

## **TAMIU DUSTY PROMISE PROGRAM**

### **Frequently Ask Questions**

#### **Are housing and books included in the Dusty Promise?**

No, the Dusty Promise is designed to ensure tuition and mandatory fees are covered. However, many students will receive additional financial aid, including grants, work study, and loans, that will cover housing and books.

#### **Are transfer students eligible to receive the Dusty Promise?**

Yes, admitted transfer students are eligible.

#### **Can I qualify for the Dusty Promise even if my family's adjusted gross income is more than \$30,000?**

No, the Dusty Promise is designed only for students who meet all the eligibility criteria. However, other financial assistance is available.

#### **Can I be enrolled at two institutions during the same semester to complete my 15-hour requirement?**

No, the 'Dusty Promise' will only be granted for students who are solely enrolled for 15 hours per semester at TAMIU.

#### **Can I take my Dusty Promise with me to another school?**

No, the Dusty Promise can be used for courses registered at TAMIU only

#### **Do I have to be enrolled full-time to receive the Dusty Promise?**

Yes, you must be enrolled at least 15 semester credit hours at TAMIU each fall/spring term to receive the Dusty Promise. If you do not complete 15 hours each fall/spring semester, you will lose program eligibility for future terms.

#### **Do I have to maintain a certain grade point ratio (GPR) to continue in the program?**

Yes, you must maintain a 2.5 GPA and meet Satisfactory Academic Progress requirements.

#### **Does the 'Dusty Promise' cover my lab and/or distance learning fees?**

No, the 'Dusty Promise' will only cover state mandated, designated tuition and differential tuition for students who are enrolled 15 hours per semester.

#### **How do I continue to receive Dusty Promise in subsequent years?**

To qualify for Dusty Promise in subsequent years, you must file a FAFSA by the priority deadline, and continue to meet eligibility requirements which must be confirmed each year.

#### **How do TAMIU scholarships or outside scholarships affect the Dusty Promise?**

Such awards will be included as part of your financial aid award package. We want to be sure that your tuition is covered, but Dusty Promise is limited to meeting financial need as demonstrated by the FAFSA.

#### **How does TAMIU promote "Dusty Promise" to students?**

TAMIU has employees who promote the Dusty Promise by creating flyers, announcements on UCONNECT, website and/or on a one-on-one basis with students

#### **How long may I receive the Dusty Promise?**

First-time freshmen can receive the Dusty Promise for up to four consecutive years; Transferring freshmen and sophomores can receive the Dusty Promise for up to three consecutive years; and Transferring juniors and seniors can receive the Dusty Promise for up to two consecutive years.

**Is the amount of funding limited to tuition for eligible students?**

Absolutely not. In fact, many students will have other grants and scholarships that can be applied toward required fees, books, housing and other educational expenses. This is a minimum commitment. For example, Texas students with incomes below \$30,000 who are Pell eligible are already receiving scholarships and grants that meet all of their tuition and fees, primarily through Federal Pell Grants and the state's TEXAS Grant program.

**Is the 'Dusty Promise' renewable every year?**

The 'Dusty Promise' is renewable if the student meets the renewal requirements. First-time freshmen can receive the Dusty Promise for up to four consecutive years; Transferring freshmen and sophomores can receive the Dusty Promise for up to three consecutive years; and Transferring juniors and seniors can receive the Dusty Promise for up to two consecutive years.

**Is there a separate application for Dusty Promise?**

Yes, application for Dusty Promise is due January 15 as well as the submission of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

**May I receive the Dusty Promise for the summer terms?**

No, the Dusty Promise is for the fall and spring terms only.

**What are the renewable requirements for the 'Dusty Promise'?**

The 'Dusty Promise' renewable requirements are the following:

- Enrolled 15 hours per semester
- Complete 30 hours at the of the year (Fall, Spring, Summer)
- Maintain a 2.5 Overall TAMIU GPA
- Be in compliance with the TAMIU Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (SAPP)

**What does Dusty Promise cover?**

Dusty Promise covers tuition – state mandated fees, designated tuition, and differential tuition. In essence, this is a commitment by the University that those below \$30,000 in income will always have grants and scholarships to meet the mandated tuition and fee costs.

**What happens to my 'Dusty Promise' if I Fail or Withdraw from a class?**

If a student drops or fails a course, the student will be responsible to complete 30 hours at the end of the year. Therefore, students may enroll in courses during the Winter-mester, May-mester, and/or Summer sessions to complete the hours.

**When did the Dusty Promise program begin?**

The Dusty Promise program began fall 2007

**Who qualifies for Dusty Promise?**

Texas residents with an adjusted gross income of \$30,000 or less qualify for Dusty Promise. Adjusted gross income is defined as parents' adjusted gross income if the student is dependent or the student's adjusted gross income if the student is independent (as defined in the FAFSA).

**Will I get penalized if I completely withdraw after the 12<sup>th</sup> class day from the University?**

Students who withdraw from the University and received Federal Student Aid will have to go through a process called Return of Title IV calculation. When completed, students may owe a percentage back to the U. S. Department of Education for withdrawing. In addition, students who received a Federal Student Loan(s) will need to complete an Exit Counseling session in person and online. Repayment may begin on loans that have already exhausted the 6-month grace period.

**Will I see 'Dusty Promise' on my financial aid award letter?**

No, you will not see the words 'Dusty Promise' on your financial aid offer. The Dusty Promise is met through a combination of various grants and scholarships.