Eligibility

To apply for the University of Iowa’s Presidential Scholarship, individuals must:

- be admitted to the University of Iowa;
- have earned at least a 3.80 (weighted or unweighted) high school GPA on a 4.00 scale;
- and achieved an ACT composite score of 33 or an equivalent SAT score.

Visit UI Admissions to review the UI ACT/SAT Equivalency Table.

Selection & Support

Each year, selectors representing the university’s five undergraduate colleges and a diverse range of academic disciplines come together to review hundreds of applications, looking for evidence of extraordinary intellectual curiosity, exceptional academic ability, and authentic connection to community in the words and experiences applicants share with us through their materials.

Through this intensive process, we choose up to twenty of the most promising scholars in our state and the country to receive the highest levels of funding, recognition, and support offered to undergraduates at the University of Iowa. The scholarship provides up to $20,000* for tuition and fees in the first year and is renewable for an additional three years or until scholars receive their bachelor’s degree (whichever comes first). Once they join us on campus, Presidential Scholars must maintain continuous full-time enrollment, as well as membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program.

*The amount of each Presidential Scholarship is determined by the scholar’s residency status.

- **Iowa residents**: Up to $74,000 (up to $18,500 a year up to four years)
- **Nonresidents**: Up to $80,000 (up to $20,000 a year up to four years)
- **International Students**: $40,000 ($10,000 a year up to four years)

In addition to the scholarship, each student has access to a spectrum of valuable experiences designed to foster extraordinary intellectual, professional, and personal growth, including:

- membership in the University of Iowa Honors Program,
- participation in the Presidential Scholars Program and seminar course with Honors Director,
- guidance from the Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates on how to find opportunities,
- support for university, local, and global social and service experiences,
- engagement with visiting scholars, distinguished faculty, and campus leaders, and
- advising on national and international scholarship, fellowship, and grant competitions.
Applicant Resources
A list of our online (click on the bolded titles) application development resources, including:

- this year’s 2018 Presidential Scholarship Sample Application (the document you are using),
- a printable version of our 2018 Presidential Scholarship Application Timeline,
- our regularly updated Frequently Asked Questions and Pro-tips pages.
- If you are looking for the Iowa Scholarship Portal, click here!
- Questions about other scholarships? Check out UI Admissions Scholarships guide here!

Applicant Checklist
Not sure where to start? We think this is a good place.

- Register for and take the ACT or SAT on or before the eligible 2017 test dates.
- Have your official test scores sent to the University of Iowa (Codes: ACT = 1356, SAT = 6681)
- Apply for admission to the University of Iowa PRIOR to the Thanksgiving holiday.
  In order to access the Iowa Scholarship Portal and apply for the Presidential, you MUST have a HawkID, which is only possible if you have been accepted to the university). It may take a day or two to receive it.
- Set up your General Applicant Profile in the Iowa Scholarship Portal before November 17th!
  This is an easy step to take care of once you have been admitted. When it is complete, you can familiarize yourself with the application portal and the online form for the Presidential.

  **Pro-tip!** Work on your essays OUTSIDE of the Iowa Scholarship Portal until you are ready to submit them. If you submit the wrong draft by accident, you will not be able to swap it out after the deadline passes.

- Obtain a copy of your HS Transcript two to three weeks* before the application deadline.
  *Your Student Records Office may require more than two to three weeks to process your request, so we recommend that you double check with them to make sure you know how long it may take to secure a copy of your transcript. This is especially important since Fall Break and the Thanksgiving holiday fall in the week before the application deadline and many offices will be closed or minimally staffed.
Request your standardized test scores

To be eligible for the Presidential Scholarship at the University of Iowa, individuals must have earned a composite score of:

ACT = 33 or higher  SAT = Click here to review the UI ACT/SAT Equivalency Table.

Official scores from the testing agency are required to apply for the Presidential Scholarship and should be requested by the applicant at the time of application for admission. To request your scores be shared with the University of Iowa WHEN YOU TAKE THE TEST, use the codes provided here: ACT: 1356 or SAT: 6681

PLEASE NOTE: Self-reported test scores or the scores noted on your transcript CANNOT be used for this competition.

Apply for Admission to the University of Iowa

To apply for the Presidential Scholarship, you must first apply for admission to the University of Iowa. To do so, click here.

Complete your General Application Profile

To apply for the Presidential Scholarship, you must login to the IOWA Scholarship Portal with your HawkID and password. As a first-time user, you will be directed to complete the General Application Profile, most of which will be pre-filled by information pulled from your application for admission.

Once you have completed the General Application section, the IOWA Scholarship Portal will generate a list of “Recommended” scholarship opportunities for you. If you are eligible to apply, a link to the Presidential Scholarship application will be included on your landing page in the portal. Follow the link to begin working on your application.

Upload your transcript

Unlike the standardized test scores which MUST be official (meaning they are shared by the testing organization), we require that you request a copy of your high school transcript document for your own use, which you will then upload into the Iowa Scholarship Portal yourself. Do not ask your high school to send a transcript to the University in support of your scholarship application.

When you scan or save your transcript file, save the file as a PDF with the following identifying information in the title: First Name, Last Name, Phone Number (ex. Spongebob SquarePants 319-123-1234) before uploading the document.

PLEASE NOTE: We understand that any transcript shared by an applicant is considered unofficial. For the purposes of our process, having the applicant upload the transcript file does not impact the legitimacy of the document. Our committees need access to the full transcript and at this time, our scholarship platform does not communicate with our admissions record system. Because of this, transcripts or reported data submitted at the time of admission cannot be transferred to your application in the Iowa Scholarship Portal.
List your activities

In this section of the application, you have the opportunity to share a list of up to 10 of the most meaningful extracurricular activities you were engaged in from ninth grade to the present.

If you like, you may also offer the committee a more detailed description of THREE of your ten experiences. List the THREE activities you wish to describe more fully to the committee in the first three entries in this section.

Extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to the following pursuits:

- **Paid employment**
  - Part/full-time, summer, internships/apprenticeships

- **Experiential learning**
  - Research, internships, apprenticeships, or specialized training (ROTC)

- **Athletics**
  - HS, intramural and club teams

- **Performance**
  - Comedic, musical, theatrical or physical performance

- **Production/Publishing**
  - Local/school radio, television, newspaper, literary journal, yearbook

- **Volunteerism**
  - Service to your school or local community through local clubs, honor societies, non-profit organizations, hospital work, student government, electoral politics, advocacy on behalf of a group, idea/belief

How do I choose?

When you are choosing what to include in this section, remember that our committees may not be familiar with some activities and too familiar with others to be able to evaluate the connection without help from you.

For instance, membership in National Honor Society is common, but the investment it requires really varies from chapter to chapter. Is it worth including if you know your chapter isn’t super active or your role in it was minimal? Probably not. Instead prioritize your contributions to events or initiatives, projects or performances you were a part of creating, strengthening, or finishing!

What should I focus on in my descriptions?

We are looking for insight into why you chose to put your time, energy, and imagination to work in service of whatever organization, experience, project or community you choose to discuss.

Competitive Speech

- Speech or Debate team, Mock Trial, or Model UN

Creative Arts/DIY

- Creative writing, fashion design, sewing/quilting, furniture construction, software/app design, cooking, baking, podcast creation, etc.

Craft your personal essay

Respond to the essay question posed below. Your response should not exceed 750 words.

Tell us about an idea you cannot stop thinking about. Why is it so engrossing?

Do not be afraid to GEEK out here. Whatever you choose to discuss, you MUST answer the question and help your readers understand your topic.