

**Hood College Merit Scholarship Standards**

Trustee Scholarship, Presidential Scholarship, Dean Scholarship, Leadership Award and Recognition Award are renewable throughout the student's undergraduate career. Scholarships may be received for eight semesters or until the completion of a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. Students must be enrolled full-time (minimum of 12 credits per semester) and maintain satisfactory academic progress (SAP)*.

*Overview of SAP policy: Undergraduate students receiving financial aid must demonstrate qualitatively and quantitatively the ability to make measurable progress toward a degree.

Qualitative - GPA Requirements

Total Credit Hours Attempted	Minimum Cumulative GPA
1 - 25	1.50
26 - 38	1.60
39 - 50	1.70
51 - 63	1.90
64+	2.00

Quantitative – Pace Requirements

Example:
All earned credit hours ÷ All attempted credit hours = a minimum of 67%.
24 earned credit hours ÷ 30 attempted credit hours = 80%



Meeting the Difference

Payment Plan:

Hood College offers families the option of paying tuition bills over a three, four or five month period covering one semester. Paying your tuition over a period of months allows you to avoid paying in one lump sum. Payment plan options are not available for the summer sessions.

For detailed information regarding the Hood College Monthly Payment Plan, please visit hood.edu/paymentplan or contact the Accounting Office at 301-696-3607.

Federal Student Loans:

Students who apply for federal aid using the FAFSA may be offered federal direct student loans. Two types of loans that are offered are:

- Direct Subsidized Loan: Generally no interest accrues on these loans while in school at least half time, during the grace period, and during deferments
- Direct Unsubsidized Loan: Interest accrues on these loans during all periods

First time student borrowers at Hood College accepting federal loans are required to complete the following documents using your FSA ID on **studentaid.gov**:

- Entrance Counseling
- Master Promissory Note (MPN)

Federal Parent PLUS Loan: (for Parents of Dependent Undergraduate Students)

A parent of a dependent student may apply for a Parent PLUS Loan to assist with remaining educational expenses. The parent may apply for the Parent PLUS Loan annually by logging into studentaid.gov using the parents' FSA ID. Part of the application process is a credit check.

Parent PLUS Loans typically enter repayment after funds are fully disbursed. Parent borrowers may request a deferment while the student is enrolled at least half time or may elect to make interest-only payments.

First time Parent borrowers are required to complete a Master Promissory Note (MPN) for a Parent PLUS Loan and an Annual Student Loan Acknowledgment, and may be required to complete PLUS Credit Counseling before loans are applied to the student's account.

Please Note: Per the U.S. Department of Education, the term "parent" refers to be your biological or adoptive parents. Your legal guardian is not considered your parent for federal student aid purposes. For more information visit studentaid.gov/afsa-parent.

Alternative Educational Loan :

Private educational loans are available to students, parents, and others interested in helping students obtain a loan for their education. Most students will need a credit worthy co-signer such as a parent or other relative in order to obtain a private loan. For a list of approved lenders visit hood.edu/financialaid/loans.



Scholarship Information

College takes drive, passion and resources. We recognize that families often need to look outside their immediate resources in order to help their students take full advantage of the Hood College experience. It is the mission of the Office of Financial Aid to help you and your family develop a financial plan to make your education attainable. Below is a list of various scholarship resources to consider:

Scholarship Search Engines:

<https://collegeboard.org>
www.central-scholarship.org
www.salliemae.com/plan-for-college
<https://myscholly.com>
www.cappex.com

<https://fastweb.com>
www.petersons.com
www.gocollege.com
www.unigo.com
www.chegg.com/scholarships

Scholarship Websites:

www.hsf.net/scholarship - Hispanic Scholarship Fund
www.asa.org - American Student Assistance
www.uncf.org - United Negro Fund
www.gmsp.org - Gates Millennium Scholars Program
<https://www.careeronestop.org/toolkit/training/find-scholarships.aspx> - Department of Labor Scholarships

State:

www.mhec.maryland.gov - State of Maryland
www.osse.dc.gov - District of Columbia
<https://www.doe.k12.de.us> - State of Delaware
www.riopc.edu - State of Rhode Island
www.vsac.org - State of Vermont

Frederick County:

www.cffredco.org - Community Foundation of Frederick County
www.fwccinc.org/education - The Frederick Women's Civic Club
www.frederickrotaryclub.org - The Frederick Rotary Club

