



## The 2015-2016 ¡Profes! UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLAR PROGRAM APPLICATION

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### OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) has awarded a five year grant to Texas A&M University-Commerce, entitled ¡Profes!: Preparing Teachers & Administrators to Better Serve English Learners in Bilingual, ESL & STEM Classrooms. The purpose of this grant is to increase the number of bilingual and ESL teachers and administrators in the region. As a result of this grant, the ¡Profes! Scholars Program was founded during the fall of 2012. The ¡Profes! Grant Office invites you to submit your application for the 2015-2016 Scholar Program.

### SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The ¡Profes! Undergraduate Scholar Program is a competitive; non-needs based program that provides \$2000-\$3000/year scholarships for full-time juniors or seniors who want to become bilingual teachers. Candidates for this scholarship also include teacher aides & community liaisons who are bilingual (Spanish-English) and have attained junior or senior level status. **Transfer students from community colleges may also apply with selection contingent on admission to the university's teacher education program.**

### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be considered for the ¡Profes! Scholars program:

- Minimum of **sixty hours** earned (junior status)
- Be admitted to the Texas A&M University-Commerce **teacher education** program
- **Commitment** to teach English Learners and enrolled in the EC-6 Bilingual Generalist specialization
- Pass the **THEA** with the following scores: READING – 250, MATH – 230, WRITING 230
- Overall **GPA** – 2.75
- Take the university's **Spanish Placement Test**, administered by the Student Assessment Office, and place into junior (300) level Spanish courses

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Applicants must submit the following by **May 1, 2015**:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Completed application form (by email, snail mail or at ¡Profes! office located in EDS 132). Must be signed by the applicant (hand-written signature required). See page 3.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A 400–600 word typed essay in response to the questions. See page 4.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Official college transcript(s) if transferring from another university. If already enrolled at TAMU-Commerce, an unofficial transcript may be submitted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two letters of recommendation (**at least one from a college instructor**) containing handwritten signatures.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of the letter from the university's Spanish Department providing your score on the Spanish Placement Test and which Spanish course they have placed you in. More info at <http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/testingOffice/placementExams/spanishPlacement.aspx>.

## GRANT TERMS

### *Initial Awards*

The award will be divided into the fall and spring semesters, and will be added to student accounts after scholarship selection is made. Funds may be used to pay tuition and fees, or to lower student loan amounts. Payment dates are tentative and subject to change, but will be distributed consistent with the purpose and requirements of the program.

### *Scholarship Recipients*

Our funder, the Office of English Language Acquisition, requires us to report annually on the grant's participants and activities to receive continued funding from Congress. As a result, throughout the award period and for up to three years after graduation, students will be required to comply with requests for information from the grant's principal investigator, co-investigators and external evaluator. This includes participation in and submitting periodic reports for **the following components of the program:**

- Scholars must participate **at least 10 hours per semester** in one or a combination of the following programs:
  - **¡Servimos!/We Serve**-Volunteer as a tutor for Spanish-speaking adults or children at a recommended learning center or a school of your choice
  - **¡Enriquecemos!/We Enrich**-Participate in monthly workshops designed to improve your academic Spanish and learn ways to teach creative writing
- **¡Guiamos/We Guide**-Scholars will be assigned a graduate student as a mentor. They must communicate with their mentors regularly during the time in which they are receiving the scholarship and for up to three years after graduation. An online learning community has been established to facilitate mentor/mentee communication and all Scholars and Fellows will be required to use it.
- **Fall and Spring Orientations**-Attendance at both of these events is required, since all components, policies, and expectations of this scholarship are reviewed at these events.
- **Other as determined by the grant Principal Investigator.**

### *Reapplication*

Students may re-apply annually for a scholarship provided they maintain a 2.75 GPA, continue to seek bilingual certification, and are enrolled in the minimum number of hours as follows:

- Full time juniors and seniors-12 hours/semester (fall and spring).
- Part-time students (uncertified teachers, teacher aides and community liaisons employed full-time in public or charter schools)-18 hours/year.

### *After Graduation*

Upon completing their bachelor's degrees and obtaining EC-6 Bilingual Generalist certification, students must:

- Seek a bilingual teaching position & teach ELLs in a bilingual classroom for at least three years.
- Provide employment and contact information to the project director annually.
- Cooperate with requests from the project evaluator for information required as part of the three-year federally mandated follow-up monitoring.

