

MERIT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



NAME _____

DATE _____

Degree _____

Concentration _____

Each year a select number of students are chosen to be honored as Dayton Scholars. A Dayton Scholar should demonstrate general excellence in academic and intellectual achievement, personal characteristics and qualities, leadership capacity in both interpersonal and group contexts, service orientation, and religious/spiritual commitment. Applicant merit is considered from three perspectives: student information, a personal essay, and documentary evidence, as described below. All application materials must be received on or before **March 22** for consideration. Those students chosen as Dayton Scholars will begin receiving a merit scholarship the following fall semester, an award which can cover up to 50% of tuition for an extended but limited number of consecutive years (4 years for the M.Div. and 3 years for the M.A. or M.A.L.) provided the student maintains financial aid eligibility and remains in good academic standing.

In order to apply, complete and send this form along with all other application materials to the Director of Financial Aid (kreynhout@unitedseminary.edu) on or before **March 22**.

Application Components

1. **Student Information:** Information collected during the admissions process, such as one's application, past transcripts, and letters of reference, will be considered, as well as information from a student's time at United (e.g., grades). The student does not submit anything new for this application component.

2. **Personal Essay:** Each applicant must submit a typed essay no more than 500 words in length explaining why they merit consideration as a Dayton Scholar. Possible questions to consider answering in this essay include: How have you embodied and demonstrated the qualities of excellence described above? What evidence of such excellence can you provide? How do you envision making positive contributions to United and to any other communities you serve or will serve?

3. **Documentary Evidence:** Each applicant must submit documentary evidence in support of the claims of excellence made in their personal essay (beyond what is already available in their admissions file). This evidence can take many forms, and applicants are encouraged to submit more than one form of evidence, if possible. Options include (but are not limited to):

- current and official GRE scores (less than 5 years old, received by United directly from ETS, plan to take the GRE before February 15 to allow enough time for processing)
- a portfolio of past work (works of art, manuscript, book, program design, curriculum, etc.)
- evidence of a successful institutional (business, non-profit, cooperative, network, etc.) venture (P&L statement, business license, marketing materials, etc.)
- one or more published pieces of writing (academic or otherwise)
- demonstration of a public presence (personal blog/website, public actions, presentations, videos, etc.)
- evidence of effective church leadership/service
- evidence of effective community leadership/service
- volunteer/service artifacts (service corps final report, supervisor evaluation, etc.)
- other forms of professional evaluation (performance reviews, teaching evaluations, etc.)

Any information provided by the applicant will be treated by United as private and protected in accordance with federal law (FERPA). Access to the information will be limited to members of the scholarship committee and only for the duration of the selection process. Any original (non-facsimile) materials will be returned to the applicant at the conclusion of the selection process.