Montana University System
Office of Student Financial Services (SFS)

SCHOLARSHIP REVIEW

Montana University System Honor Scholarship and the Governor’s Best and Brightest Scholarship Program

The road to success starts with you!
MUSHS:

- 4-year tuition waiver at any MUS campus
- Students compete across the state, schools are not guaranteed a winner, and some schools may have more than one recipient
- Target number of 200 scholarships awarded each year
- Must use within 9 months of award
- Applicants are scored by combining their GPA, Class Rank and ACT/SAT score

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Eligibility Requirements

- Have a minimum GPA of 3.4
- Graduate from an accredited Montana High School
- Be enrolled at an accredited Montana High School for at least 3 years including senior year
- Be accepted to an eligible Montana Campus
- Meet the Board of Regents rigorous core requirements
  http://mus.edu/asa/hscp/index.asp
- Be a US Citizen

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Criteria and Scoring

• Highest GPA is NOT guaranteed to be an MUSHS Recipient

• Reiterates importance of ACT/SAT score
  – Allow time to retake ACT/SAT
    (only tests taken by December will be considered)
  – Prepare for ACT/SAT by taking practice tests

• Rigorous Core – encourages students to take challenging classes (math, science, advanced placement/honors classes)
High School Administrators

• Applications should be distributed to each senior in December (SFS mails materials to schools in early December, registration at www.scholarship.mt.gov also begins in early December)

• Counselor or designee is required to sign applications to certify the Rigorous Core requirement

• Each school must provide a Class list that includes all seniors ranked by GPA to SFS by March 1st (do not include exchange and home-schooled students)

• Each school decides to use weighted or non-weighted GPA (this methodology must apply to all students in the class, transcripts given to students to submit with their application MUST MATCH the ranking list)

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Example of Scoring Process

• All Seniors with a minimum of 3.4 GPA are ranked
  – The student(s) in each school with the highest GPA will receive 30 points
  – The student(s) in each school with the second highest GPA will receive 29 points
  – Pattern continues until all students with a minimum of 3.4 have been ranked

• GPA points are added to ACT or SAT score
  http://www.act.org/aap/concordance/estimate.html

• Students with the highest composite scores will be awarded scholarships
## Score Calculation Example (unweighted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>GPA</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>ACT</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Adams</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abe Lincoln</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard Taft</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Truman</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James K Polk</td>
<td>3.8</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Ford</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Jackson</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Carter</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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## Score Calculation Example (weighted)

<table>
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<tbody>
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<td>4.5</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abe Lincoln</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Taft</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Truman</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James K Polk</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerald Ford</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3.9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3.6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Application Process

• Take ACT/SAT by December of Senior year

• Be accepted by an eligible campus as early as possible

• Request 7th semester transcripts in early Feb

• Register and complete the application online www.scholarship.mt.gov

• Have High Counselor or Designee complete the Rigorous Core Section of the application

• Mail the application packet to SFS POSTMARKED no later than March 15th
Application Process (continued)

- Students may apply for MUSHS, Merit and Merit-at-Large scholarships on one application

- As a result, only one copy of each document (such as College Acceptance Letter, Transcript and ACT/SAT certification) is required

- Students are required to submit applications and additional materials directly to SFS, rather than Counselors collecting them
Application Packets

- POSTMARKED no later than March 15th

- This packet must include these materials:
  - Signed application (signed by student and counselor)
  - 7th semester High School transcript (reflecting cumulative GPA)
  - Proof/certification of ACT or SAT score (taken by December)
  - College acceptance letter

Mail to: SFS
Scholarship Department
PO Box 203101
Helena, MT 59620-3101
Governor’s Best & Brightest Scholarship Program

• Includes 3 types of scholarships;
  – High School Merit ($2,000 per year, up to 4 years);
  – Merit-at-Large ($2,000 per year, up to 4 years); and
  – Need-based ($1,000 per year, up to 2 years)

• Merit – One eligible high school senior is selected per Montana accredited High School (using same methodology as MUSHS)

• Merit-at-Large – Statewide competition, scored by essay and list of activities evaluated by committee. Any college-bound student that meets the minimum requirements can apply (includes, high school seniors, non-traditional, home-schooled and students already attending college)

• Need-based must complete FAFSA, and attend 2-yr campus. Awarded by Financial Aid Offices.

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Eligibility Requirements

- Scholarships based on Merit;
  - 3.0 GPA, 20 on ACT or 1440 on SAT
  - must be enrolled full-time (24 credits per academic year)
- Scholarships based on financial need;
  - must complete the FAFSA
  - does not have an (EFC) exceeding the cost of attendance
- Resident of the State of Montana;
- Accepted to an eligible Montana campus, and enrolled in the next chronological semester or term;
- Seeking first degree;
- Not utilizing a Montana University System Honor Scholarship;
- 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

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Application Process

• Obtain most recent transcript or ACT/SAT score to prove eligibility

• Be accepted by one of the eligible campuses as early as possible

• Register and complete the application online www.scholarship.mt.gov

• For the Merit-at-Large, an essay and list of activities is also required as part of the application

• Mail the application packet to SFS POSTMARKED no later than March 15th

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Application Packets

• **POSTMARKED** no later than March 15th

• This packet must include these materials;
  – Signed application
  – Most recent transcript
  – Proof of ACT/SAT score (taken by December)
  – College acceptance letter

Mail to: SFS
Scholarship Department
PO Box 203101
Helena, MT 59620-3101

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Additional Information for MUSHS and Governor’s’s

- Appeals are available if students are unable to complete yearly progress due to extenuating circumstances
- Summer tuition may be waived at the discretion of campus (for MUSHS)
- Scholarships are transferable between eligible campuses
- On-line classes must be approved by home campus
Eligible Campuses

Montana State University
- Bozeman
- Billings
- Billings College of Technology
- Northern
- Great Falls College of Technology

University of Montana
- Missoula
- Missoula College of Technology
- Western
- Montana Tech
- Montana Tech College of Technology
- Helena College of Technology

Community Colleges
- Dawson
- Flathead Valley
- Miles

Governor’s Program also includes Montana’s Tribal Campuses
- Blackfeet Community College
- Chief Dull Knife College
- Fort Belknap College
- Fort Peck Community College
- Little Big Horn College
- Salish-Kootenai College
- Stone Child College

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www.scholarship.mt.gov

MUS Honor Scholarship Policy 501.1
http://mus.edu/borpol/bor500/501-1.pdf
Governor’s Scholarship Program Policy 501.3

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