



College Merit Scholarships

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
College Career Center

Merit Scholarships at Texas Universities and Colleges



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This issue features schools in Texas that offer merit scholarships and academic programs of potential interest to a significant number of TJ students: Baylor University; Rice

University; Southern Methodist University; Trinity University; University of Dallas; University of Texas; and Texas A & M. Texas schools tend to be less expensive than schools

on the east or west coasts, even without merit scholarships or financial aid. Some also are interested in attracting highly qualified international applicants.

General Information

Rice University

Rice has about 2,800 to 3,000 undergraduates, and is known for science and engineering, its premed program, and its music conservatory. Average SAT-M scores range from 670 (25%ile) to 780 (75%ile) and SAT-V scores from 640 (25%ile) to 750 (75%ile).

Southern Methodist University

SMU has about 6,200 undergraduates and offers an honors program. Average SAT-V scores range from about 560 (25%ile) to 660 (75%ile), and SAT-M scores from about 570 (25%ile) to 670 (75%ile).

Baylor University

With about 1,200 undergraduates, Baylor has many separate colleges, including a 4-year honors college and three other honors programs. Median SAT V+M scores for all students range from about 1140 (25%ile) to 1320 (75%ile), but students in the University Scholars Program have average SAT scores of over 1400 and students in a separate Honors Program have average SAT scores of about 1350.

University of Dallas

With about 1,200 undergraduates, U Dallas is a Catholic school with average SAT-V plus SAT-M scores of about 1200. Princeton Review describes it as "one of best private school bargains." 80% of its sophomores study in Rome.

University of Texas

With about 37,000 undergraduates, University of Texas-Austin offers a four-year honors program with separate classes and dorms. About 10% of entering freshmen live outside Texas, and SAT V+M scores average roughly 1230.

Trinity University

With about 2,500 full-time undergraduates, Trinity offered merit scholarships to over 70% of its entering students, including international applicants, averaging \$12,000. Average SAT-V plus SAT-M scores range from 1120 (25%ile) to 1370 (75%ile).

Texas A & M

Texas A & M has about 36,500 undergraduates, whose average SAT V+M scores average 1210. Texas A & M offers a university honors program for about 1,000 students. National Merit semifinalists qualify automatically, and other students qualify based on scores and grades.

Merit Scholarships and Honors Programs at Colleges and Universities in Texas

Baylor University

- Total costs in 2008-09 of about \$35,500.
- Eight undergraduate colleges, including Engineering & Computer Science, Business, Honors College, and Music.
- Honors College includes the University Scholars Program for about the top 1% of students, with average SAT scores > 1445.
- University Scholars are exempt from core classes, and have an honors dorm and special programs.
- Regent's Gold Scholars receive up to full tuition based solely on their SAT or ACT scores.
- President's Gold Scholars receive \$9,000 to \$14,000 per year based on SAT/ACT scores and grades.
- Provost's Gold Scholars receive \$7,000 to \$9,000 per year based on SAT/ACT scores and grades.
- Additional merit scholarships for journalism, visual arts, debate and music, engineering, and other departments.

Rice University

- Total costs in 2008-09 of about \$44,000.
- Separate colleges for engineering, architecture, humanities, music, natural sciences and social sciences.
- Special program guarantees admission to Baylor Medical School.
- Engineering Scholars receive \$5,000 to full tuition.
- Merit scholarships for foreign nationals, including the Allen Scholarship (full tuition) and Lovett Scholarship (half tuition).
- Trustee Distinguished Scholars (exceptionally talented applicants) receive \$15,300 to \$20,000.
- Trustee Diversity Scholars receive \$15,300.
- Barbara Jordan Scholars (diversity relations) receive \$15,300.
- Century Scholars (research) receive \$4,000 for two years, plus a guaranteed research mentorship.
- Shepherd School of Music offers merit awards up to full tuition to students with exceptional musical ability and potential.

Trinity University

- Total 2008-09 costs of about \$38,500.
- During 2008-09, 73% of freshmen receive merit scholarships, with an average award of \$12,000.
- Academic merit scholarships from \$5,000 to \$18,000.
- Debate scholarships up to \$10,000.
- Music and other arts scholarships range from \$2,000 to \$10,000.
- International students comprise about 8% of the Class of 2012.
- International applicants are eligible for financial aid and merit scholarships, and received about \$1.5 million in merit scholarships and financial aid in 2008.

University of Dallas

- 2008-09 total costs of about \$33,000, including tuition, room, board and fees.
- One of the most selective Catholic universities in the United States, with the third highest SAT scores of all Texas colleges.
- Princeton Review describes as "one of the best private school bargains in the nation."
- National Merit finalists automatically receive \$14,000 to full tuition awards.
- National Merit semifinalists automatically receive merit scholarships ranging from \$12,000 to full tuition.
- Co-curricular achievement awards up to \$12,000/year.
- Special awards up to \$3,000 in art, chemistry, classics, drama, French, German, math, physics, and Spanish.

Southern Methodist University

- Total 2008-09 costs about \$43,300.
- University Honors Program students have smaller classes, a special dorm, grants for overseas study, etc.
- President's Scholars receive full tuition and fees.
- Hunt Leadership Scholars receive SMU tuition/fees less U VA tuition/fees.
- National Merit finalists receive half tuition.
- Engineering School Scholars receive up to \$15,500.
- International applicants are eligible for multiple merit scholarships.
- Art and music scholarships up to full tuition.

Texas A & M

- 2008-09 costs, including tuition, room, board and fees, total about \$35,000.
- Separate colleges of business, engineering and liberal arts.
- Multiple university and departmental Honors programs, with honors classes, honors dorms, advisors, etc.
- Students with 1300 SAT-1 scores receive waiver of nonresident tuition differential (about \$8,250/year).
- President's Endowed Scholars receive \$3,000/year.
- Lechner and McFadden Scholars receive \$2,500/year.
- Apply by December 1, 2008 for departmental scholarships.

University of Texas (Austin)

- 2008-09 nonresident total costs range from about \$32,000 to \$45,000 depending on courses taken.
- Honors programs in each college offer special classes, dorms and other opportunities.
- National Merit Finalists receive out-of-state tuition waivers.
- Engineering and many other merit awards may be combined with the tuition waivers for National Merit Scholars.
- International students may qualify for Texas resident tuition, but cannot receive merit scholarships in their first year.