Students who fail to comply with any of the above requirements for scholarship recipients may be required to reimburse the grant funds in accordance with the payment procedures established in the *¡Profes!* Scholarship Agreement/Contract, which all recipients must sign to receive the awards.

### **Please submit all documents to the following:**

**Texas A&M University- Commerce, ATT: *¡Profes!* Grant Office, EDS 132,  
Department of Curriculum & Instruction,  
PO Box 3011, Commerce, Texas 75429**

They can also be hand-delivered to the *¡Profes!* Grant Office in EDS (Education South) 132.

If you prefer to fax: 903-886-5581

*Incomplete applications will not be considered.*

**For more information, contact: [ProfesGrant@tamuc.edu](mailto:ProfesGrant@tamuc.edu), (903) 468-8775 OR**  
Grant Coordinator, Gilbert Hernández, [Gilbert.Hernandez@tamuc.edu](mailto:Gilbert.Hernandez@tamuc.edu), (903) 468-8773 OR  
Grant Principal Investigator, Dr. Chris Green, [Chris.Green@tamuc.edu](mailto:Chris.Green@tamuc.edu), (903) 886-5533



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1. Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID #: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell or work phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
MyLeo email (will be used as primary email): \_\_\_\_\_  
Other email (will be used as secondary email): \_\_\_\_\_
4. Current status: (Please check all that apply):  
\_\_\_\_ Undergraduate student currently enrolled in Texas A&M University-Commerce  
\_\_\_\_ Transfer undergraduate student (from another college or university)  
\_\_\_\_ Paraprofessional      \_\_\_\_ Community liaison
5. Have you been accepted into the TAMUC Teacher Education Program?  
\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No
6. Check the teacher certification program you will be seeking:  
\_\_\_\_ EC – 6 Bilingual Generalist  
\_\_\_\_ Other. Please list: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Are you currently employed by any of the following school districts or charters?  
\_\_\_\_ Sherman ISD      \_\_\_\_ Commerce ISD      \_\_\_\_ Phoenix Charter School  
\_\_\_\_ Richardson ISD      \_\_\_\_ Greenville ISD      \_\_\_\_ Mount Pleasant ISD  
\_\_\_\_ Sulphur Springs ISD  
\_\_\_\_ Other, Please provide if not listed above: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you speak a language other than English fluently? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
If yes, what language? \_\_\_\_\_
9. Do you read and write a language well other than English? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
If yes, what language? \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that all of the information included in this application is true and complete.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant Signature (Original Signature Required)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

See the next page for the essay questions. Submit typed responses to the questions on a separate sheet of paper together with your recommendations, transcript and this application form.



**Directions:**

1. Write your name and the date at the top of your paper.
2. Copy the essay questions for New Applicants or for Re-applicants, depending on which category you fit into, onto your paper.
3. Answer the questions with 100-150 word responses for each question. This will result in a total of 400 to 600 words.

**Essay Questions for New Applicants:**

If this is your **first time** applying for a ¡Profes! scholarship, please answer the following questions:

1. What are your experiences teaching English Learners (ELs)? Describe any experiences you have had with teaching in general and also teaching EL students.
2. What are your teaching career plans? Describe how and why you decided to seek EC-6 Bilingual Generalist teaching certification.
3. What is it about bilingual education that attracts you and what vision do you have of the kind of teacher you hope to become?
4. What will you contribute to the schools and programs you teach in?

**Essay Questions for Re-Applicants:**

If you have received a ¡Profes! scholarship **in the past**, please answer the following questions:

1. What has receiving a ¡Profes! scholarship meant to you? Have you felt as though it was an honor as well as a welcome source of financial aid?
2. What have you learned about bilingual education and becoming a bilingual teacher as a result of being a ¡Profes! Scholar and from your BLED (bilingual education) courses?
3. How have the ¡Profes! support programs such as ¡Enriquecemos!, ¡Guíamos!, and ¡Servimos! helped you? Has participation in any of them been too much of a burden for you in any way?
4. What role will serving the community play in your future life as a teacher?