The Danforth Scholarship

Danforth Scholars may receive full- or partial-tuition scholarships, renewed each year provided they progress academically and uphold their high standards of character.

This program is open to prospective undergraduate and graduate students applying to Washington University. The selection process differs: Undergraduates must be nominated to receive consideration, while all students admitted to graduate study are automatically considered for a graduate Danforth Scholarship.

Though this program is based on merit, we do consider need as part of the award process.

Washington University in St. Louis

Counted among the nation’s top universities and leaders in research, we are committed to our students and dedicated to creating an individual learning experience. We are a private, independent institution serving approximately 7,000 undergraduate and 7,000 graduate and professional students each year. Our students learn from and work beside scholars and researchers world-renowned in their fields.

Nomination and Selection for the Undergraduate Program

The Danforth Scholars Selection Committee, composed of university faculty and friends, considers all nominations individually and in detail.

To be considered for this prestigious award, individuals who have substantive knowledge of the student’s accomplishments and goals must nominate the student by November 15, 2016. Your nomination for each student should include the enclosed form and a letter of nomination.

The committee is interested not only in your nominee’s outstanding academic performance, but also activities that illustrate the nominee’s exceptional commitment to community service, high moral character, and similar qualities that exemplify the Danforths’ legacy here at Washington University. Specific examples of leadership, academic, and personal achievements that set this student apart from his or her peers are helpful.

After the committee receives your nomination(s), we invite the student(s) to apply to the Danforth Scholars Program. Up to 40 applicants will be selected as finalists and invited to campus March 30–April 2, 2017, for a required interview weekend. Multiple full- and partial-tuition scholarships will be awarded to undergraduate students.

Deadline for us to receive your nomination form and letter of nomination: November 15, 2016

Application Process for the Undergraduate Program

When a student has been nominated, the Danforth Scholars Selection Committee will notify the student of his or her nomination and provide instructions for completing the application.

To be considered for a scholarship, the student must return the application, short answers, essay, and transcript to the committee by 5:00 p.m. Central time on January 15, 2017. The student must also submit the application for undergraduate admission to the Class of 2021, including essay, recommendations, and SAT or ACT scores by January 15, 2017.

Students whose primary language is not English must submit TOEFL/IELTS scores by the same date.

To Nominate a High School Senior

You need to return the enclosed nomination form, along with a letter of nomination, by 5:00 p.m. Central Time November 15, 2016, to the address provided. You should not submit the student’s transcript with your nomination. You are welcome to submit more than one nomination; simply make a photocopy of the form.

For More Information

Danforth Scholars Program
Danforth Scholars Committee
(314) 935-6000
Email: admissions@wustl.edu

Washington University
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
Washington University in St. Louis
Campus Box 1089
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899
(800) 638-0700 (314) 935-6000
Email: admissions@wustl.edu
Web: admissions.wustl.edu

William H. and Elizabeth Gray Danforth

As the former chancellor and first lady of Washington University, the Danforths inspired countless others with their values, character, and commitment.

Dr. Danforth spent 20 years at the university as a medical resident, faculty member, and then vice chancellor for medical affairs before he began serving as our 13th chancellor in 1971. When he retired 24 years later, he was credited with leading the effort that molded us into one of the nation’s finest teaching and research institutions. Following his retirement as chancellor, Dr. Danforth served as chairman of the Board of Trustees for four years and continues to serve as our chancellor emeritus.

The late Mrs. Danforth actively supported her husband in his long career — engaging everyone with her warmth, intelligence, and compassion. Her name is linked to endeavors that reflect her exceptional spirit and commitment.

The Danforths devoted countless hours to building our community and maintaining ties with our students and alumni. But their reach has extended well beyond the university. Dr. Danforth continues to be one of St. Louis’ most highly regarded public citizens and a tireless champion of the community.
Honoring and Helping Outstanding Students

Our Danforth Scholars Program honors students who embrace high ideals and whose life choices are guided by personal integrity, selflessness, a commitment to community, and a dedication to leadership and academic excellence. This scholarship provides full or partial tuition.

Named in honor of William H. and Elizabeth Gray Danforth, the chancellor and first lady of Washington University from 1971 to 1995, this program pays tribute to this couple’s exemplary leadership and service.

Since the program's inception in 1998, more than 45,000 students have been nominated; from thousands of high schools across the United States and around the world, more than 650 have been selected as Danforth finalists.

We are proud to announce that 19 members of our incoming Class of 2020 are Danforth Scholars. These outstanding scholars were selected from nearly 1,800 nominations.

We encourage you to submit your nominations for Danforth Scholars for the Class of 2021, who will be entering in August 2017.