



# MARS HILL COLLEGE HONOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM INFORMATION & INSTRUCTIONS

*Bailey Mountain ❖ Bonner ❖ Church Leadership ❖ Grayson ❖ Marshbanks-Anderson ❖  
Leo G. White*

Mars Hill College invites select students accepted for regular admission to the fall 2010 academic term to apply for the Honor Scholars Program. Applicants who meet the eligibility criteria will be contacted by the Admissions Office to schedule an on-campus interview on one of our Honor Scholars Days. Interview groups, composed of Mars Hill faculty, staff, and current scholars, make award decisions for six prestigious scholarships: Bailey Mountain, Bonner, Church Leadership, Grayson, Marshbanks-Anderson, and Leo G. White. Each scholarship has slightly different eligibility criteria and maintenance requirements, but all encourage high academic achievement, experiential learning, and student leadership both on and off campus. Read more about the program and the scholarships online at <http://www.mhc.edu/honors.asp>.

## Eligibility Criteria

To apply for the Honor Scholars Program, High School students must have a minimum 3.5 GPA and either a minimum combined SAT-Critical Reasoning (Verbal)/SAT-Math score of 1100 or a minimum composite ACT score of 24. Some scholarships have additional criteria, anticipated major or minor, class rank, or financial need.

## Maintenance Requirements

Honor scholarships require that each Mars Hill College Honor Scholar

- ❖ maintain a 3.2 GPA;
- ❖ participate in a minimum of 35 hours of experiential learning activities each semester (minimum of 140 hours for Bonner Scholars, who can apply for exclusive summer stipends & travel service programs);
- ❖ attend a retreat prior to the start of the first year in the program;
- ❖ attend weekly leadership seminars during the first two semesters in the program;
- ❖ attend monthly all-scholar dinner meetings;
- ❖ participate in a four-year program designed to complement students' academic, social, and personal experiences while at Mars Hill College;
- ❖ live on campus; and
- ❖ behave in a fashion that reflects excellence in study, leadership, and service.

## How to Apply

1. Submit an application and be accepted for admission to Mars Hill College.
2. Note the program application deadline. All components of your application must be received by this date.

<u>Honor Scholars Day</u>	<u>Program Application Deadline</u>
Friday, December 4, 2009 .....	Monday, November 30, 2009
Friday, February 5, 2010 .....	Monday, February 1, 2010
3. Complete the enclosed Honor Scholars Program Application form.
4. Identify two individuals to act as references. One must be a teacher; the other may be any individual other than a relative—e.g., another teacher, an employer, a community service partner, a pastor, a mentor. Cut the Honor Scholars Program Recommendation Letter Instructions page in half where indicated, write your name and the relevant application deadline in the spaces provided, and give one half to each reference.
5. Complete the enclosed Honor Scholars Program Financial Aid Estimator form.
6. Write responses to BOTH of the following two prompts. Each essay should be approximately two pages long, double-spaced.
  - a. Relate an experience that caused you to grow as a scholar. What did you learn? How has the experience expanded your intellectual horizon? How has it changed who you are, how you relate to others, and/or how you see the world?
  - b. Discuss one or more experiences in which you have engaged with the community outside your school--through service work, volunteerism, or other interactions. What has been the impact of service on your life? What role do you hope that learning outside the classroom will play during your college career?
7. Mail your completed application materials to the following address:

Admissions Office, Mars Hill College, P. O. Box 370, Mars Hill, NC 28754

☎ 1-866-MHC-4-YOU

🌐 [www.mhc.edu](http://www.mhc.edu)



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## APPLICATION

*Bailey Mountain ❖ Bonner ❖ Church Leadership ❖ Grayson ❖ Marshbanks-Anderson ❖  
Leo G. White*

Please type or print your responses.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Major/Minor \_\_\_\_\_

High School \_\_\_\_\_ Hometown Newspaper \_\_\_\_\_

High School GPA/Scale \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank/Size \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

SAT:Critical Reasoning (Verbal) \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_\_\_ Combined \_\_\_\_\_

ACT:English \_\_\_\_\_ Math \_\_\_\_\_ Reading \_\_\_\_\_ Science \_\_\_\_\_ Composite \_\_\_\_\_

College Transfers Students: College/University \_\_\_\_\_ Credits \_\_\_\_\_ GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Reference #1 \_\_\_\_\_ Reference #2 \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, and using additional pages as needed, please list any honors, awards, positions, memberships, activities, or community service projects that you believe demonstrate your qualities as a scholar, a servant, and a leader. You may attach a résumé.

The following information is optional.

Religion/Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which Honor Scholars Day you plan to attend. You will be contacted by the Mars Hill College Admissions Office with confirmation.

