

# Merit-Based Scholarships



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## Richmond Scholars Program

The qualities listed below are found in all University of Richmond students, but successful scholarship candidates present compelling evidence of one or more of the following:

- Outstanding and engaged scholarship
- A desire to be at the forefront in the creation and discovery of new knowledge
- Proven leadership skills
- A desire to be a leader in service to society; a concern for social justice
- A broad worldview
- Excitement about learning from people who are different from themselves in a diverse community of scholars
- Recognition of the importance of personal integrity and ethical decision-making
- An enthusiastic pursuit of self-improvement
- A desire to make the most of opportunities presented
- Exceptional talent in artistic expression

Students such as these are selected for Richmond's merit-based scholarships and thrive in Richmond's dynamic learning environment.

## Richmond Scholars Program Benefits

The University will award up to **45 full-tuition scholarships** annually to select incoming first-year students. The Richmond Scholars Program includes these benefits:

- Full-tuition scholarship, renewable for up to eight consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment, valued at approximately \$188,000 over four years
- Eligibility for a one-time \$3,000 grant to support a student-selected activity that enhances the academic experience
- Priority course registration and guaranteed on-campus housing
- Specially selected faculty mentors to guide students and help them fulfill their potential
- Complimentary tickets to selected cultural events in the Modlin Center for the Arts

## Distinctive Designations within the Richmond Scholars Program

All Richmond Scholars are identified by a designation within the program (some designations afford additional benefits beyond full tuition):

### Oldham Scholars

Up to seven Richmond Scholars who exemplify the highest scholarship, personal integrity, and potential for leadership will receive an award equal to the value of full tuition plus room and board. The award is open to students interested in any field of study.

### Science Scholars

Up to 12 Richmond Scholars demonstrating passion and excellence in scientific discovery and research in the sciences, mathematics, or computer science will be designated as Science Scholars. Up to four of these will receive tuition, room, and board; the remainder will receive full tuition. All Science Scholars must major in the sciences and exhibit a strong potential for the successful pursuit of a career in a science, math, or computer science field.

### Artist Scholars

Up to six Richmond Scholars with extraordinary artistic talent and who will major or minor in the visual or performing arts will be designated as Artist Scholars and receive full tuition. Scholars are paired with arts faculty mentors to maximize opportunities to develop their talents. Please see [scholars.richmond.edu](http://scholars.richmond.edu) for details.

### Boatwright Scholars

Up to 20 Richmond Scholars will be designated as Boatwright Scholars and receive full tuition. Through a range of majors and concentrations, Boatwright Scholars are distinguished by their commitment, both individually and collectively, to strengthen and broaden the intellectual life of our campus. The award is open to students interested in any field of study and is based on a combination of academic achievement and personal qualities.

## Applying to the Richmond Scholars Program

Please visit [admission.richmond.edu/apply](http://admission.richmond.edu/apply) for detailed instructions—all applications submitted before December 1 will be reviewed for Richmond Scholars consideration.

## Process for Richmond Scholars Selection

First-year admission applicants who apply by December 1 of the senior year compete for 45 Richmond Scholar awards. As is the case with consideration for admission, the evaluation process is highly personalized and holistic. The writing sample is crucial, because it is the medium through which the potential for special contributions to the University community can be assessed. While grade point averages and test scores are critical, they do not represent the whole student and are not used for either automatic inclusion or exclusion.

Students who are selected to advance to the semifinalist round will be notified by email. Semifinalists will be asked to select up to two scholarship designations, as listed above, for which they would like to be considered. (Additional materials may be required.) Those students whose applications do not advance to the semifinalist round will not be notified.

Finalists will be interviewed by faculty committees in March.

## Special Program for Richmond Scholars Oliver Hill Scholars

The Oliver Hill Scholars Program, named after Civil Rights icon Oliver Hill, Sr., is an additional offering within the Richmond Scholars Program, and Richmond Scholars of any background are welcome to apply.

Oliver Hill Scholars are academically accomplished, intellectually curious students who are interested in building a community of learners within a

multicultural environment. During the academic year, Oliver Hill Scholars participate in engaging and culturally stimulating activities, some of which revolve around the African-American community.

