

# GOVERNOR'S BEST AND BRIGHTEST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



*Three types of scholarship awards to help Montana students realize their dreams*



The Governor's Best and Brightest Scholarship Program provides Montana residents with greater access to Montana's postsecondary institutions and tribal colleges, through scholarship grants based on academic achievement and financial need. The goal of these scholarships is to relieve student debt burdens, allowing more Montanans to stay in the state upon graduation.

The Governor's Best and Brightest Scholarship Program is divided into 3 scholarships, each scholarship is administered in a different way.

## MERIT and MERIT-AT-LARGE

Merit and Merit-at-Large scholarships are awarded to students who plan to attend either a 2 or 4 year institution. A student attending a 4 year campus will receive \$1,000/semester (\$2,000/year) for 8 semesters. Students who attend a 2 year campus will receive \$1,000/semester (\$2,000/year) for 4 semesters.

### High School MERIT Scholarships

One student from each Montana accredited High school will be awarded a Merit Scholarship (provided the school has a qualified applicant). To receive a scholarship a student must demonstrate academic excellence, by having either a 3.0 GPA, or scoring at least 20 on the ACT or 1440 on the SAT.

#### **To apply:**

Applying is a multi-step process, students must complete each of the following steps by the deadline for their application to be considered. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted:

1. Take the ACT or SAT test by the end of December 31 of their senior year
2. Apply to and be accepted by one of the eligible campuses
3. Register at [www.scholarship.mt.gov](http://www.scholarship.mt.gov)
4. Print and mail the signed application, along with a copy of the college acceptance letter, high school transcript (reflecting 7<sup>th</sup> semester cumulative GPA), and proof of ACT/SAT score (taken by December) to the office of SFS **postmarked by March 15<sup>th</sup>**

### Merit AT-LARGE Scholarships

Graduating high school students, students already attending college, non-traditional and home schooled students are encouraged to apply. A committee will evaluate and score the applicant essays and activity lists to determine recipients.

#### **To apply:**

Applying is a multi-step process, students must complete each of the following steps by the deadline for their application to be considered. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted:

1. Apply to and be accepted by one of the eligible campuses
2. Register at [www.scholarship.mt.gov](http://www.scholarship.mt.gov)
3. Print and mail the signed application, along with a copy of the college acceptance letter, most recent school transcript, and/or proof of ACT/SAT score (taken by December) to the office of SFS **postmarked by March 15<sup>th</sup>**

## NEED-BASED

Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 will be awarded annually for a maximum of two consecutive years.

2-year institutions will be allocated need-based awards each year based upon their level of enrollment. The financial aid office will be responsible for identifying and awarding scholarships to need-based recipients using information obtained from the FAFSA.

### Scholarships may be used at the following campuses:

U of M – Missoula	MSU – Billings	Blackfeet CC
Missoula College UM	City College MSU	Chief Dull Knife
U of M – Western	MSU – Northern	Aaniih Nakoda
Helena College UM	Great Falls College MSU	Fort Peck CC
Montana Tech	Dawson CC	Little Big Horn
Highlands College MT Tech	Flathead CC	Salish-Kootenai
MSU – Bozeman	Miles CC	Stone Child

### Eligibility Requirements

A student is eligible to receive a scholarship providing the student:

- Is a resident of the State of Montana (per the Board of Regents Policy 940.1)
- Has been accepted by an eligible Montana post-secondary institution
- For scholarships based upon merit, has obtained a high school GPA of at least 3.0 or a score of at least 20 on the ACT or 1440 on the SAT college admission test
- For scholarships based on financial need, has completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and does not have an expected family contribution (EFC) exceeding the cost of attendance
- Does not utilize a Montana University System Honor Scholarship for the same period of enrollment
- If a male, has met the Title IV selective service requirements
- Is not in default on a Title IV or state of Montana education loan
- Does not owe a refund to a federal Title IV or state of Montana student financial aid program
- Is not incarcerated
- Is seeking a first certificate, associate or baccalaureate degree
- Begins using the next chronological semester (excluding summer)

### Renewing Governor's Scholarships (contingent upon continued funding)

Students must:

- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress
- MERIT & Merit AT-LARGE - complete 24 credits per academic year

Register for the MERIT and Merit-AT-LARGE online

**[WWW.SCHOLARSHIP.MT.GOV](http://WWW.SCHOLARSHIP.MT.GOV)**

Applications will be available on this website in December

Application packets and additional materials must be

**POSTMARKED BY**  
**MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Incomplete or late applications will NOT be accepted**

**Student Financial Services (SFS)**

**Scholarship Department**

**PO Box 203101 • Helena, MT 59620**

**1-800-537-7508 • [MTscholarships@montana.edu](mailto:MTscholarships@montana.edu)**

**Scholarship policy: <http://mus.edu/borpol/bor500/501-3.pdf>**