

Tuition Exchange Exports FAQ

1. Who is eligible for tuition exchange?

Undergraduate dependent children under the age of 26 of fulltime faculty, fulltime staff with 2 years of employment, and in some cases employees with 15 years of service (whether working or not).

2. When does the application cycle begin?

All USC employees must apply the summer before their child's senior year of high school or the year before their child's anticipated fall enrollment, if not currently in high school. The TE certification application is available July 1 online at <https://employees.usc.edu/tuition-exchange/> and is due by October 1.

3. What do I need to submit?

The TE application and copy of your child's state certified birth certificate.

4. What is the next step?

You will be notified of the next step by the TE liaison after your application is received and once eligibility is determined.

5. Do I also need to apply for admission?

YES. All students must formally apply for admission to each college by the college's posted admission deadline, with no reference to tuition exchange eligibility.

6. Where do I find the TE Member Schools?

The TE Member Schools are listed on the TE website: <https://telo.tuitionexchange.org/schools.cfm>.

7. Are transfer students eligible?

DEPENDS. Specific policies such as "freshmen only" are noted by individual schools on the TE website, although most schools consider students at all undergraduate class levels.

8. How many semesters does the TE scholarship cover?

TE awards are based on class levels with an 8 semester maximum for entering freshmen. Sophomores would be awarded 6 semesters and juniors would be awarded 4 semesters to complete degrees OR graduation, whichever is first.

9. How much tuition is covered with the scholarship?

The TE website reflects the award amounts at each school, which vary.

10. I missed the October 1 scholarship deadline, so what are my options?

As the largest private employer in the city of Los Angeles, the number of USC TE requests is very high. Because our TE program requires a balance of outgoing and incoming students, we are not able to consider export applicants after the deadline. The following academic year would be the next option to apply.

11. Since I missed the application deadline can my child apply for the spring term?

NO. TE scholarship awards are approved for a full year. There are no openings in spring terms for exports, since USC does not have a spring admission cycle for imports.

12. My child applied last year and was not awarded tuition exchange. Do I need to reapply next year?

YES. A new application is required for the next academic year.

13. Do I need to apply every year if my child was awarded tuition exchange?

NO. There is an annual recertification to verify that the employee still has education benefits. TE liaisons recertify continuing students annually, typically in March.

14. What happens to my child's tuition exchange if I leave the university?

If an employee leaves USC with 15 years of service, there is no impact to the student's eligibility. However, tuition would be prorated and billed to the family if the employee loses eligibility and has less than 15 years of service.

15. My child has completed the TE application and applied for admission to the colleges; when will we be notified of the TE decision?

Notifications of admission must be made before tuition exchange decisions are made. Each school provides their TE announcement date on the TE website.

16. My child applied for an early admission decision; when will we be notified of the TE decision?

The early admission process does not mean that the tuition exchange decision will be made sooner than the announcement dates. All applicants are ranked academically to determine awards.

17. If my child uses the TE program are they eligible to transfer to USC or use tuition assistance (TAB) at USC for graduate school?

NO. Students who accept TE awards are committed to earning degrees at the other institution, and therefore aren't eligible for TAB should they transfer to USC.

18. Can I as a TE student transfer to USC and use the TAB benefit?

NO. The two programs may not be combined. Students and parents sign TE contracts with the understanding that TE is a commitment through graduation.

19. Does the TE program cover progressive degrees?

NO. The program is available for bachelor's degrees only.

20. Is there a grade point average (GPA) requirement to continue in the program?

Each school sets its own guidelines for students. If there is a GPA requirement, the school will note it in the offer letter.

21. Does applying for a tuition exchange scholarship affect my child's chances for admission to USC?

NO. Students apply independently for admission to USC with no reference to tuition exchange. The USC admissions office is not aware of a student's applying to other universities through TE.