- Friday, December 4, 2009 .....Program Application Deadline: Monday, November 30, 2009
- Friday, February 5, 2010 .....Program Application Deadline: Monday, February 1, 2010

Please sign and date this application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

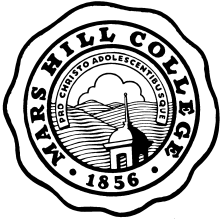
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Application

Please return this completed form with your Financial Aid Estimator form and your essays to the following address:

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Call us toll-free!

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Visit us online!



## MARS HILL COLLEGE HONOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION LETTER INSTRUCTIONS

*Bailey Mountain ❖ Bonner ❖ Church Leadership ❖ Grayson ❖ Marshbanks-Anderson ❖ Leo G. White*

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Application Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

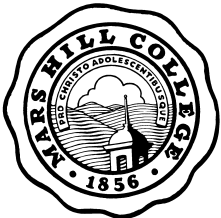
Thank you for recommending this student for the Mars Hill College Honors Scholars Program. Your letter will be read by an interview group composed of faculty, staff, and current scholars who make award decisions for five prestigious scholarships. To ensure references' candor, recommendations are confidential and will be destroyed after the interview.

Please begin your letter by explaining your relationship with the applicant. In the body, address those qualities in the applicant that you believe make him or her an exceptional candidate for the Mars Hill College Honor Scholars Program. Interviewers are particularly interested in learning about an applicant's skills (creativity, critical reasoning, oral communications, and written communications) and character (empathy, initiative, integrity, leadership, maturity, and work ethic). When possible, please provide concrete examples.

Please print your letter on institutional letterhead (as appropriate), and sign and date it. When you have finished, please seal it in an envelope, sign your name across the seal, and send it to the following address:

Admissions Office, Mars Hill College, P. O. Box 370, Mars Hill, NC 28754

*Thank you again!*



## MARS HILL COLLEGE HONOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATION LETTER INSTRUCTIONS

*Bonner ❖ Church Leadership ❖ Grayson ❖ Marshbanks-Anderson ❖ Leo G. White*

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Application Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for recommending this student for the Mars Hill College Honors Scholars Program. Your letter will be read by an interview group composed of faculty, staff, and current scholars who make award decisions for five prestigious scholarships. To ensure references' candor, recommendations are confidential and will be destroyed after the interview.

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## FINANCIAL AID ESTIMATOR

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Some scholarships in the Mars Hill College Honor Scholars Program are awarded based in part on financial need. To determine your *potential* eligibility for these scholarships, provide the following information from the most recent federal tax filings available; your *actual* eligibility will depend upon data provided in your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Draw a line through spaces that do not apply to you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Were you born before January 1, 1987? .....  Yes .....  No

Will you be working on a degree beyond a bachelor's degree in school year 2010-2011?.....  Yes .....  No

As of today, are you married? (Answer yes if you are separated but not divorced.).....  Yes .....  No

Do you have children or in-home dependents who receive more than half their support from you? .....  Yes .....  No

Are you an orphan or ward of the court, or were you a ward of the court until age 18?.....  Yes .....  No

Are you a veteran of the United States Armed Forces?.....  Yes .....  No

Do you have any dependents other than yourself (excluding a spouse)?.....  Yes .....  No

Do you have a spouse who will be enrolled at least half time?.....  Yes .....  No

Number in Family<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Family<sup>1</sup> in College \_\_\_\_\_

### Student Information

Were you (or your spouse) required to file a tax return for the most recent tax year? .....  Yes .....  No

Were you (or your spouse) eligible to file IRS form 1040A, 1040EZ, or 1040TEL?.....  Yes .....  No

State of Legal Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Tax Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Earned Income \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Earned Income \_\_\_\_\_

Untaxed Benefits<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Tax-Deferred & Untaxed Income<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Student Aid in AGI<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Liquid Assets \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Farm Equity \_\_\_\_\_ Investments \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent Information

If your parents are divorced, provide information only for the custodial parent and his/her spouse (as appropriate).

Were your parents required to file a tax return for the most recent tax year? .....  Yes .....  No

Were your parents eligible to file IRS form 1040A, 1040EZ, or 1040TEL?.....  Yes .....  No

State of Legal Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Age of Older Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Tax Paid \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Step-father's Earned Income \_\_\_\_\_ Mother/Step-Mother's Earned Income \_\_\_\_\_

Untaxed Benefits<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Tax-Deferred & Untaxed Income<sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Student Aid in AGI<sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Liquid Assets \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Farm Equity \_\_\_\_\_ Investments \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Count those people in your household who get more than half their support from the household.  
<sup>2</sup> Include the Earned Income Credit (EIC), the additional tax credit, welfare benefits (but not food stamps or subsidized housing), and untaxed social security benefits.  
<sup>3</sup> Include contributions to tax-deferred pensions & savings plans, child support received (but not foster care or adoption payments), tax-exempt interest income, allowances for military/clergy, veterans' non-education benefits, and any other untaxed income.  
<sup>4</sup> Include Hope & Lifetime Learning credits, child support paid, taxable earnings from federal work-study, and AmeriCorps payments.

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