

Institutional Aid

July 15, 2017

Academic Scholarships: Academic Scholarships are typically based on students' ACT or SAT scores and their cumulative high school Grade Point Average. The Admissions Office at an institution awards academic scholarships and can tell students if they are eligible even before the students' financial aid award letters are sent. Most institutions will accept the ACT or SAT scores until February of a student's senior year in high school. However, some colleges hold a competition to apply for their top academic scholarships (half or full-tuition) and require ACT/SAT scores along with admissions applications before December of the student's senior year in high school.

Students who transfer to an institution after attending one to two years at another institution usually do not have to turn in standardized testing scores. Eligibility for an academic scholarship when they transfer will be based on the cumulative gpa at the last institution. Check the institution's website for transfer scholarships.

Need-based Scholarships: The Financial Aid Office at an institution awards need-based scholarships. Public institutions do not have as much to give in need-based scholarships as private institutions. Need-based scholarships are not awarded until the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is completed, and they will be listed on the student's financial aid award letter.

Talent-Based Scholarships: Athletic scholarships, music scholarships and theater scholarships are all examples of talent-based scholarships. Students should ask the institution's Admissions Office if they offer other talent-based scholarships and what additional application procedures are necessary. For example, a theater scholarship may require an audition delivered in front of a selection committee.

Only Division I and II institutions give out athletic scholarships. Please check with the NCAA regarding eligibility and recruiting regulations.

Endowed Scholarships: Endowed scholarships are created by donors and alumni for a specific population or major that the institution offers. Often the Financial Aid Office will have information regarding all scholarships their institution administers', however, individual academic departments may have "departmental scholarships" for certain majors that the Financial Aid Office does not know about.