

THE MCPHERSON GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

2020 - 2021

Each year McPherson Graduate Scholarships are awarded to new applicants to Colorado State University's Graduate School and cover the first year of graduate study with the opportunity for renewal in the second year. To be eligible for the scholarship, individuals must have completed their bachelor degree at Adams State University, preferably, or be current or former residents of the San Luis Valley in Colorado. Recipients of the McPherson Undergraduate Scholarship are eligible as well. The awards are contingent upon an unconditional admission to Graduate School in a program leading to a degree. First year students must have a minimum 3.00 GPA from their undergraduate degree to be considered eligible for this award. For renewals, students must be in good standing and making satisfactory progress towards their graduate degree. Students planning to study in any discipline or department are eligible. Each Scholarship carries an award of \$10,000 annually (renewable), plus resident tuition. Recipients must register full time (nine or more resident instruction credit hours) in each of the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. One half of the award will be paid in the fall semester and one half in the spring semester. The spring semester award is contingent upon maintaining a 3.0 grade point average in the fall semester and otherwise remaining in good academic standing. Other awards such as assistantships and fellowships may be held simultaneously with the McPherson Scholarship.

Two awards will be available for the academic year of 2020-2021. The preferred deadline for applications is May 15, 2020, but applications will be accepted until both awards are made. Awardees will be identified on May 30, 2020. The scholarships are competitively awarded according to the following criteria:

1. Academic excellence. Awardees must have achieved an excellent record in undergraduate course work. Assigned grades are important, but so is work on special projects, authorship of papers, and completion of especially challenging assignments.
2. Potential for independent, intellectual contribution. Awardees must demonstrate a level of creativity necessary for impactful achievement in the research, artistry, or scholarly work characteristic of their disciplines.
3. Commitment to a purpose for which a graduate degree is appropriate. Awardees must have a coherent set of intentions that demonstrate a thoughtful approach to their future career.
4. Preference will be given to individuals who have completed their bachelor degrees at Adams State University. However, individuals who are/were residents of the San Luis Valley in Colorado, or received a McPherson Undergraduate Scholarship, are encouraged to apply.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

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Applications may be accessed at https://graduateschool.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/McPherson-Application_2020-21.docx and require:

1. A completed application form with a narrative summarizing the applicant's qualifications for this award (maximum of 2 pages). The narrative should explicitly address the criteria above (required). In addition, please submit a complete resume listing all significant experiences, achievements, recognitions, and awards (required). The application form, narrative and resume must be sent as an email attachment to Ludy.avalos@colostate.edu. Please be sure to reference the award name in the email Subject line.
2. *Three letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with the academic or intellectual accomplishments of the applicant. At least one of these individuals should be college level instructors with whom the applicant has worked. The letters prepared for the application packet must be sent directly to the Graduate School by the authors (required). The Graduate School will accept reference letters that do not address the McPherson criteria, though it is to the student's advantage to have letters of recommendation that do so.
3. *Official transcripts of all college work sent directly by the issuing institutions are required unless official transcripts have already been sent to CSU as part of the individual's CSU admission application.
4. *Scores on the General Test portion of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) if required by the department. Check requirement directly with the academic department to which the applicant is applying. If the applicant intends to study in the area of Business, the Graduate Management Aptitude Test (GMAT) may be required instead of the GRE. Awards can be made on a conditional basis prior to arrival of scores from the Educational Testing Service.

*These documents are submitted as part of the regular application for admission to the Graduate School. If this has already been done, it is not necessary to provide additional copies expressly for the McPherson competition.