



# UNCF ACHIEVEMENT CAPSTONE SCHOLARSHIP > FACT SHEET

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

To recognize and celebrate the accomplishments and invest in the highest of high achievers among graduating seniors at the nation's 100+ HBCUs and predominantly black institutions, UNCF (the United Negro College Fund), the nation's largest provider of scholarship aid, and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), have partnered to create the UNCF Achievement Capstone Scholarship.

This new award, a legacy of NMSC's 50-year National Achievement® Scholarship Program, will first recognize the outstanding academic accomplishments of its recipients at the cum laude level or above and it will provide them with financial awards that support and encourage them in the careers on which they are about to embark.

The 1964 Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion sex and national origin in employment, public accommodations and education. In addition to marking distinguished academic achievement, the UNCF Capstone Achievement Program is also intended to honor graduating seniors whose record of undergraduate accomplishment, both within education institutions and beyond, holds the promise of realizing the aspirations of under-represented Americans and building a better society on the foundation of the rights granted by the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- African American
- A graduating senior attending an accredited, four-year, degree-granting HBCU or predominantly black institution and majoring in any academic discipline
- Nominated by the institution from which the student will graduate (institutions may nominate more than one candidate)
- High academic performance leading to the eligibility for designation of *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* or *summa cum laude*
- Demonstrated leadership and campus involvement in ways that honor the legacy of the 1964 Civil Rights Act





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## PROGRAM BENEFITS INCLUDE

- **One-time award ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000** which can be used to retire the balance of educational costs of undergraduate study at the recipient's institution or for future educational expenses
- **Participation in a Capstone Scholar Alumni community** that features peer networking, graduate and professional school opportunities, career opportunities, peer interaction and more

## NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Each round of awards made under the UNCF Achievement Capstone Scholarship will be made to seniors who will graduate in the spring of each calendar year.

UNCF will send information about the nomination process to eligible institutions at the top of each calendar year. Completed nominations, together with other documentation listed below, will be due in the spring.

Students may apply only through invitations extended by the nominating institution.

Nominations may include additional requirements and must be accompanied by:

- An official transcript including the fall grades of the senior year
- Confirmation of the student's eligibility for *cum laude* designation or above
- The nominee's curriculum vitae or resume
- At least two letters of recommendation including one from a faculty member who has worked directly with the nominee in a classroom setting
- A letter from the nominee that addresses:
  - The ways in which her/his undergraduate career and plans for the future reflect the legacy of the 1964 Civil Rights Act
  - Her/his service to the campus and wider communities

