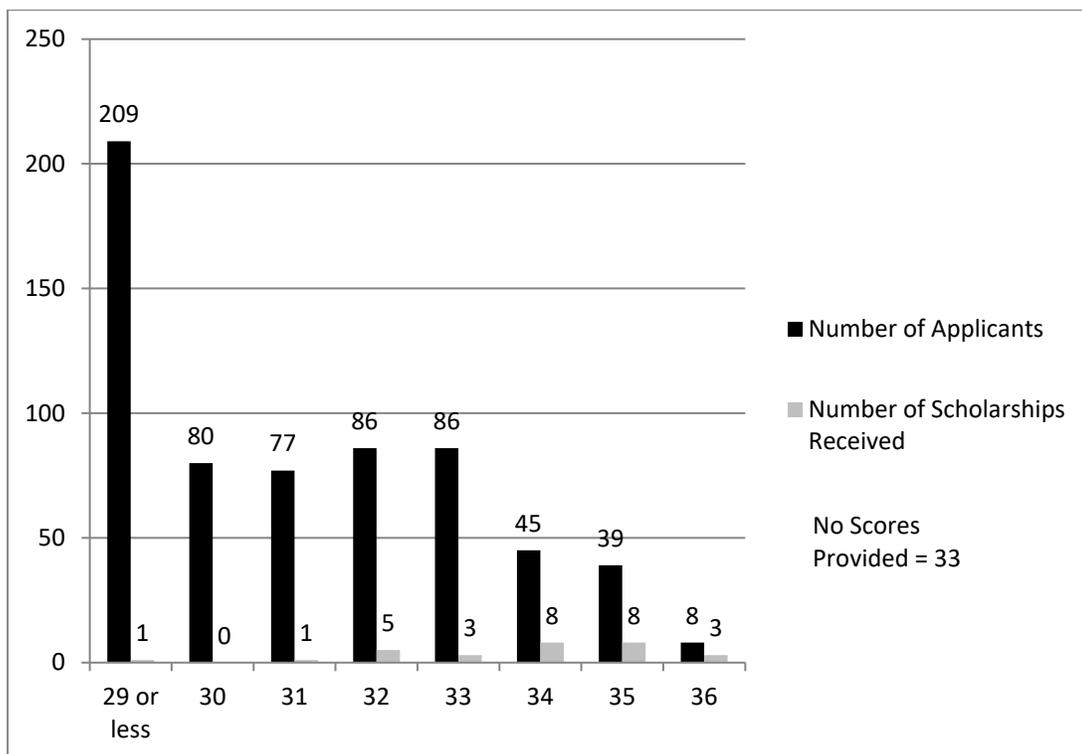


IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please read and save for your records

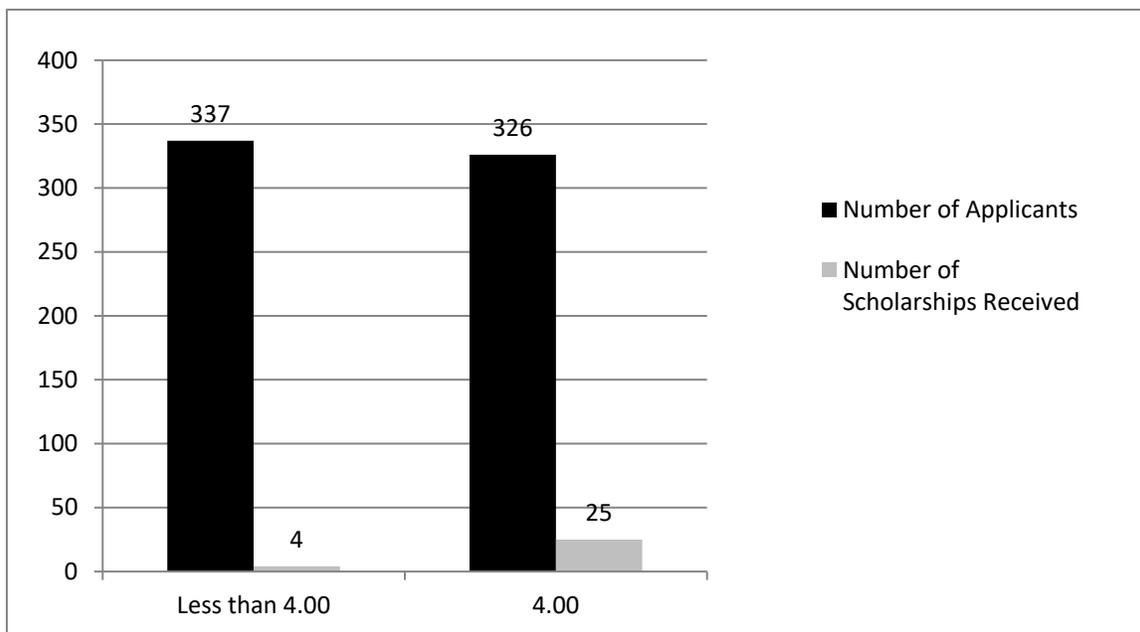
Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **What is the Presidential Scholarship?** The “Presidential” is the most prestigious scholarship awarded by our university and includes a full tuition waiver as well as a generous stipend renewable for four years. As many as 20 Presidential Scholarships may be awarded. Finalists, who do not receive the Presidential Scholarship, will be considered for the Provost Scholarship, which also includes a full tuition waiver and a stipend renewable for four years.
2. **What are my chances of receiving this scholarship?** In 2020, we received 663 completed applications and awarded 20 Presidential and 9 Provost Scholarships. Approximately 1 in 23 applicants received a scholarship that year.
3. **Is the selection based on ACT/ SAT scores?** No. ACT/SAT scores are part of the selection criteria but no more or less important than other measures. The following chart represents the applications we received in 2020. High test scores increased the probability of success, but applicants with test scores lower than the mean also received awards. In 2020, the mean ACT and SAT scores of all the applicants were 30.57 and 1365 respectively, while the mean scores for scholarship recipients were 33.72 and 1478, respectively. The chart below represents 2020 ACT scores with SAT scores converted to the ACT rubric. Note: for this application cycle, i.e. the 2021 competition, test scores are optional.



