

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP

Eligibility and Renewal Criteria

The National Merit Corporation (NMC) funds between \$1,000 and \$2,000 of your total award and this portion of the award is noted as **National Merit Scholarship** on your financial aid award letter. Hope College funds the remainder of your award for a total of \$24,000. The Hope College portion is called the **National Merit Supplement** and is noted as such on your award letter. For both portions of this award, recipients must be degree-seeking students enrolled full time. The annual award amount is divided equally between the Fall and Spring semesters, cannot be used during any summer terms and may be used for no more than two semesters of off-campus study. This award can be received for a maximum of eight (8) semesters.

The **National Merit Scholarship** is renewed annually to students who meet the requirements of the college's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy (<https://hope.edu/offices/financial-aid/policies.html>). Students not meeting SAP criteria are not eligible for renewal. Recipients must also follow the procedures outlined by the National Merit Corporation to renew the scholarship each year. Refer to the information provided by the NMC for details.

The Hope-funded **National Merit Supplement** is renewed to students for their first and second years of attendance at Hope College who meet the requirements of the college's SAP Policy. Renewal for the third and fourth years of attendance is contingent upon academic performance as described below:

- Continue to meet the requirements of the college's SAP Policy.
- At the end of the spring semester of the second and third years of attendance, recipients must have earned a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA* to renew the award for the following years.
- Recipients whose cumulative GPA* is below 3.0 but at least 2.75 at the end of the spring semester of the second or third year will have their annual award reduced to \$5,000 for the following year(s).
- Recipients who do not meet the GPA* criteria stated above are not eligible for renewal and forfeit this portion of their award.
- Students whose Supplement is reduced or forfeited can regain eligibility by earning a cumulative GPA* of 2.75 or greater at the close of subsequent semesters. The annual award will be reinstated at the original amount or \$5,000, depending upon the cumulative GPA* as described above.
- One semester of eligibility is forfeited for each semester the student is determined ineligible due to reasons stated above. Forfeited semesters are deducted from the eight total semesters of eligibility.
- One semester of eligibility is forfeited for each semester the student does not enroll at Hope College while attending another college/university.

These scholarships, in combination with other resources (such as scholarships, grants, veterans benefits or employer-provided tuition benefits), may not exceed the college-determined cost of attendance for any given award year. One semester of eligibility is forfeited for each semester the student is determined ineligible due to any circumstances stated above. Forfeited semesters are deducted from the eight total semesters of eligibility and are not available for use at a later time. If you complete your degree requirements in less than eight semesters, your scholarship terminates when those requirements are met. For students who qualify, need-based aid may replace all or a portion of forfeited merit-based scholarships.

*The Hope College GPA is the only GPA considered for these purposes.

NOTE: *It is important to examine carefully both dollar amounts and criteria for renewal when comparing merit scholarship offers from colleges.*