

Dell Scholars Overview

DELL SCHOLARS PROGRAM MICHAEL & SUSAN DELL FOUNDATION

Providing Support for Underserved Students to Attend and Graduate College

While many students dream of obtaining a college degree, life sometimes gets in the way, particularly for those dealing with personal responsibilities at home or in their communities. The Dell Scholars college scholarship program recognizes students who have overcome significant obstacles to pursue their education. In turn, these scholars serve as positive role models and change the trajectories for their siblings, friends and communities.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Dell Scholars receive \$20,000 each to continue their higher education over the course of six years. In addition, the Dell Scholars program provides its students with technology, resources and mentoring to ensure they have the support they need to obtain a college degree.

Most Dell Scholars are first-generation college students and are chosen because they participate in an approved college readiness program and maintain at least a 2.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale while dealing with personal responsibilities at home or in their communities. Requirements also include graduation from an accredited high school, demonstrated financial need and intent to enter a bachelor's degree program at an accredited higher education institution in the fall.

RETENTION IS KEY

The Dell Scholars Program is more than a check. Rather, the program aims to provide Dell Scholars with everything they need to begin and complete college. The additional resources have contributed to the program's graduation rate of more than 85 percent, well above the national average of 23 percent for students with the same socioeconomic profile.

The scholarships terms and conditions are designed to encourage retention and help Dell Scholars achieve their degree:

- Scholars have six years to complete a bachelor's degree
- Funds can be used to pay for tuition, fees, on campus room and board, and books and may be used for summer school and study abroad programs
- Scholarship can be used at community colleges to earn credits toward a bachelor's degree
- Scholarship funds may be deferred to later years to avoid scholarship displacement
- Upon earning a bachelor's degree, if funds are remaining, the Scholar may request payment on educational loans or use the funds for graduate school
- Probationary policies allow students who do not maintain satisfactory academic progress and full-time enrollment to still have access to their scholarship funds when they are in compliance with scholarship terms

KEY ISSUES

- An estimated 3.2 million bachelor degrees will be lost this decade due to increased unmet costs for college ready students.
- Sixty percent of a low-income family's income is required for 4-year public college tuition.
- College ready is not campus ready and while academic readiness can improve, campus readiness cannot be easily recovered
- Graduation rates for low income students average 23 percent nationally.

INVESTMENT

- 1,850 scholarships awarded to date.
- \$37 million in scholarship funds awarded to date.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.dellscholars.org