Frequently Asked Questions about the Application Process

Transcripts/Test Scores/SAR:

How do I access my student aid report?
- Log into FAFSA: www.fafsa.gov
- Click: View or Print your Student Aid Report
- Click: View Student Aid Report

What code do I use to send my test scores to Dorrance Scholarship Programs?
There is no code to send your scores to us. You will either need to upload your score report to your Dorrance application electronically or mail it to our office. In both instances, the score report must be physically in our office by February 7th at 4:59pm.

Do my SAT/ACT test scores need to be official?
No. Download a score report using the account you used to register for the test. This should include your full legal name, high school, testing date, and scores by subject. You do not need to request a report from the agency.

Does my high school transcript need to be official?
Your high school transcript does not need to be official. You can have your counselor print a non-official transcript for you. Please ensure that you are submitting a transcript which includes your fall semester of your senior year. This means, although our application opens September 1st you will not be able to submit your transcripts until December or January at the earliest, but it must be physically in our offices no later than February 7th at 4:59 pm.

If I take the SAT/ACT after I've already sent you my scores should I send you my new scores?
If you receive new scores before the application deadline of February 7th you may send the new scores to us, although it is not required.

How do I improve my chances of receiving the scholarship?
The selection committee is comprised of members of the business and philanthropic communities, the Dorrance family, and graduates of the Dorrance Scholarship Programs. They will review every detail of your application. Respect your audience and
- Complete all parts of the application as thoroughly as you can
- Be sincere and authentic
- Maturity is assessed
- Proofread and spell correctly
- Procrastination usually shows; give yourself enough time to do your best

If I apply and am selected as a Dorrance Scholar is it binding? What if circumstances change and I do not wish to receive the Dorrance Scholarship?
Dorrance Scholars are selected and notified by April 30 to allow students considering an out-of-state school to meet those deadlines, usually May 1st. If you are offered the Dorrance Scholarship and you do not wish to accept it, you may decline. We will share a deadline with you during the selection process and ask that you notify us of your intent to decline so that we may notify an alternate.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to our staff:
Rayna Castillo at rcastillo@dorrancescholarship.org or 480-405-2410
Letters of Recommendation:

Who can submit a recommendation for me?

The Dorrance application requires two recommendations: one from a teacher of an academic course (choose a junior or senior teacher who is familiar with you and your academic strengths) and another from your school counselor.

The teacher recommendation must come from an academic course (English, math, science, history, foreign language) and the counselor recommendation must come from your current, assigned academic counselor at your high school.

Where does my counselor/teacher send their recommendation?

Once you input their name and email address into our application they will receive an email with instructions to submit their recommendation form via our online application. We do not accept any recommendations by mail or email; we do not accept late recommendations.

Make sure your recommenders' contact information is correct. If they don’t receive the email, they are unable to complete your recommendation and your application will not be considered by the selection committee.

My counselor/teacher did not receive their recommendation link what should I do?

The email should have come from our application server “Smarter Select.” Ask them to check their spam folder. If they have not yet received an email, please contact us to troubleshoot. You can call our office at 408-405-2410 or email Rayna Castillo at rcastillo@dorrancescholarship.org.

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What if I haven’t decided which university I will attend?

We will ask you which university you plan to attend on our application due February 7th, 2020. Please provide your current plan and let us know of any changes in your decision by March 10th, 2020. After March 10th you will not be able to change your university selection if you would like to receive the Dorrance Scholarship.

What if I change my mind about where I want to go to school during the application process?

If you change your mind about which of the three public, in-state universities you plan to attend just let us know by March 10th at 4:59pm either by phone or email and you will then be added to that university application pool. If you make a final decision about going out of state or to a different AZ school that is not ASU – Tempe, NAU – Flagstaff, or UA -Tucson just let us know and we will remove your application from our selection process.

How many people apply for the scholarship?

Our application process is competitive, but we think it is worth applying! The number of applications we receive varies every year. By meeting all of our eligibility requirements and completing your application by our deadlines you give yourself a chance of receiving a scholarship valued at over $100,000 over 4 years!

What are my chances of receiving the scholarship?

An exact percentage is not possible to calculate as each year is unique. Also, the selection of recipients relies on objective and subjective information, which requires selection committee members to form impressions of applicants relative to the other applicants in the pool of that year. Your chances of receiving the scholarship improve as you move through the application phases.

Phase 1. The program verifies whether an applicant meets the required minimum eligibility requirements (see eligibility requirements), and assesses your application in the context of the other applicants.

Phase 2. You will respond to various writing prompts and submit your recommendation forms. If the selection committee chooses your application, you will be invited to attend a personal interview.

Phase 3. The committee will interview a total of 60 applicants, 20 applicants for each university (ASU, NAU, UA). Up to 36 awards will be made, 12 Dorrance Scholars at each university.

Phase 4. Students attend an orientation and a summer bridge program. Students who are invited but who do not attend or successfully complete these will not receive the Dorrance Scholarship.

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