



DELL SCHOLARS

Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

Dell Scholars Overview

Providing Support for Underserved Students to Attend and Graduate from 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. Dell Scholars was established to serve these students, who are better than their numbers indicate. Dell Scholars is a college completion program which understands that financial assistance alone is not enough to support students to college graduation.

Our GPA requirement is **Grit, Potential, and Ambition**. We reward low-income, highly motivated students who demonstrate the drive to succeed despite personal obstacles. In turn, our Scholars serve as positive role models and change the trajectories for their siblings, friends, and communities.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

Scholars receive \$20,000 to pursue a degree over the course of six years. In addition, Dell Scholars provides its students with technology, resources, and mentoring to ensure all Scholars 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. 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.

RETENTION IS KEY

Dell Scholars is more than a check. Rather, the program aims to provide Scholars with everything they need to begin and complete college. The additional resources have contributed to the program's graduation rate of 75 percent in six years, which is more than three times the national average for students with the same socioeconomic profile.

The program's terms and conditions are designed to encourage retention and help 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 be improved, increasing campus readiness is more difficult
- Only 23 percent of low-income students graduate nationally

INVESTMENT

- Over 4,300 students accepted into program
- More than \$87 million in college scholarships committed



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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