Military:

www.benefits.va.gov - Department of Veterans Affairs
www.ebenefits.va.gov - Department of Veterans Affairs, Educational Benefits Status
www.armyscholarshipfoundation.org - Army Scholarships
www.vfw.org - Veterans of Foreign Wars
www.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships - Army ROTC Scholarships

The Office of Financial Aid at Hood College provides information regarding outside scholarship searches as a courtesy to students and families. Hood College does not endorse any private scholarship search websites. Although we have made an effort to ensure these scholarship search websites are legitimate, this does not imply that Hood College or the Office of Financial Aid agree with the material contained on or links provided by the websites.

Tips for Scholarships

Scholarships can be found in several ways; contacting your high school counselor, public library, religious or community organizations, local businesses, or civic groups.

Search Tips

Searching for private scholarships can be time intensive. Make it easier by having a system to find and apply for these opportunities!

- Open an email account specifically for scholarships using a professional name and check the account frequently
- Start a spreadsheet to track deadlines and application requirements
- Make sure your resume is updated

Application Tips

Keep your information updated. If you have a LinkedIn profile or a resume, make sure it's up-to-date.

Be concise. Instead of listing everything you've ever done, highlight the activities you would like the donor to know about you.

Show initiative. Donors who invest in a student's future like to reward those who show initiative. If you have started your own business, created a club, or organized clubs or an event, highlight it!

Essay Tips

Do:

- Tailor your essay to each application to address specific questions or topics
- Be creative, organized and succinct
- Get feedback from a trusted mentor
- Proofread

Don't:

- Use slang or jargon
- Compare yourself to other students
- Submit the same essay for multiple applications

TIPS FOR WRITING A WINNING SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY

Scholly website, Posted September 19, 2021

myscholly.com/how-to-write-a-scholarship-essay/

Tips for Recommendation Letters

Many private scholarships ask for a recommendation letter. The best letters come from someone (not a parent) who can speak not just to your accomplishments, but can applaud your character, work ethic and professionalism to showcase your intangible, positive character traits.

To get a great recommendation letter:

- Provide the recommender with a description of the scholarship and a list of skills or qualities that are important to highlight
- Give the reference a current copy of your resume and at least two weeks' notice for when the letter is due

Final Steps

- If you receive a scholarship, write a thank you letter to the donor
- Inform the Office of Financial Aid about the awarded scholarship

Beware of Scams!

Make sure scholarship information and offers you receive are *legitimate*. Remember that you don't have to pay to find scholarships. Avoid any scholarship that asks for application or processing fees. Check out studentaid.gov/resources/scams for information on how to avoid scams.



Financial Aid Terms

Official Award Notification - The document sent by Hood College that explains the terms of the financial awards offered to you. The information includes the types and amounts of financial awards offered, what you are expected to do to maintain the awards, and a deadline for accepting the awards.

Cost of Attendance (COA) - The total cost of attending a college. This includes tuition, fees, housing, food plan, books & supplies, and other living expenses, such as transportation.

Demonstrated Need - The difference between the Cost of Attendance (COA - see above) and the Student Aid Index (SAI - see below) (COA-SAI = Demonstrated Need).

Dependency Status - A student is either dependent or independent. Dependent students must report parental information on the FAFSA. To determine dependency status visit studentaid.gov.

Direct Charges/ Costs – Educational expenses assessed by the college and posted to the student's billing statement.

FAFSA – The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used by the federal government to determine a student's eligibility for grants, loans, and work-study to pay for college.

Federal Student Aid (FSA) – Financial aid from the federal government to help with educational costs. Grants, loans, and work-study are types of federal student aid. The FAFSA must be completed annually to apply for this aid.

Financial Aid - Funds awarded, loaned, or earned to help with educational costs. Financial aid can come from federal and state governments, colleges, and private sources.

FSA ID – A username and password combination that serves as a student's or parent's identifier to allow access to personal information in various U.S. Department of Education systems and acts as a digital signature on some online forms.

Gift Aid - Funds that do not need to be repaid such as grants, scholarships, fellowships and tuition waivers.

Grants - Funds awarded that you do not have to repay and are generally based on financial need.

Indirect Costs – Educationally related expenses that are paid to a third party (not to the college).

