



MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS



SCHOLARSHIPS FACILITATE THE RECRUITMENT

and retention of highly engaged, intelligent and diverse students from across the world to the Honors College. These top students set the intellectual standard and increase the national recognition of the College of Charleston as a whole. In fact, Honors College students add 20 points to the overall freshman class SAT score and outpace the general student body in both first-year retention and four-year graduation rates.

A continued investment in merit scholarships and a new focus on programming and enrichment activities will heighten the Honors College's offerings, create more scholarship opportunities and contribute to the elevation of the College's national distinction and reputation.

GOAL

\$3,500,000

A robust scholarship enrichment program – from financial assistance and awards to study abroad and undergraduate research experiences – ensures the Honors College continues an upward trajectory.



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Whereas the number of freshmen entering the Honors College has reached an all-time high, the Honors College has the capacity to increase its student body and approximate the industry standard of ~10% of the undergraduate student body. In 2018, enrollment was at 6.8%, a 0.4% increase from the previous year, but there remains opportunity for more growth. Building the endowment for merit scholarships will enable the Honors College to recruit and retain more high-achieving students.

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

Goal: \$1,000,000

Adding a minimum of \$1,000,000 to the endowed scholarship offerings will help yield the most academically gifted students interested in the College. It will position the Honors College to recruit students from across all socioeconomic backgrounds and academic areas of interest, further helping to diversify the student body at large.

- The Honors College has seen a growth in enrollment with the increase in scholarship dollars that was achieved through the BOUNDLESS campaign that concluded in 2016
- In the 2017–2018 academic year, the institutional merit scholarship model was revised to enhance the average offer and guarantee that all Honors College students receive a merit scholarship
- In 2018, the Honors College saw a 39% increase in enrollment; and recruitment numbers stayed consistent with the 2019 freshman class

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMMING AND ENRICHMENT

Goal: \$2,500,000

Both immediate-use and endowed funding is needed to support the programming necessary to take the Honors College's merit scholarship offerings to a more competitive level. Funds will support specialized advising, faculty-mentored research, study abroad experiences, guest lectures, professional development and student conferences, along with other enrichment opportunities that ensure our Honors students have the most comprehensive, rewarding experience during their tenure.

Investing in Honors College students will enhance the overall metrics of the institution and will set up the students for even greater success.

Relative to the student population, Honors College students:

- Have a higher retention rate (~90% vs. ~78%)
- Have a higher four-year graduation rate (~84% vs. 53%)

The Honors College Class of 2019:

- 25% enrolled directly in graduate or professional school
- 40% had a job offer
- 11% were accepted into a fellowship, internship or service program

National Recognition:

- For the 2019–2020 class year, a record five CofC students received Fulbright awards, four of whom were Honors College students/alumni
- In fall 2019, an Honors College student was the first Rhodes finalist since the early 1900s

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRIVE FOR THE 250TH, CONTACT:

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