Oliver Hill Scholars routinely share their experiences in an open and accepting environment, participating in a seminar series and other programs that meet throughout the year. A trip off-campus every fall is also a part of the program.

Each Oliver Hill Scholar is awarded \$1,000 annually, in addition to the Richmond Scholar award, to enrich his or her college experience.

Admission to the program is limited to those selected to be Richmond Scholars.

## Other Scholarships

In addition to the Richmond Scholars Program, there are other merit award opportunities for first-year admission applicants. See **Special Note** below.

### Presidential Scholarships

Presidential Scholarships of one-third of tuition are awarded annually to students who have achieved outstanding high-school records in a highly rigorous curriculum and have earned superior standardized test scores. The scholarships are renewable for up to eight semesters of full-time enrollment. All admission applicants are considered; therefore, no separate application is required. For more information, contact the Office of Admission.

### National Merit, National Achievement, National Hispanic Recognition

Scholarships ranging from \$750-\$2,000 per year (renewable for eight consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment) are available to National Merit Finalists, National Achievement Scholarship Finalists, and National Hispanic Scholars. National Merit Finalists who are admitted must identify the University of Richmond as their first-choice school with the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which will allow them to be eligible for this award. Students who are not selected

for a National Merit Scholarship or a National Achievement Scholarship from another sponsor may be selected for Richmond's annual awards. Students must apply for admission by January 15 of the senior year. All eligible admission applicants are considered; therefore, no separate application is required. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office.

### Bonner Scholars Program (Community Engagement)

Up to 25 first-year students with a history of community service are named Bonner Scholars. Ten hours of weekly community engagement are exchanged for a monetary award of \$2,500 for each of four years of undergraduate study. Scholars also earn up to \$5,500 for participation in two summers of community service. In addition, Scholars are eligible for up to \$2,000 in loan-reduction monies.

**Criteria for selection:** The academic profiles of successful candidates are consistent with all admitted students to the University. Above and beyond scholastic qualities, Bonner Scholars must demonstrate a commitment to service at home, in school, or in a community or religious organization. Because the majority of these awards are need-sensitive, students are encouraged to complete the University's need-based financial aid process to determine financial need; however, some scholarships may be awarded based on merit alone. Contact the Bonner Scholars Program at (804) 484-1630 or [bonner@richmond.edu](mailto:bonner@richmond.edu) for additional information or visit [engage.richmond.edu/programs/bonner](http://engage.richmond.edu/programs/bonner).

### Davis United World College Scholars

All graduates of the United World College (UWC) system are eligible to receive a Davis incentive grant. Need-based awards range up to \$10,000 (renewable for eight semesters of full-time enrollment and based on need) to further students' education at the University of Richmond. UWC graduates are strongly encouraged to apply for the Richmond Scholars

Program, where they could combine funds with the Davis Grant up to the total cost of attendance. Those non-U.S. citizens or permanent residents who demonstrate eligibility for additional need-based aid are strongly considered for the limited need-based aid funds we have available to international students. Contact the Office of Admission for additional information.

### Army ROTC Scholarships

Scholarships for full tuition and a \$1,200 annual book stipend are available to candidates who have demonstrated their attributes as scholars, athletes, and leaders. ROTC Cadets pursue the academic major of their choice and take one military science and leadership course for academic credit each semester while training to become commissioned officers. Upon graduation they will serve as second lieutenants in the Army, Army National Guard, or Army Reserve. Contact the Department of Military Science at (804) 287-6066 or visit [military.richmond.edu](http://military.richmond.edu).

### Music, Theatre, or Dance Scholarships

Scholarships of varying amounts are available to students who demonstrate outstanding promise in the study of music, theatre, or dance. Some awards are limited to those who will major in a particular discipline. Auditions are required. For more information, contact the Department of Music at (804) 289-8277 or [music.richmond.edu/program/awards.html](http://music.richmond.edu/program/awards.html), the Department of Theatre and Dance at (804) 289-8592, or visit [theatredance.richmond.edu/program/awards.html](http://theatredance.richmond.edu/program/awards.html).

**Special Note:** Students may seek consideration for more than one of the University's merit-based scholarships. Multiple awards may be combined for a value not to exceed the total cost of tuition, room, and board. Students interested in the Richmond Scholars awards should apply by December 1.