Loans - Funds that are borrowed from a lender and must be repaid. Funds can come from many sources: the federal government, private alternative lenders, and other lenders. Funds can be used to pay for tuition, fees, housing, food plan, books & supplies, as well as other costs associated with a student's education.

- **Federal Student Loans** - Loan funds from the U.S. Department of Education, with congress setting the interest rate. There are two types of federal loans that a student may be offered: subsidized (the federal government pays the interest while the student is in school), and unsubsidized (the student is responsible for the interest while they are in school and after). Full repayment begins 6 months after the student leaves school.
- **Parent PLUS loan** – This is a loan for a dependent student that is in the parent’s name and the parent is responsible for repayment. A credit check is required.
- **Alternative/Private loans** – Loan funds that come from banks and other financial institutions. The lenders determine the interest rate of the loan based on a person’s FICO score. Payment terms can vary depending on the lender. Frequently, a co-signer is needed. These loans can be in the student’s name or another person’s name who is willing to borrow the funds to assist the student.

Merit Aid - Financial assistance offered in recognition of student achievements.

Non Need-Based Aid - Financial assistance offered based on criteria other than financial need. This includes Federal student aid programs where the SAI is not factored, such as unsubsidized loans.

Need-Based Aid - Funds awarded based on a student's financial circumstances. Need-based aid may come in the form of grants or scholarships, but it can also be loans with lower interest rates.

Net Cost - The amount you will actually pay for college; this is usually less than the published price.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) - Standards used to ensure that a student is successfully completing the coursework in order to continue to receive financial aid. SAP includes quantitative and qualitative measures of a student’s progress toward a degree or certificate. Students must generally maintain at least a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, complete 67% of the courses attempted and pass the required classes to graduate within 150% of the normal time frame for the degree or certificate.

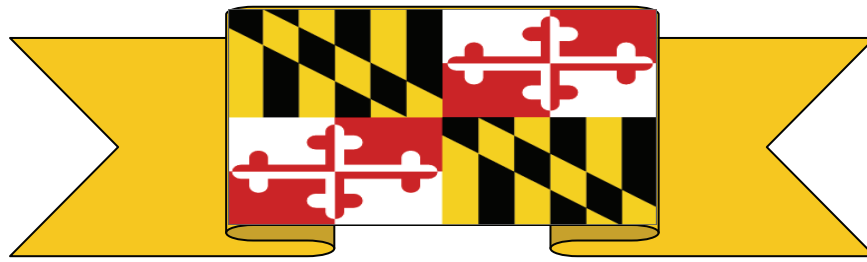
Scholarship – A form of financial assistance that does not require repayment or employment. Generally awarded to students based on merit, such as academic achievements.

Self-Help Aid – Financial assistance in the form of loans or student employment.

Student Aid Index (SAI) - An eligibility index number that a college's financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid you may be able to receive. The SAI is calculated using information from the FAFSA form.

Student Employment - A program that provides students an opportunity to work part-time while attending college. Federal work-study is a need-based program, funded by the federal government. To qualify you must complete the FAFSA. Students who do not qualify for federal work-study may be eligible for work through Hood College’s campus employment program.

For additional information refer to: <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/glossary>
https://www.nasfaa.org/Glossary_of_Terms_for_Award_Notifications
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-101/financial-aid-glossary-learn-the-lingo>



Maryland Sellinger Grant

Congratulations on your financial aid award. Your grant or scholarship has been funded, in part, by the Maryland Sellinger Grant Program. The Sellinger Program was established in 1973 by the State of Maryland to preserve and strengthen a dual system of higher education, which includes public and private, nonprofit colleges and universities working collaboratively to meet the State's higher education needs.

Through the Sellinger Program, the State provides modest grants to eligible independent colleges and universities. These grants are used to support Maryland's goals for higher education as established in the *State Plan for Postsecondary Education*. Today, the independent colleges and universities use the vast majority of the Sellinger funds to provide need-based grants and scholarships to Maryland residents. As a result, Marylanders have greater access, choice, and opportunities to enroll in college and pursue their dreams.

By partnering with its independent colleges and universities, the State of Maryland is able to offer a broader array of higher education opportunities to more students in every region of the State and at a lower cost for State taxpayers.

We are grateful to Maryland's elected officials for their commitment to higher education and their support of the Sellinger Program.

To learn more about the Sellinger Program, visit www.micua.org.

MICUA

Maryland Independent College
and University Association