

# MERIT SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

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**Policy and Procedure:** A student's merit scholarship is awarded per academic year for four years (eight semesters), divided evenly between the Fall and Spring semesters. The merit scholarship is not available for Winter or Summer terms but only for the Fall and Spring semesters. The whole award may not be applied to a single semester.

A student between 12 to 18 credits is considered full-time and will receive their allotted merit scholarship for the enrolled semester. Note that to complete a degree within four years as an entering first-year freshman, the typical course load is at least 15 credits per semester to complete 120 credits over four years. Transfer credits or advanced standing may reduce the length of your eligibility. For instance, a student who enters with sophomore standing will be eligible for three years (6 semesters) maximum. Scholarships may be extended for a ninth term for a student concentrating in Art Education to complete their teaching credential. If students enroll between 11.5 and 6 credits, their scholarship will be pro-rated based on their level of attendance. Students enrolled in under six credits will not qualify for the merit scholarship or any institutional aid. Students receiving a merit scholarship will have their continuing eligibility to retain their award reviewed at the end of every semester. Students must maintain a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) to achieve satisfactory academic progress. Students on Academic Probation or Academically Dismissed may lose their merit scholarship unless they complete the Satisfactory Academic Appeals Process and are approved to return. If a student loses their merit scholarship, either due to reaching their maximum award cap or because they could not maintain satisfactory academic progress, they may appeal to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee for reinstatement.

The committee will convene on an ad hoc basis to make these decisions. The following are commonly accepted grounds for appeal based on extenuating circumstances:

- Serious ill health
- Personal accident or injury of a significant nature
- Bereavement due to the loss of a close family member (parent, grandparent, guardian, sibling, child, close personal friend, etc.)
- Victim of crime
- Academic accommodations or other circumstances that kept the student from maintaining a typical course load of at least 15 credits per semester to complete 120 credits over four years.
- Unforeseen circumstances out of your control