Merit-Based Financial Assistance

0102 Lee Building  
Phone: 301-314-TERP (8377)  
Fax: 301-405-9265  
sfa-scholarships@umd.edu (sfa-scholarships@umd.edu)  
https://financialaid.umd.edu/

Scholarships

Several scholarships are available to the highest-achieving students at UMD. The two types of scholarships that are available are based solely on academic or creative talent (merit-based), and those based on financial need (need-based). The eligibility criteria for the different UMD merit-based scholarships are listed below. Please also see college and departmental scholarships (https://academiccatalog.umd.edu/undergraduate/fees-expenses-financial-aid/college-departmental-scholarships). Students are encouraged to contact the office or department responsible for selecting the recipients for more information on these programs. Current information about merit scholarships offered through Undergraduate Admissions is also available on the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (https://admissions.umd.edu) under “Finance.”

Banneker/Key Scholarship

The University of Maryland seeks to identify and select some of the brightest high school seniors in the nation to continue their education as Banneker/Key Scholars. There are two award levels for Banneker Key Scholarships. The first award level covers the costs of tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, and a book allowance each year for eight undergraduate consecutive semesters. The second award level provides a partial scholarship to go towards tuition, and a book allowance each year for eight undergraduate consecutive semesters. Scholarship recipients will also be admitted to the Honors College and will be offered many other opportunities as they participate in intellectual enrichment programs. For full consideration, students must submit an admission application, application fee, official transcript, essay, recommendations, and official copies of SAT or ACT scores to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions by November 1st for the following academic year. Selected semifinalists are given a personal interview by the Banneker/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. Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (https://admissions.umd.edu) for more information.

Creative and Performing Arts Scholarships

These are competitive scholarships which are awarded annually. Primary consideration will be given to entering freshmen and transfer students from community colleges that have 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 (http://www.arhu.umd.edu).

Dean’s Scholarship

This award provides talented prospective freshmen with scholarship support for two to four undergraduate consecutive semesters. Awards ranging from $1,500 for freshman year or $4,500 per year for both freshmen and sophomore years. To be considered, students must submit a complete application for admission by November 1. Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (http://www.admissions.umd.edu) for more information.

Frederick Douglass Scholarship

These awards are available to outstanding students transferring from Maryland community colleges. The awards cover in-state tuition for four consecutive semesters of undergraduate study. To be eligible students must have completed 56 or more credits or have an Associates of Arts degree and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better. Students who have previously attended the University of Maryland, College Park, are ineligible for this scholarship. Candidate nomination forms are available in early January from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions or community college advisors. The deadline for receipt of the application, official transcripts, and scholarship materials is March 1. Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (http://www.admissions.umd.edu) for more information.

Kelly, Shipley or Weinberg Regents Scholarships

In order to continue the commitment to outstanding students, the Board of Regents has designated several Regents Scholarships to be awarded to 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 the associate’s 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 material is May 15. The winner 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 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 calling MHEC at (800) 974-0203. All Maryland residents are expected 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 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 Federal Student Aid website (https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa).

President’s Scholarship

This award provides talented prospective freshmen with scholarship support for eight undergraduate consecutive semesters. Awards ranging from $2,000 to $12,000 per year are offered to incoming freshmen. Students are selected through the admissions process with primary consideration given to academic performance in high school (high school courses and achievement), results of standardized test scores (SAT or ACT), extracurricular activities, awards, honors, recommendations, and the essay. For full consideration, students must submit a complete
application for admission by November 1. Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (http://www.admissions.umd.edu) for more information.

**President's Transfer Scholarship**

This scholarship is a two-year $5,000 per year scholarship for transfer students. Students do not have to fill out a separate application to be considered as they will be evaluated based on their application to the University of Maryland. 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 by mail about two weeks after they receive their letter of admission. Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions (http://www.admissions.umd.edu) for more information.

**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 $1000 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, application fee, official transcript, essay, recommendations, and SAT or ACT scores must be submitted to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions by November 1 for consideration for the Regents Scholars Program for the following academic year. 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.

**Scholarship Searches**

A broad range of scholarships is 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. The University of Maryland offers access to several services to students to aid them in their searches. Access our website (http://www.financialaid.umd.edu/scholarships) to use these services.

**University of Maryland Departmental Scholarships**

Some Colleges and departments at the university offer a variety of merit scholarships. Most departmental scholarships require a student to have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and be registered for a minimum of 12 credits per semester. For information regarding departmental scholarships, please contact the appropriate College or department.