

Payback Requirements for RSA Long Term Training Scholars

RSA scholars must satisfy the following employment obligation in the Payback Regulations, which are found in 34 CFR Part 386:

- The scholar must work in a State vocational rehabilitation (VR) agency, a non-profit rehabilitation agency, or a related agency, including a professional practice group through which the individual has a service agreement with the State VR agency.
- Employment in a State VR agency may include employment in VR, supported employment, or independent living programs administered by the State VR agency.
- Employment in a related agency may include employment in an American Indian VR services program or in any of the following agencies that provide services to individuals with disabilities under an agreement with a State VR agency in the area of specialty for which training is provided:
 - A Federal, State, or local agency;
 - Nonprofit organization; or
 - A professional corporation or professional practice group.
- Based on 34 CFR 386.4 (b), a for-profit organization may qualify as a professional corporation or professional practice group provided it meets the above-stated requirements.

If a scholar is unable to secure qualifying employment within the timeframe outlined in the regulations, absent obtaining a deferral or an exception as provided in 34 CFR 386.41, the scholar must repay the scholarship.

If a scholar, who received funds under a Comprehensive System of Personnel Development (CSPD) grant, resigns or is terminated from employment prior to completion of his/her program of study and does not obtain qualifying employment to satisfy the required service obligation, the scholar will be required to repay the scholarship.



Requirements of Long-Term Training Grantees

- Grantees cannot officially admit any individual as an RSA scholar into the Long-Term Training Grant program without the scholar signing a Payback Agreement. Grantees must give each scholar a copy of this signed Agreement and maintain a copy for their records. Additionally, grantees are required to review and adhere to the program regulations at 34 CFR 386.33, which discuss in great detail activities that must occur prior to disbursement of any funds to an RSA scholar.
- A grantee who knowingly admits a scholar in the program who is unable to perform or complete the required service obligation, could be found liable to repay the financial assistance provided to the scholar.
- Prior to asking a scholar to sign the Payback Agreement form, the Project Director must confirm that an individual interested in receiving a RSA scholarship:
 1. Has expressed an interest in a career in clinical practice, administration, supervision, teaching, or research in the vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, or independent living rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with severe disabilities;
 2. Has documentation that the individual expects to maintain or seek employment in a State VR agency or in a nonprofit rehabilitation, professional corporation, professional practice group, or related agency providing services to individuals with disabilities or individuals with severe disabilities under an agreement with a State VR agency; and
 3. Fully understands the terms and conditions of the Payback Service Obligation and what is meant by “a qualifying employment setting.”
- Grantees are required to issue, sign, and date an exit certificate for a scholar who completes the program or otherwise exits the program. Grantees are also required to include the following elements in the exit certificate:
 1. The name of the institution and the number of the Federal grant that provided the scholarship;
 2. The scholar's field of study;
 3. The number of years the scholar needs to work to satisfy the work requirements;
 4. The total amount of scholarship assistance received subject to the work-or-repay provision;
 5. The time period during which the scholar must satisfy the work requirements; and
 6. All other obligations of the scholar, which can be found at 34 CFR 386.34.



- Grantees must retain the signed Payback Agreement, the signed Exit Certificate, and the scholar's current contact information on file until the service obligation is met, the debt has been paid, or an exception permanently waiving the obligation has been approved.
- Grantees must make RSA scholars aware that they are required to obtain qualifying employment in the area in which the financial assistance was provided. For example, if financial support was provided in the specialty area of Rehabilitation of Individuals Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, the scholar must seek and obtain qualifying employment in this specialty area to satisfy the service obligation.
- Grantees must determine whether an employment setting in which the scholar is interested qualifies to meet the scholar's service obligation.
- Grantees must maintain accurate and up-to-date scholar and payback records, including obtaining employment verification from scholars on at least an annual basis.
- If a grantee does not maintain proper documentation that establishes the obligation of the scholar to perform the service obligation, and if the scholar does not maintain qualifying employment or repay the debt, the grantee could be found liable to repay the financial assistance provided to the scholar.
- Grantees must include the following requirements of scholars in the scholarship agreement and exit certification:
 1. Scholars must discuss options/plans for pursuing qualifying employment with the Project Director. RSA scholars should never assume that employment qualifies to repay their service obligation established in the Payback Regulations without first discussing the employment opportunity with the Project Director.
 2. Scholars must provide the Project Director with required documentation such as annual verification of qualifying employment or a transcript to verify a full-time course of study if in a deferral status.



REHABILITATION COUNSELING M.A PROGRAM
RSA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**Select your training Grant**

- Rehabilitation of Individuals who are Mentally Ill
 Vocational Rehabilitation Services
 Rehabilitation of Individuals who are Blind or have Vision Impairments

Please type or print

Semester applying for RSA Scholarship (e.g. Fall 2014): _____

Applicant Name: _____

Social Security #: _____ Telephone: _____

Permanent Address : _____ City, St. Zip _____

Current Address: _____ City, St, Zip _____

Please list one adult family member living with you (in case of an emergency)

Name: _____

Email address _____ Telephone: _____

Relationship _____

Please list one adult family member not living with you (in case of an emergency)

Name: _____

Email address _____ Telephone: _____

Relationship _____

Student ID Number (NOT SSN): _____

UA Email: _____

Personal Email: _____

Advisor: _____

Anticipated semester & year of graduation: _____

Signature

Date

By my signature here I affirm that all information contained herein is true and accurate and agree to all conditions, rules, regulations, and criteria as established by the U.S. Department of Education, the Rehabilitation Services Administration, University of Arizona and the Department of Disability and Psychoeducational Studies. I HAVE READ THE RSA PAYBACK MANUAL AND UNDERSTAND ALL ITS TERMS, CONDITIONS, AND STIPULATIONS. I understand that failure to provide true and accurate information or failure to adhere to the conditions, rules, regulations, and criteria may result in forfeiture of my award and obligation to forthwith pay back any and all monetary awards received as a result. I understand that I must maintain a 3.0 GPA on a 4-point scale.

FOR GRANT REPORTING PURPOSES:

This information will be used for general reporting to RSA and in identifying scholars of underrepresented groups which receive priority in the awarding of the scholarship.

Race/Ethnic Origin:

White, not Hispanic

Black, not Hispanic

Hispanic

Native American

Asian or Pacific Islander

Sex:

Female Male

Age:

49 or under

50 to 64

65 and over

Disabled: Yes No

If yes, please give specific details with regard to the severity and percentage of involvement.

Please complete and submit Application to: Liz Piña-Figueroa