College Merit Scholarships

This issue features schools in Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah with merit scholarships and programs of potential interest to a significant number of TJ students: Colorado School of Mines, New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Arizona State University, and Brigham Young University.

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General Information

Arizona State University - Barrett Honors College (Tempe, Arizona)

Barrett Honors College is an unusually comprehensive and relatively self-contained honors college of about 3,000 students within a large state university that has about 50,000 students. In 2009, incoming Barrett Honors College students had an average SAT score of 1308 and an average ACT of 29. Almost all Barrett students choose to live on the newly-built Barrett campus. Arizona State University has an unusually generous series of merit-based scholarships for students with high test scores and/or high GPAs, in addition to offering athletic scholarships and Air Force, Navy and Army ROTC programs.

Colorado School of Mines (Golden, Colorado)

Colorado School of Mines has about 3,500 full-time undergraduates and 1,100 graduate students. For the 50% of freshman entering in 2009 who submitted SAT scores, SAT-CR scores ranged from 550 (25%ile) to 650 (75%ile) and SAT-M scores from 620 (25%ile) to 700 (75%ile). About 20% of the students receive merit scholarships and over 10% receive athletic scholarships. Army and Air Force ROTC are on campus.

NM Institute of Mining & Tech (Socorro, New Mexico)

New Mexico Institute of Mining & Tech has about 1,200 full-time undergraduates and 600 graduate students. Of the 130 entering freshmen in fall 2008 submitting SAT scores, SAT-CR scores ranged from 530 (25%ile) to 660 (75%), and SAT-M scores from 550 (25%ile) to 680 (75%). Over 40% of New Mexico Tech students received merit scholarships in 2008-09. ROTC is not offered.

Brigham Young University (Provo, Utah)

Brigham Young University has about 28,000 full-time undergraduates and 3,000 graduate students. Of the 33% of students entering BYU in fall 2008 who submitted SAT scores, SAT-CR scores ranged from 550 (25%ile) to 670 (75%ile), and SAT-M scores ranged from 570 (25%ile) to 680 (75%ile). Students encouraged to combine Freshman Academy Program with the Honors Program, which offers separate classes, dorms and other benefits and includes over 2,500 students. BYU offers many full-tuition and partial-tuition merit scholarships, athletic scholarships and on-campus ROTC.
Colorado School of Mines

- Total costs in 2009-10 of about $38,000 including tuition, room, board fees.
- Of the 85% of entering freshmen in fall 2009 who submitted ACT scores, 30% scored 30 to 36 on the composite.
- Engineering Practices Intro Course Sequence (EPICS).
- McBride Honors Program in Public Affairs for Engineers.
- Engineering Day Carnivals.
- CSM Scholars are selected based on academic achievement and receive scholarships averaging about $5,000.

New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology

- Total costs in 2009-10 of about $23,000 including tuition, room and board.
- Popular majors include mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, computer science, and chemical engineering.
- Langmuir Lab for Atmospheric Research.
- Observatory for Cometary Research run jointly with NASA.
- Energetic Materials Research Center.
- 5-year BA/MA in hydrology or geology.
- No intercollegiate sports.
- Sometimes described as a small university within a large research center.

Brigham Young University

- Total estimated expenses in 2009-10 of about $25,000, including tuition, room, board, books, supplies and transportation for two semesters, with an automatic 50% discount on tuition for students who are members of the Church of Latter Day Saints.
- University Core distribution requirements include 14 credits of religion.
- About 2500 students participate in the Honors Program, which is open to all interested students and includes specific required courses.
- About one third of incoming students receive merit scholarships.
- Twenty-five incoming students who are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints receive the full-tuition Monson Presidential Scholarship.
- National Merit finalists who list BYU as their first-choice university receive 8-semester full-tuition LDS scholarships.
- Additional full-tuition scholarships funded by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are awarded based on GPA and SAT scores, where students scoring 1510 (CR & M) on the SAT can receive a 4-year scholarship with a 3.9 unweighted GPA.
- BYU offers one-year nonrenewable scholarships for full and half tuition, based on similar academic criteria.
- BYU also offers half-tuition scholarships for continuing students with lower GPAs, which vary based on major.