University of Maryland Division of Student Affairs  
Scholarships and Awards

When you create a scholarship, you give the gift of education and provide critical assistance for talented students who otherwise could not afford to attend the University of Maryland and/or participate in key programs and initiatives. The experiences our students have both inside and outside the classroom will prepare and guide them as future leaders.

Your investment in UM students will pay the highest of dividends by giving them the opportunity to fulfill their boundless potential. Your gift may be measured in dollars, but the reward translates to lives forever changed and dreams fulfilled.

We are pleased to provide individuals, corporations, and foundations with the opportunity to support two types of scholarships: endowed and annual.

Endowed Scholarships

Endowed scholarship and award funds start at $25,000. The larger the gift to scholarship or award endowments, the greater the impact it has in relieving the tuition burden or program cost. Endowed scholarships are invested in their entirety, and awards are made from interest earned. Traditionally over time, five percent of the corpus value is available for awards.

Annual Scholarships

An annual scholarship is a gift that is awarded in its entirety in the year it is given or for a set number of years. We suggest a minimum gift of $5,000 so that the award will have a significant impact on one or several students. The scholarship or award may be given to one student or divided among several. Annual scholarships provide for students on a yearly basis; to continue the award, the gift must be renewed. Once your annual scholarship funds have been awarded, you may renew the current scholarship fund by making an additional gift.

Donor Benefits

Can the scholarship or award be named?

For both endowed ($25,000 minimum) and annual scholarships or awards ($5,000 minimum), the donor may, in consultation with our staff, decide the name of the scholarship or award. Many people choose to name their scholarship in honor or in memory of a family member, friend, Maryland graduate, staff or faculty member. Scholarships can be named for an individual, family, organization, corporation, or other group.
May I select the area and establish awarding criteria for the scholarship or award?

Yes, we are happy to work with donors to create a broad set of criteria for a scholarship or award. For example, you may restrict the scholarship or award to a specific program, to students in a particular major, or to an undergraduate or graduate student. In addition, your scholarship or award can be awarded based on merit or need or both. Unfortunately, to comply with gift policies and IRS regulations, donors may not specify or select a specific student recipient.

Who selects the scholarship recipients?

We will create a scholarship committee based on the specific scholarship or award created. Selection committees will often include representation or input from the Office of Financial Aid, Admissions and a faculty or staff member from the from the area most involved with the scholarship or award.

Will I have the opportunity to meet my scholarship student(s)?

Each spring the University of Maryland hosts an event to honor our scholarship and award donors and student recipients. If you cannot attend that event, we would be happy to arrange another time for you to meet the student(s) who have benefited from your generosity.

Each year we will send you a report on your scholarship along with a thank-you letter from your student recipient(s). If you are interested in contacting a student directly, you may do so if the student's address and telephone number appear on the thank-you letter. If you do not have this information, please contact us, and we will ask the student for permission to give out their contact information.

Is my scholarship gift tax-deductible?

Gifts in support of the University of Maryland are accepted and managed by the University of Maryland College Park Foundation Inc., an affiliated 501 c(3) organization authorized by the Board of Regents. Gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Please consult your tax advisor.

How are scholarship gifts recognized?

In addition to being honored formally at our annual scholarship event, the University of Maryland and the Division of Student Affairs publish an annual honor roll of all donors. Endowed scholarship and award donors and recipients are also profiled on our UM Celebration of Scholarships Website.
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We appreciate your consideration and interest in creating an endowed or annual scholarship or award. Thank you for helping us to improve the student experience at the University of Maryland and literally change lives, so our students in turn will continue to change their communities and the world for the better.

We are here to help!

We are happy to visit with you and discuss the many ways you can make a difference in the lives of students by establishing a scholarship or award. Conversations are confidential and may occur over the phone or in person in our offices or at your home, office or other location. Once you make the decision to proceed, we will work with you or your representative to establish the scholarship or award you desire.

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