MERIT-BASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

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Scholarships

There are two types of scholarships offered by the University of Maryland (UMD), they are either merit-based or need-based. Specific merit scholarships are offered by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. More information about these scholarships is available in the Finance section of their website.

Baneker/Key Scholarship

The University of Maryland seeks to identify and select some of the brightest high school seniors to continue their education as Baneker/Key Scholars. There are two award levels for Baneker Key Scholarships. The first award level covers tuition costs, mandatory fees, room and board, and a book allowance each year for eight consecutive undergraduate semesters. The second award level provides a partial tuition scholarship and a book allowance each year for eight consecutive undergraduate semesters. Scholarship recipients will also be admitted to the Honors College. To be considered for the Baneker/Key Scholarship, students must submit a completed application for admission and all required application materials by the November 1 early action deadline. Selected semifinalists are invited to an interview conducted by the Baneker/Key Selection Committee. Factors such as a candidate’s involvement in community service, talents or skills, leadership and character all play a part in the final awards. Learn more by visiting the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Freshman Merit Scholarships (https://admissions.umd.edu/finance/freshman-merit-scholarships/) page.

Creative and Performing Arts Scholarships

These are competitive scholarships that are awarded annually. Primary consideration will be given to entering freshmen and transfer students from community colleges with outstanding talent in art, dance, music or theater. The scholarships cover in-state tuition and mandatory fees and are renewable for up to three years based upon an acceptable level of performance as defined by the respective departments. Additional application materials and information about required auditions are available directly from the College of Arts & Humanities (https://arhu.umd.edu/academicsundergraduate-studies/scholarships-academic-honors/).

Dean’s Scholarship

This award provides talented prospective freshmen with scholarship support for two to four consecutive undergraduate semesters. Awards range from $1,500 for freshman year or $4,500 per year for both freshmen and sophomore years. To be considered, students must submit a completed admission application and all required application materials by the November 1 early action deadline. Learn more by visiting the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Freshman Merit Scholarships (https://admissions.umd.edu/finance/freshman-merit-scholarships/) page.

Frederick Douglass Scholarship

The Frederick Douglass Scholarship (https://admissions.umd.edu/finance/transfer-merit-scholarships/frederick-douglass-scholarship/) is a prestigious UMD award for academically talented transfer students from a Maryland community college. The award covers in-state tuition for four consecutive undergraduate semesters. To be eligible, students must have completed 56 or more credits or have an associate degree and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Students who have previously attended UMD are ineligible for this scholarship. To apply for the Frederick Douglass Scholarship, candidates must submit a completed admission application (and all required application materials) and the scholarship application by March 1.

Kelly, Shipley or Weinberg Regents Scholarships

In order to continue the commitment to awarding outstanding students, the Board of Regents has designated several Regents Scholarships for Maryland community college transfer students. To be selected for this award, the transfer student must have exceptional qualifications, including achievement of a 4.0 grade point average, completion of an associate degree at a Maryland community college, evidence of creative and intellectual activities or scholarly potential and have been admitted to one of the University System of Maryland institutions. The deadline for submitting the candidate’s application materials is May 15. The selected students may receive the scholarship for two years, totaling no more than four semesters, including summer sessions. For information, contact the University System of Maryland System Office (https://www.usmd.edu/) at 301.445.1992.

Maryland State Scholarships

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (https://mhec.state.md.us/Pages/default.aspx) (MHEC) awards both need-based and merit-based scholarships to Maryland residents. There are many different programs available, including the Guaranteed Access (GA) Grant, Educational Assistance (EA) Grant and the Legislative Scholarships (Delegate and Senatorial). You may obtain more information about these and other programs by visiting the MHEC (https://mhec.state.md.us/Pages/default.aspx) website. All Maryland residents are encouraged to apply for State scholarship assistance. The initial application for many of the awards is made through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Please note that filing the FAFSA annually by the January 1 deadline is sufficient to apply for most Maryland State Scholarships at UMD, although some may require additional application forms. The application deadline for most programs is March 1. The FAFSA is available online at the Federal Student Aid (https://studentaid.gov/) website.

President’s Scholarship

This award provides talented prospective freshmen with scholarship support for eight consecutive undergraduate semesters. Awards ranging from $2,000 to $12,500 per year are offered to incoming freshmen. Students are selected through the admission process with primary consideration given to academic achievement, extracurricular activities, awards, honors, recommendations and the essay. For full consideration, students must submit a complete application for admission and all required application materials by the November 1 early action deadline. Learn more by visiting the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Freshman Merit Scholarships (https://admissions.umd.edu/finance/freshman-merit-scholarships/) page.
President's Transfer Scholarship
This scholarship is a two-year $5,000 per year scholarship for transfer students. No separate application is required for consideration, recipients are identified through evaluation of admission application materials. The scholarship will be awarded to the most competitive transfer students with the strongest academic records and college grade point averages. Students who are awarded the scholarship will receive notification a few weeks after receiving their letter of admission. Learn more by visiting the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Transfer Merit Scholarships (https://admissions.umd.edu/finance/transfer-merit-scholarships/) page.

Regents Scholars Program
The Regents Scholars Program recognizes the extraordinary achievement of outstanding freshmen students. New awards are made each year in the amount of full in-state tuition, mandatory fees, room, board and a $1,000 stipend. Recipients are automatically admitted to the Honors College. A select number of the top high school scholars in the state will be considered for this most prestigious award. A complete admission application and all required application materials must be submitted by the November 1 early action deadline for consideration. Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (http://www.admissions.umd.edu) for more information.

Scholarships from Other States
Several states have reciprocal agreements with the state of Maryland. Students who are residents of these states may receive funds for study in eligible post-secondary institutions in Maryland. Interested students should contact their state scholarship agencies for information.

Outside Scholarship Searches
There is a broad range of scholarships available from private sources. Usually, these awards are not as well publicized as state and university programs. Therefore, students should conduct a scholarship search to locate such sources. UMD offers students access to several services to aid them in their searches. Review the Helpful Links (https://financialaid.umd.edu/resources-policies/helpful-links/) page of the Office of Student Financial Aid website for more information on these resources.

University of Maryland Departmental Scholarships
Many of the academic departments at UMD offer merit-based scholarships. For more information, please visit the Departmental Scholarships (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/fees-expenses-financial-aid/departmental-scholarships/) section of the catalog. Students are encouraged to contact the office or department responsible for selecting recipients for more information on this programs.