

The Presidential Leadership Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is the Presidential Leadership Scholarship?** The Presidential Leadership Scholarships are the University of Montana's premier academic scholarships, recognizing outstanding talent, academic performance and contribution to the community. These awards are renewable for four years, subject to satisfactory performance by the student.
2. **Who is eligible to be considered for this scholarship?** Eligible candidates for the Presidential Leadership Scholarship must be recent high school graduates who have not previously enrolled as a regular college or university student.
3. **How do I apply for this scholarship?** All **DHC Supplemental Application Forms** completed and submitted to the Davidson Honors College by December 31 will be considered for the Presidential Leadership Scholarship. After that date, DHC applicants are not eligible for the Presidential Leadership Scholarship, but they will be considered for admission to the Davidson Honors College on a rolling basis throughout the spring semester.
4. **What are my chances of being awarded this scholarship?** For 2014, we received about 500 applications, and we awarded 33 Presidential Leadership Scholarships. Accordingly, about 7% of the 2014 applicants were awarded this scholarship. Finalists in the autumn 2014 class of Presidential Leadership Scholars posted an average of 3.98 GPA, SAT combined score of 2080, and ACT composite score of 32.
5. **Is the selection based on ACT/SAT scores?** No. ACT/SAT scores are part of the selection criteria but not more or less important than other measures.
6. **Is there a preference as to which exam to take – SAT or ACT?** No. We convert them to a common scale. If you take both exams, or either exam more than once, we only consider your best single-exam performance. We do not blend component scores from different exam sittings. The scores reported on your application for admission to the Davidson Honors College must match those of your best single-exam performance.
7. **What if I plan to re-take the ACT/SAT to improve my score?** We will only consider the scores that are reported in your application packet. If you would like to add new information, you must submit it to the Davidson Honors College by the application deadline, December 31, 2011.
8. **Is my high school GPA important?** Yes. Your high school GPA is important, but is only one of several criteria considered by the Selection Committee.

9. **What about GPA weighting with AP or Honors courses?** The DHC application requests you to submit an unweighted cumulative GPA on a 4.0 scale. If your high school transcript contains a weighted GPA, it will be considered along with other factors.
10. **What if my high school does not provide rank-in-class?** Some indication of class standing is important. Applicants who are unable to provide us with some measure of class standing are at a statistical disadvantage for this award. If your school does not rank students, please ask the person writing your letter of recommendation to provide a confidential percentile ranking (for example, top 1%, top 5%, etc.) as part of their letter.
11. **If applications are due by December 31, how are my senior-year grades considered?** They will not be taken into consideration unless your fall semester grades are recorded on your high school transcript before the end of December. In that case, an unofficial copy of your transcript (reflecting those fall semester grades) must be sent to the Davidson Honors College by the postmark deadline of December 31.
12. **Does the size of my high school matter?** No. The size (number of students) of the applicant's high school is not a good statistical indicator of success for these awards. Awards are generally made to students from all school size-classes in proportion to the number of applications from that school. The Selection Committee recognizes and considers that smaller schools may not have all the opportunities available to students at larger schools.
13. **Are home-schooled applicants accommodated?** Yes. Home-schooled students have historically been successful in this competition at a rate similar to public or private school applicants. Generally, it is in the student's best interest to submit a letter of recommendation from someone other than a parent.
14. **What topics should be addressed in my letter of recommendation?** The person writing your letter of recommendation needs to state their position or title, and indicate how long and in what capacity they have known you. They should describe your demonstrated potential for academic success, as well as your distinctive personal qualities, particularly with respect to leadership and service, which they have personally observed. Relevant anecdotes are acceptable.
15. **May I include additional letters of recommendation?** No. In order to be fair to all applicants, the Selection Committee will consider only one letter of recommendation for each applicant.
16. **Is there a special way my high school transcript and letter of recommendation should be included in my application?** The unofficial transcript and the letter of recommendation must be sent directly to the Davidson Honors College, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. Materials sent to any other address cannot be considered for this scholarship.
17. **May I include material not specifically requested in my application?** No. However, there is one exception: you may include a brief statement of any exceptional circumstances that may have affected your academic performance.
18. **Is there an application fee?** No. There is no application fee associated with the application for admission to the Davidson Honors College.

19. **How much are these scholarships worth?** Each Presidential Leadership Scholarship is a guaranteed four-year scholarship that includes a full or partial tuition waiver, the value of which varies according to the amount of tuition each year. Approximately 24 awards will be made in the competition. Their approximate value each year, including the tuition waivers, will be:
- Gold Level** \$7,500 stipend plus a tuition waiver valued at approximately \$4,400
 - Silver Level** \$5,000 stipend plus a tuition waiver valued at approximately \$4,400
20. **When will I hear back from the Davidson Honors College concerning my application for admission?** All **DHC Supplemental Application Forms** completed and submitted to the Davidson Honors College by December 31 will be considered for the Presidential Leadership Scholarship. After that date, DHC applicants are not eligible for the Presidential Leadership Scholarship, but they will be considered for admission to the Davidson Honors College on a rolling basis throughout the spring semester.
21. **If I am not admitted to the Davidson Honors College this year, can I reapply for admission next year as a currently enrolled student at UM?** Yes. Currently enrolled UM students with a record of strong academic performance (GPA of 3.5 or higher) are welcome to apply for admission to the Davidson Honors College. The annual application deadline is December 31.
22. **When will I find out if I am selected as a finalist for the Presidential Leadership Scholarship?** The Presidential Leadership Scholarship committee will review application files in mid-January of each year, and finalists will be selected by mid-February. Finalists will be contacted by mid-February to arrange an interview. All finalists must interview with a member of the Selection Committee, either in person or by phone.
23. **Is the interview required?** Yes. All applicants selected as finalists for the Presidential Leadership Scholarship are required to participate in an interview during mid-February (on campus or by phone). No applicant will be disadvantaged by choosing the phone interview option. However, many applicants find that a campus visit is helpful to them in making their college decision.
24. **Are all finalists guaranteed a Presidential Leadership Scholarship?** No. It is possible that some finalists (those invited for an interview) may not be selected for this scholarship.
25. **If I am awarded a Presidential Leadership Scholarship, what are the rules for renewal?** Presidential Leadership Scholars must remain in good standing as members of the Davidson Honors College. DHC students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and show regular progress toward completion of DHC requirements.
26. **What if I have further questions about the Davidson Honors College?** If you have further questions, or if you wish to review the status of your application, you may contact the Davidson Honors College by email: dhc@umontana.edu

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