

Applying to Merit Aid Programs and Honors Colleges

Menlo College Counseling Brown Bag Series

“I’ve never heard of this college! Why is it on my list?”

- College counselors constantly receive information about college and university opportunities, such as:
 - Free money for college
 - Institutional merit aid, merit-based scholarships, fly-in programs
 - Innovative, challenging educational programs/majors
 - Honors College programs, specific-major scholars programs, etc.
- Great way to broaden list
 - Application process is easier than it appears!

Overview of Financial Aid Process:

Who/What/When/Where/How

- Who: Parent(s) and Student both apply for Financial Aid
- What: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and College Scholarship Service Profile (CSS Profile)
- When: FAFSA and CSS are typically available around 10/1/19 of senior year*
- Where: FAFSA = studentaid.gov CSS Profile = cssprofile.collegeboard.org
- How: Will require tax forms for both parent(s)/student

*FAFSA isn't always required to receive institutional merit aid. Check with each school's financial aid office.

Need-based aid vs. Institutional Merit-Based Aid

- Need based aid = Cost of Attendance - Expected Family Contribution =
Financial Need
 - Check out the Net-Price Calculator to get an estimate of expected aid for each school
- Institutional Merit-based aid = Merit includes a variety of talents and interests:
academic, artistic, athletic, etc.
 - Might need to fill out FAFSA - be sure to check with each school's financial aid office
- Merit-based awards = outside scholarships based on variety of talents and
interests

Merit-Aid Programs

Well known Merit-Aid Programs:

- [Belk Scholars at Davidson College](#)
- [Bonnor Scholars - Partner schools](#)
- [Eccles Scholarship at University of Utah](#)
- [The Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program at University of Notre Dame](#)
- [Hunt Leadership Scholars Program at SMU](#)
- [Jefferson Scholarship at University of Virginia](#)
- [Johnson Scholarship at Washington and Lee University](#)
- [McDermott Scholars at UT Dallas](#)
- [Morehead-Cain Scholarship at UNC - Chapel Hill](#)
- [Presidential Scholarship at Boston College](#)
- [Presidential Scholarship at Boston University](#)
- [Robertson Scholars Program at Duke](#)
- [USC Merit Scholarships](#)

Additional Resources:

- [List of Colleges with Strong Merit Aid](#)
 - Provides percentage of need met, percentage of how many receive merit aid, and the average merit-aid award
- [ACCIS List](#)
 - Great example of college counselors constantly receiving info re: opportunities for students! And sharing with among counselors!

A Closer Look at Merit Scholarship Programs



- Award full-tuition merit scholarships to 10% of the incoming class each year;
- Provide 7k for students to engage in self-directed research or independent summer study;
- Support lectures and programming that bring serious scholars in leadership and integrity to campus;
- Endow faculty positions in disciplines related to leadership and integrity.



- Full UT Dallas tuition and fees, living stipend, textbook stipend, study abroad funding, professional development funding, travel home funds
- Tickets to the Dallas Symphony, Opera, Ballet Theater, and other cultural events
- Opportunities to intern at local, state, and national organizations and to research in a wide range of laboratories on campus
- Exposure to and mentoring from faculty members

Honors Colleges: What are they?

- Honors colleges are smaller learning communities, typically housed within larger universities
 - Feels like more of a smaller private college housed within a larger public university
- Benefits of attending Honors College
 - Smaller class sizes
 - Earlier course registration
 - Possibility of receiving merit aid
 - Closer faculty relationship
 - Honors living communities
- Not all universities offer Honors College

List of Honors College

- [Foundation Fellows UGA](#)
- [UA Honors College](#)
- [National Honors at Clemson](#)
- [Schreyers Honors Program at Penn State](#)
- [University of Maryland Honors College](#)
- [Sally McDonell Barksdale Honors College at University of Mississippi](#)
- [Honors College at Michigan State](#)
- [Honors Program at University of Delaware](#)
- [South Carolina Honors College - University of South Carolina](#)
- [UCSB Honors Program](#)
- [Barrett, The Honors College at ASU](#)
- [Clark Honors College, The University of Oregon](#)
- [Arts and Sciences Honors Program at CU Boulder](#)
- [Kilachand Honors College at Boston University](#)
- [University Honors Program at Santa Clara University](#)
- [List of honors colleges in every state](#)

A Closer Look at Honors Colleges



- Priority Registration
- Small Class Sizes
- Special Residence Halls
- Community Events, hosted by Honors Advisory Council
- Senior Thesis mentored by SCU Faculty
- Special Scholarships and Fellowships
- Honors students are eligible to apply for several scholarships that are exclusive to the Honors Program



- Residential College Experience
- Travel Abroad, Global Internship Opportunities
- Honors Courses
- Senior Thesis
- Pre-health, Pre-law Advising
- Scholarships, Fellowships, Grants and Awards
- Leadership Opportunities through Student Life
- Close Relationship with Faculty

Case Study: College List with Honors/Merit Aid

Must-have: strong pre-law advising program, school spirit, near a city with opportunity to do internships at local government agencies, EFC - 45k, will need schools that offer merit aid

Nice-to-have: 15k or less, strong outdoors program, computer science minor

What schools should they put on their list? Try this with a partner!

The College List

- University of Delaware
- ASU - Barrett Honors College
- University of Maryland
- Washington University in St. Louis
- Southern Methodist University
- Tulane University
- University of Richmond
- Santa Clara University
- UT Dallas
- Georgetown University
- CSU's/UC

Questions?