4. **Is there a preference as to which exam to take - SAT or ACT?** No. We convert these exams to a common scale. If you took both exams, or either exam more than once, we only consider your best single-exam performance. Note: for the 2021 competition test scores are optional.
5. **What if I plan to re-take the ACT/SAT to improve my score?** We will only consider the scores reported at the time of your application.

6. **Does the size of my high school matter?** No. The size (number of students) of the applicant's high school is not a statistical indicator of success for these awards. The selection committee recognizes that smaller schools may not have all the opportunities available to students at larger schools.
7. **Are home-schooled applicants accommodated?** Yes. Home-schooled students have historically been successful in this competition at a rate similar to public or private school applicants, but should call us for recommendations on how to best represent themselves using the standard application process.
8. **Is my high school GPA important?** Yes. Your high school GPA is important, but is one of several criteria considered by the selection committee. The diagram below is from the 2020 application class. Most of the awardees had a reported GPA of 4.00, but a few students were awarded a scholarship with less than a 4.00 GPA.



9. **What about GPA weighting with AP or Honors courses?** The diagram above represents the *reported* GPAs, which may or may not have been weighted. Furthermore, high schools assign GPA points and weigh courses in a variety of ways. Based on your transcript, we will calculate a non-weighted GPA. We will also consider the number of credits earned eligible for both high school and college credit, AP, IB high level, or dual credit courses. From this data we will calculate a consistent and uniform GPA fair to all applicants.
10. **If applications are due in December, how are my senior-year grades considered?** These grades will not be taken into consideration, unless your quarter/trimester/semester ends prior to you submitting your application. The majority of our applicants will report grades from only the 9th, 10th and 11th years because at the time of submitting the application they have not completed the first 12th year grading cycle. If you are identified as a semi-finalist, we may request grades from the first semester of your 12th year.
11. **What if my high school does not provide class ranking information?** Some indication of class standing is very important to us. Applicants who are unable to provide us with some measure of class standing are at a statistical disadvantage for this award. In 2020, 15 of the 29 awardees were ranked 1st in their class (including ties), 13 awardees ranked in the top 5% or better, 1 awardee ranked in the 6-10% range, and no awardees ranked in the 10 -20% range. If your school does not rank students, please ask your school

counselor to provide a confidential or percentile ranking (for example, top 1%, top 5% etc.) as part of the online application verification process.

12. **If I am awarded a scholarship, what are the rules for renewal?** Presidential scholars must complete 32 credit hours per academic year and maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5. Provost scholars must complete 30 credit hours per academic year and maintain a 3.3 cumulative GPA. Both Presidential and Provost Scholars must be continuously enrolled as full-time students and are expected to be active members of the Honors College.
13. **Is the campus visit required?** Approximately 50 finalists will be invited to campus for interviews. All applicants selected as finalists are **required** to attend the on-campus interviews. We will do our utmost to accommodate the scheduling needs of finalists with legitimate conflicts, subject to approval from the Dean of the Honors College.
14. **How much are these scholarships worth?** Using Fall 2019/Spring 2020 tuition costs, the four-year value of a Presidential Scholarship exceeds \$45,000 for Montana residents and \$119,000 for non-residents. The Provost Scholarship exceeds \$33,000 for Montana residents and \$107,000 for non-residents. Both scholarships cover tuition, but not fees. The Presidential Scholarship includes a \$4,000 stipend (shown in the value above), which is first applied to fees, including room and board. Any remaining amount after such fees have been deducted will be returned to the student as a cash award. The Provost Scholarship includes a \$1,000 stipend (shown in the value above), which is first applied to fees, including room and board. Any remaining amount after such fees have been deducted will be returned to the student as a cash award. Please note that our university has a freshman housing requirement.
15. **Are all finalists guaranteed either a Presidential or Provost Scholarship?** No. It is possible that some finalists (those invited for an on-campus interview) may not be selected for either scholarship.
16. **Do I need to also apply to the Honors College?** No. Your Presidential Scholarship application will serve as your application to the Honors College. We will notify you of your status in late January 2021.
17. **If offered a scholarship, may I defer my award?** No. A Presidential or Provost Scholarship may not be deferred. If you intend to accept the scholarship, you must enroll at Montana State University in the fall of 2021.
18. **Application Process – start ASAP!**
 - a. You must first apply and be admitted to MSU. You will need your Student I.D. number to proceed with the Presidential Scholarship application process.
 - b. The application is fully on-line.
 - c. Student applications must be submitted electronically by December 4, 2020 at 3 PM MST.
 - d. The on-line submission deadline for counselor verification and letters of recommendation is December 14, 2020 at 3 pm MST.
 - e. Applicants will be notified by email when the counselor and/or recommenders have submitted their materials. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their counselor and recommenders have submitted their recommendations/counselor verification by December 14, 2020 at 3 PM MST.
19. **Any more questions?** Please call (406) 994-4110, or e-mail honors@montana.edu.



I have read the above FAQs and wish to continue with the Presidential Scholarship application process.