



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
CORPUS CHRISTI

University Scholarship Committee Conflict of Interest

As a scholarship committee member I am committed to conducting myself in a professional manner that is absent of bias and prejudice. All applicants will be objectively evaluated for eligibility with a specific scholarship.

As a committee member, I should avoid any situation that would jeopardize my judgment in the decision of evaluating scholarship applicants.

As a committee member, I should avoid any situation that could have, or give the appearance of having undue influence on other committee members' judgment in the decision of an applicant's eligibility.

As a committee member, I will abstain from the decision making process concerning a given applicant if unable to maintain objectivity regarding that applicant.

In the case of a potential conflict of interest, I will declare the conflict and leave the meeting until discussion on the applicant is completed.

I understand the Scholarship Committee conflict of interest statement and agree to adhere to the above statement and to the University Scholarship Committee policy.

Print committee member name

Committee member signature

Date

College/Program

I. Conflict of Interest

This policy statement is designed to facilitate implementation of the general conflict of interest policy of the University Scholarship committee.

Since outside interactions may carry with them an increased potential for conflicts of interest, either actual or perceived, it is important to communicate the following points:

- (a) in most cases, problems associated with actual or perceived conflicts of interest do not arise from the conflicts *per se*, but rather are the result of a failure to openly acknowledge and actively manage them;
- (b) it is important to outline the committee's process for identifying, assessing, and managing these potential conflicts to assure that both the integrity of the Scholarship Committee and the core activities of the committee are protected;
- (c) each candidate will be evaluated without bias and will objectively determine eligibility for a specific scholarship.
- (d) when a committee member is unable to maintain objectivity concerning a specific applicant, the member will abstain from the decision making process
- (e) each committee member should avoid any situation that would jeopardize his or her judgment that could give the appearance of having undue influence on other committee members judgment.
- (f) in the case of a conflict of interest, the member should declare the conflict, and leave the meeting until the discussion of the applicant is completed.
- (g) each committee member will be expected to sign an conflict of interest form.

DEFINITIONS

A. Conflicts of Interest

The term "conflict of interest" refers to situations in which financial or other personal considerations may adversely affect, or have the appearance of adversely affecting, the committee members professional judgment in exercising any duty or responsibility as a Scholarship committee member. The bias such conflicts could conceivably impart may inappropriately affect the goal of awarding scholarships. The mere appearance of a conflict may be as serious and potentially damaging as an actual distortion. A committee member should excuse his or her self from the decision making process if there is any bias or prejudice with a given applicant. All decisions must be based on the applicant meeting the criteria for the given scholarship. The committee members must be objective and make decisions without prejudice.