

# 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, participating in an engaging intellectual program stimulated by faculty and perpetuated by other very bright young people.

## 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 \$160,000 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 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.

### Science Scholars

Up to 12 Richmond Scholars demonstrating passion and excellence in scientific discovery 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. In addition to the complete admission application, interested students must submit a letter of recommendation from a science, math, or computer science teacher by December 1 (postmarked).

### Artist Scholars

Up to six Richmond Scholars with extraordinary artistic talent and who will major or minor in the visual or performing arts are paired with arts faculty mentors to maximize opportunities to develop students' talents. In addition to the complete admission application, all interested students must submit by December 1 (postmarked) additional materials based on their artistic interest. 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. 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

The University will consider all students for the Richmond Scholars Program who

submit a complete admission application by December 1. This includes:

- Completed application
- Application fee of \$50 or an approved fee waiver
- Official high school transcript including grades 9–11 (or the equivalent for non-U.S. systems), as well as a list of senior-year courses
- One letter of recommendation from a guidance counselor, teacher, or other school official
- Official results of either the SAT or the ACT. Standardized tests must have been taken by December 31. We will use whichever scores are most favorable when evaluating the application. Standardized test results should be sent directly from the appropriate testing agency. Tests taken at later administration dates cannot be utilized by the scholarship selection committee, although they can be utilized by the admission committee.

## 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 e-mail and postal mail. 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 notified by e-mail so they can make arrangements for an expense-paid campus visit for the required scholarship interview. Interview visits will be held in mid-March.

## Special Program for Richmond Scholars

### Oliver Hill Scholars

The Oliver Hill Scholars is a group within the Richmond Scholars Program that offers a sense of community for motivated students who are academically accomplished and serious about their college careers. The program honors civil rights legend and Richmond native Oliver Hill Sr., a key member of the legal team that argued the *Brown v. Board of Education* case before the Supreme Court. The program is designed for African-American students, but students of any background who share a commitment to multiculturalism are welcome. Participants meet bi-weekly for seminars and field trips that are intellectually stimulating, thought provoking, and fun. A mentoring program and one-on-one meetings with the director of this program provide individual support for each student. Up to 15 new participants are selected each year. They receive \$1,000 per academic year toward total college costs in addition to the full-tuition award granted through the Richmond Scholars program.

All Richmond Scholar finalists are invited to be considered for the Oliver Hill program. Interested students will participate in an on-campus interview during their campus visit in March and be notified of their selection in April.

### Other Scholarships

In addition to the Richmond Scholars Program, there are other merit award opportunities for first-year admission applicants. The University's merit-based awards may be combined for a value not to exceed the sum of tuition, room, and board. Therefore, students who are interested in any of the following awards are encouraged to apply by December 1 to be considered for a Richmond Scholar award as well.

### Trustee Scholarships

Trustee Scholarships of up to \$15,000 are awarded annually to Fall Early Decision applicants 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 consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment. To be considered, students must submit a complete admission application, including a signed Early Decision Contract, by November 15. No separate application is required. For more information, contact the Office of Admission.

### Presidential Scholarships

Presidential Scholarships of up to \$15,000 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. National Merit Finalists, National Achievement Finalists, and National Hispanic Scholars are strongly considered for the Presidential Scholarships as well. For more information, e-mail the Financial Aid Office or call them at (800) 700-1662 or (804) 289-8438.

### 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 \$5,000 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 Office at (804) 484-1630 or [bonner@richmond.edu](mailto:bonner@richmond.edu) for additional information or visit [bonner.org](http://bonner.org).

### Davis United World College Scholars

All graduates of the United World College (UWC) system are eligible to receive a Davis incentive grant of up to \$20,000 (renewable for eight semesters of full-time enrollment and based on need) to further their 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

Students who are awarded Army ROTC scholarships by the University of Richmond receive full tuition each year, a monthly stipend of \$300-\$500, and an annual book allowance of \$1,200, for up to four years of full-time undergraduate study. Contact the Department of Military Science at (804) 287-6066 for additional details.

### Music and Theatre/Dance Scholarships

Scholarships of varying amounts are available to students who demonstrate outstanding promise in the study of music and theatre/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, the Department of Theatre and Dance at (804) 289-8592, or visit [theatreanddance.richmond.edu/program/awards.html](http://theatreanddance.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.