Of the 1,635 first-time, full-time students who were eligible to get the Texas Grant in Fall 2021, 90% (1,456) were funded. The remaining 179 students were eligible, but due to limitations in the amount of money available, could not be funded. To fully fund these remaining students, an additional \$895,000 would be required (179 students x \$5,000 grant per student).

While TEXAS grants only cover a portion of students' expenses for the academic year, they make a substantial difference in both their ability to attend and succeed in college. Students who received funding, versus those who did not:

Metric	Funded	Not Funded
Retention	85%	73%
Hours/Credits Completed	23	18
GPA	2.74	2.09
Unmet Need	\$7,567	\$10,938



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THE IMPACT

The financial support provided by the program is making a clear impact on the ability of UTSA students to stay in school and graduate. Should funding be expanded, UTSA could award more students with the TEXAS Grant each academic year, graduating even more students into the workforce. A higher number of recipients will contribute to the Texas economy as well as help UTSA reach the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's 2030 plan goals.

IMPACT FAST FACTS (FALL 2022)

3,887

UTSA TEXAS Grant recipients

\$6,054

Average size award per student

437

Grant-eligible students who did not receive one due to lack of resources



TAKEAWAY

Expanded funding for the TEXAS Grant Program is critical to lessening financial barriers for the state's neediest students, giving them the opportunity to earn their college degree and contribute their skills to the Texas workforce.