



THE ADVISOR ADVOCATE



Merit Scholarships at IUP

Meet the Merit Scholarship Advisor

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Help our student Hawks soar with Merit Scholarship Opportunities –
Remember the Acronym **BIRDS**

Be Aware of the merit scholarship opportunities that students in your programs would most likely be interested in and prepared to apply.

Identify students in your programs that are candidates for these opportunities and talk with them about the benefits of applying.

Refer students to the Merit Scholarship Advisor to assist them with the application process.

Discuss their application progress at each advising session and help them connect with departmental resources to develop their application.

Support students in the application process by providing feedback on their personal statements, helping them obtain strong recommendation letters, and assisting other application components.

The 10 Merit Scholarships Every Advisor Should Know:

Click the scholarship name to visit the website.

Boren: due January annually; provides \$20k for language study abroad.

Fulbright Open Study: due September annually; 9-12 mo. abroad for independent study or research

Fulbright ETA: due September annually; 9-12 mo. abroad as an English teaching Assistant

Marshall: due September annually; earn a grad degree in the UK

Mitchell: due September annually; one year of post-grad study in Ireland

Pickering: due September annually; funds for grad programs focused on public service

Rhodes: due September annually; study abroad at Oxford

Truman: due January annually; up to \$30k for grad education in public service

Goldwater: due January annually; up to \$7.5K for students in science fields

Udall: up to \$7k for undergrad interested in environmental sustainability and Native American issues



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9-Month Gantt Chart on Completing a Merit Scholarship Application

Developing a strong merit scholarship application is a marathon. Advisors should be preparing students to begin their applications 9 months in advance of deadlines. The chart below outlines the preparation timeline.

Tasks	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9
Reviewing Application Requirements	█	█							
Developing Plans & Ideas for Application		█	█	█					
First Essay Drafts		█	█	█	█				
Gathering Recommendations		█	█	█	█	█	█		
Revising Essays		█	█	█	█	█	█	█	
Gather Transcripts and Records							█	█	█
Final Essay Drafting							█	█	█

Pathways to a Merit Scholarship

Merit Scholarships are highly competitive and often require a long record of evidence that the student has been preparing for this opportunity. Most successful candidates can demonstrate preparation throughout their academic career. Advisors should help students interested in applying connect past academic experiences and make future plans consistent with their application goals. Below is a chart to illustrate what tasks and considerations that a strong applicant should ideally include throughout their academic career.



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