

# Frequently Asked Questions about Eligibility Criteria

## **Defining First Generation:**

### **What if my sibling is in college? What if my sibling has a degree?**

We do not consider your siblings' degree status unless they are your legal guardian. |

### **What if my parent is in college?**

If your parent is currently attending college but does not have a bachelor's degree yet you are still considered first generation. If they don't receive one before you are awarded the Dorrance Scholarship you would still be eligible.

### **What if my parent gets their bachelor's degree after I am already a Dorrance Scholar?**

You would continue to receive the Dorrance Scholarship if you complete all of our renewal requirements.

### **What if my parent(s) have a degree from a different country and it is not recognized in the US?**

If the degree is the equivalent of a 4-year bachelor's degree you are not considered first generation and are not eligible to receive the Dorrance Scholarship.

## **Defining Financial Need:**

### **If my parents make xxx amount of money, do I qualify?**

We base financial eligibility off your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) which is calculated based on your responses on your Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). It takes many factors into consideration beyond household income alone. If you think your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) may be too high, please contact our office to speak with someone about your FAFSA results. You can call our office at 408-405-2410 or email Nicole Conover at [nconover@dorrancescholarship.org](mailto:nconover@dorrancescholarship.org).

### **What if I don't qualify for a Pell grant?**

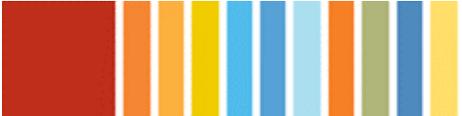
The Dorrance Scholarship committee will consider you regardless of your Pell grant eligibility. (See question above)

### **What if I already have my tuition covered by another scholarship?**

The Dorrance award can be applied to all costs of attendance: tuition, fees, books, dorm, meals plan and transportation. You can find the total cost of attendance for your university on its website. The Dorrance Scholarship will be deposited into your financial aid account at your university each semester. If tuition is covered by other funding, this scholarship can be used to pay other charges on your account.

### **Can I still get this scholarship if I have other scholarships?**

Yes! Our scholarship is stackable, which means you can add it to other types of aid that you receive, but only up to the total cost of attendance, i.e., you may not be over-awarded.



If you have additional questions, please reach out to our staff:

Nicole Conover at [nconover@dorrancescholarship.org](mailto:nconover@dorrancescholarship.org) or 480-405-2410

# Frequently Asked Questions about Eligibility Criteria

## **Academic Requirements:**

### **What if I don't meet the GPA or SAT/ACT requirements by the deadline?**

If your GPA or test scores do not meet our minimum, the selection committee will not consider your application. We encourage you to spend your time applying for scholarships where you meet the eligibility criteria. Our deadline is 5:00pm on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Late applications will not be considered.

### **Can I attend community college first and then apply for the Dorrance Scholarship?**

The selection committee will only consider applicants applying during their senior year in high school and will only make awards to students going directly from high school to one of Arizona's three public universities.

### **Are there specific majors you award the scholarship to?**

No! We do not favor any one major over another. If you are unsure what you'd like to major in that's okay too! You can apply as an "undeclared" major. Our program and staff will try to help you decide.

### **What if my major isn't at the main campus?**

All students must be enrolled in a degree program offered at either ASU – Tempe, NAU – Flagstaff, or UA – Tucson. If you are planning to major in something offered only at another campus, like ASU – Downtown, you are not eligible to receive the Dorrance Scholarship.

### **Why can't I attend ASU – Downtown or West campuses?**

The intent of the award is not to support every major offered, but to ensure that Dorrance Scholars will have a traditional campus experience, where they can easily participate in a rich campus life. The variety and number of activities and opportunities are on the main residential Tempe campus. The Tempe campus offers a greater variety of community/neighborhood options than do the West or downtown campuses. Additionally, our program is based on a cohort model, requires living on campus for freshman and sophomore year, and includes frequent meetings which are held in our office in Tempe.

# 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](http://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 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm.

### 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 October 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6 at 5:00 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 our application deadline of February 6<sup>th</sup> you may send the new scores to us, although it is not required.

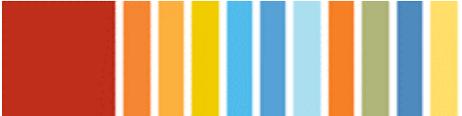
### How do I improve my chances of receiving the scholarship?

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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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.



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# Frequently Asked Questions about the Application Process

## Recommendations:

### **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 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 Nicole Conover at [nconover@dorrancescholarship.org](mailto:nconover@dorrancescholarship.org).

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Application Process

## **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 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Please provide your current plan and let us know of any changes in your decision by March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019. After March 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm 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!

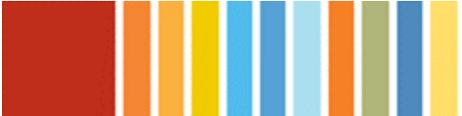
## **What are my chances of receiving the scholarship?**

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 verifies whether an applicant meets the required minimum eligibility requirements (see eligibility requirements), and assess your application in the context of the other applicants.

In Phase 2, you will respond to various writing prompts and submit your letters of recommendation. 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.

Finally, Phase 4 is attending 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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# Frequently Asked Questions about Program Requirements

## Programs:

### **What if I am not able to attend the summer bridge program in Flagstaff?**

You must attend and participate in all days of the summer bridge program in Flagstaff. The program occurs during the months of June and July. Final program dates will be announced to applicants.

### **How much do programs like summer bridge cost?**

All required programs will be paid for by the scholarship.

### **Is the international travel mandatory?**

We select students who are interested in the international travel/semester abroad. If you are not interested in the travel component of Dorrance Scholarship Programs or if you cannot travel abroad (i.e., cannot leave the USA) you would not make a good candidate.

## The Award:

### **If I am awarded the Dorrance Scholarship, can I defer it for a year?**

If you are selected as a Dorrance Scholar, you must attend our summer bridge program in Flagstaff the summer after your high school graduation and attend your university freshman year. We do not defer awards for any reason. If you decide not to accept the Dorrance Award, we will select an alternate.

### **What if I receive the Dorrance Scholarship, but I decide to transfer to a different school after my freshman year?**

The Dorrance Scholarship is only for students who are attending ASU – Tempe, NAU – Flagstaff, or UA – Tucson. If you would like to transfer from one of these universities to another you must apply to the Dorrance Program Executive Director. There is no guarantee that your award will transfer.

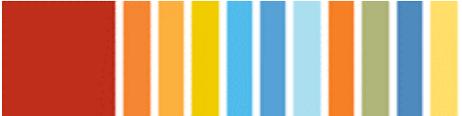
If you are transferring to a university other than one of the campuses listed above, you will forfeit the Dorrance Scholarship.

### **What happens if I don't meet the renewal requirements?**

Probation may be granted, but only on a temporary basis. There is no guarantee that probation will be granted.

### **What if something happens and I need to take a break from school?**

If there is an emergency and you must take a break from school, you *may* be able to defer your scholarship for up to one academic year (2 semesters). You must apply to the Dorrance Program Executive Director. There is no guarantee that your award will be deferred.



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