Richmond Scholars Program

Richmond Scholars receive the University's most prestigious academic merit award. The program seeks to bring engaged, high-achieving students to campus and to support those students as part of a small multi-disciplinary community of learners. The opportunities afforded to Richmond Scholars enable them to pursue their academic and professional goals and to inspire positive change in the world around them.

Richmond Scholars demonstrate a commitment to four main criteria, broadly defined:

- Academic achievement
- Engaged leadership
- Strong sense of purpose
- Interest in a diverse and inclusive community

Richmond Scholars Program Benefits

The University awards up to 25 full-tuition, room, and meals scholarships annually to select incoming first-year students. The Richmond Scholars Program includes these benefits:

- Full-tuition, room, and meals scholarship, renewable for up to eight consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment
- Special programming throughout the year including a first year retreat, professional development opportunities, social activities, and a senior trip
- Eligibility for a one-time $4,000 grant to support a faculty-mentored activity that enhances the academic experience
- Priority course registration and priority on-campus housing
- Specially selected faculty mentors
- Complimentary tickets to select cultural events in the Modlin Center for the Arts

Applying to the Richmond Scholars Program

All applications for first-year admission submitted by December 1 will be reviewed for Richmond Scholars consideration. Visit admission.richmond.edu/apply for detailed instructions.

Process for Richmond Scholars Selection

First-year admission applicants who apply by December 1 of their senior year are considered for Richmond Scholars awards. As is the case with consideration for admission, the evaluation process is highly personalized and holistic. All submitted admission materials are considered in our holistic review process; additional academic assessments such as success on standardized testing, published research, and other state and national academic accolades can influence the highly competitive selection process for merit scholarships.

Students who are selected to advance will be notified via email by February 1 and interviewed via videoconferencing with faculty committees in February. Final selections will be made by March 1.

Special Opportunities for Richmond Scholars & Presidential Scholars

Oliver Hill Scholars

Oliver Hill Scholars are academically accomplished, intellectually curious students interested in building a community of learners within a multi-cultural environment. Named after civil rights icon Oliver Hill, Sr., scholars participate in engaging and culturally stimulating activities that revolve around diversity and social justice.

Oliver Hill Scholars share their experiences in an open and accepting environment, participate in a seminar series, attend programs on-campus, and take an off-campus trip in the fall. To learn more, visit inclusion.richmond.edu/programs-and-services/oliver-hill/index.html.

Other Scholarships

In addition to the Richmond Scholars Program, there are other merit award opportunities for first-year admission applicants. 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 meals.

Presidential Scholarships

Presidential Scholarships of one-third of tuition are awarded annually to students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement. The scholarships are renewable for up to eight consecutive semesters of full-time enrollment. All admission applicants are considered; no separate application is required. For more information, contact the Office of Admission.

Bonner Scholars Program (Community Engagement)

Up to 25 first-year students with a history of community service are named Bonner Scholars. Bonners exchange 10 hours of weekly community engagement for a $3,000 stipend per academic year. The award is renewable for eight semesters of full-time undergraduate study. Bonners also receive up to $5,500 in support of summer internships.
The Bonner Scholars Program application is available online at engage.richmond.edu/programs/scholars/apply/index.html in January and must be submitted no later than April. The academic profiles of successful candidates are consistent with profiles of other students admitted to the University. Above and beyond scholastic qualities, Bonners must demonstrate a commitment to service, work, or significant family responsibilities. Students must complete the FAFSA or international equivalent.

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 $25,000 (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 by December 1 for the Richmond Scholars Program, where they could combine Richmond Scholar 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 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. After successfully completing the ROTC program and baccalaureate degree requirements, each student normally qualifies to receive a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Contact the Department of Military Science and Leadership at (804) 287-6066 or visit military.richmond.edu for additional information.

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 require majoring in a particular discipline. Auditions are required. For more information, contact the Department of Music at (804) 289-8277 or music.richmond.edu/scholarships/index.html, or the Department of Theatre and Dance at (804) 289-8592, or theatredance.richmond.edu/scholarships/index.html.