

CINCINNATUS

Scholarship Renewal

What is the Cincinnatus GPA and service hour renewal requirement?

Following the spring term of each year, students will be reviewed and must have a 3.200 cumulative GPA as well as have completed 15 community service hours per semester of scholarship funding during that academic year (up to the annual 30 hours). Students are eligible for a maximum of 8 in-class, full-time semesters assuming continuous enrollment in a UC degree program.

How do I know if my service is eligible community service?

Your submitted hours will be evaluated against the National and Community Service Act of 1990 definition: **Those services designed to improve the quality of life for community residents (general public), particularly low-income individuals, or solving problems related to their needs.** If you are unclear about service meeting this definition, you can review information at financialaid.uc.edu/scholarship-service or contact staff at cincinnatus@uc.edu or by calling 513-556-2420.

Are there activities that are not approved?

The Scholarship and New Student Financial Aid Office works with students and service providers to count activities when possible. However, there are areas that we ask students to view as more volunteer than service in nature and therefore not eligible for submitting for scholarship renewal.

Fundraising that Benefits Self: Raising money to fund one's own student organization or place of worship is not acceptable. If you could benefit from the raised funds, it is not service that is assisting others.

Assisting at Your Place of Worship: Singing in the choir, ushering, running the video/sound equipment, grounds keeping, and teaching classes or providing childcare are examples of activities that are normal volunteer and involvement efforts by a member. However, activities through your place of worship that provide assistance to non-members (participating in mission work, providing meals for those in need) may meet the service definition.

Assisting Neighbors: Providing services to people that are generally at the same means is typically seen as volunteer work rather than service. You can see how activities such as mowing the neighbor's lawn and helping the neighbor's child with homework are not the same as a cleanup in an under-served area and tutoring children in a resource-poor school.

What do I need to know about completing on-campus community service hours?

On-campus community service hours must receive prior approval from the Cincinnatus office. On-campus hours must be for a program, project, or service open to the public and where no one is normally paid a wage so as to ensure that you and the University of Cincinnati are in compliance with IRS regulations. You are limited to no more than 10 on-campus hours annually.

How can I determine if an activity is considered on-campus or off-campus?

Ask yourself the question, "Who does this service benefit?" If you are participating in service on the UC campus, but the service is benefiting an organization outside of campus, then the service would be considered off-campus service. For example, Relay for Life taking place on-campus is considered off-campus, because it benefits the American Cancer Society.

What is the deadline for turning in Cincinnatus community service hours?

Your service is due the last day of spring term each year.

Do I wait to submit all of the service hours at once?

No. It is in your interest to utilize online options discussed at financialaid.uc.edu/scholarship-service or submit service forms as you complete them. Verified online service hours are retrieved by the Cincinnatus Program monthly with no further action on your part. When using paper service forms, consider turning in hours at least each term to avoid a rush at the end of the year. Always remember to SIGN any service form, and make a COPY prior to submitting it.

Where do I turn in the Cincinnatus community service form? Who do I contact about service eligibility? Who do I contact if I should have any question about my Cincinnatus scholarship?

Scholarship and New Student Financial Aid Center
www.financialaid.uc.edu/scholarship-service

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