

College of Arts and Sciences

Engaging the Heart, Mind and Spirit



Student Scholarships: \$700,000

Background

The College of Arts and Sciences is seeking \$700,000 to fund **student scholarships** to attract and support the most deserving students. Student scholarships will enable the college to offer competitive scholarship packages to help recruit diverse cohorts of the most talented students year-after-year. This recruitment advantage is especially important now as financial aid is a concern for almost every student. On average, 71 percent of current USD students require some financial assistance. Even with existing scholarships and financial aid support, most students graduate with approximately \$48,000 of debt. To cover all the costs associated with their education, many students must work full- or part-time while they are attending USD.

Mounting student debt and busy work schedules affect more than just their bank accounts. The stress of financial burdens has an adverse effect on their academic performance, their integration into the campus community, their ability to take advantage of opportunities such as research and study abroad experiences, as well as their mental and physical health.

Objective

The goal is to establish endowed scholarships. An endowed scholarship is a gift made to the university with the understanding that the “principal” amount of the donation will be invested in perpetuity. The principal is invested and only the earnings are allocated for scholarships.

Every department in the College of Arts and Sciences depends upon student scholarships in some way. The departments of art, music and theatre can use scholarships to attract gifted artists, performers, musicians, and singers to campus. The science departments may use scholarships to support student research projects and offset travel costs so students can present their findings at national conferences. Students

majoring in the humanities and social sciences may use scholarships to study abroad, complete internships, and immerse themselves in foreign cultures and traditions.

The college is also focused on increasing scholarship support to address the disproportion of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that, while women represent almost half of today’s workforce, they only represent 25 percent of the professionals in STEM fields. With additional financial aid, USD can recruit and support future female scientists, mathematicians and computer scientists to overcome this historical inequity.

The following list outlines a few of the scholarship opportunities that will bolster the College of Arts and Science’s ability to recruit and retain top caliber students.

Transfer Scholarships: Transfer students are a critical part of USD’s commitment to creating a diverse, inclusive and thriving campus culture. Approximately 10 percent of our undergraduate students are transfer students, who arrive in the middle of the academic year. The timing of their transfer limits their scholarship as most support has already been allocated to students who enrolled in the fall. The college wants to provide transfer students with critical scholarship support, so they can excel as soon as they arrive at USD.

Music, Theatre and Art Scholarships: USD continues to lose exceptional artists, musicians, singers and performers to other universities that can offer more competitive and robust scholarship support. For example, the reputation of our Department of Music continues to grow with the creation of new ensembles (mariachi, gamelan and jazz), but programs like the Choral Scholars, once considered to be one of the best choral groups in the country, can no longer attract or retain the best vocal students because scholarship support has not increased in more

than 20 years — despite the increase in the cost of tuition.

Department Scholarships: The college has students like Shannon Wheeler, who published her first novel as a sophomore, and Jorge Benavides, who earned a 2013 Thomas R. Pickering Graduate Foreign Affairs Fellowship. These students deserve the recognition and support while at USD to encourage their intellectual pursuits and honor their scholarly activities. To support these incredible student scholars, departments seek scholarship funding to support exceptional student achievements, including placing in a competition, publishing a work of art or academic article, or being named a national scholar.

Impact

It is USD's responsibility to assure that students graduate prepared to tackle the world, and part of this

responsibility includes lessening their loan burdens and providing them with internships and real-world experiences to enhance their career prospects.

To offset the cost of these critical experiences, diversify student population and attract the best, brightest and most capable students, the College of Arts and Sciences seeks to create new scholarships and increase existing scholarship funds that can be used by departments to support students who have financial need, as well as reward students who are excelling in their programs.

For More Information

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