

Annette Caldwell Simmons
School of Education and Human Development
Walker Merit Scholarship Program
M.Ed. in Educational Leadership – Principal Certification Program

Walker Merit Scholarships:

SMU's Master of Education program in Educational Leadership is designed to support classroom teachers as they develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become educational leaders who are prepared to:

- Develop and support effective educators,
- Select and implement effective curricula and instructional programs, and
- Identify, implement, and sustain effective organizational practices.

An applicant who successfully applies for a Merit Scholarship has a strong academic background, demonstrates a commitment to the field of education, and has made significant progress toward becoming a scholar and a leader in using evidence to improve organizational and instructional practices to meet student needs.

The amount of the scholarship will depend on the number and qualifications of the applicants each year.

Scholarship Criteria:

- To be considered for the initial award (to be applied to the first semester), the student must meet or exceed all program admission criteria and must submit all documentation as described in this application.
- The student must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.75 in the M.Ed. program order to be eligible to be considered for an award for the following semester.
- Students who are not awarded a scholarship may re-apply for subsequent semesters if the minimum GPA requirement is met.
- Students who drop a course will not be eligible to receive a scholarship the following semester.
- Student must provide evidence that demonstrates how he/she meets one or more of the program outcomes. Examples of this documentation are provided under the Application Process.

Application Process:

- Student must complete a scholarship application form and submit this form to the Department of Educational Leadership by the established deadlines:

June 5 for **fall** scholarships

December 1 for **spring or summer** scholarships

- Along with the application form, student must submit a 2-3 page essay that addresses the following statements:

Describe yourself as a learner and discuss the strengths you bring to the teaching profession and to the Master of Education in Educational Leadership program.

Describe what makes you a good candidate for a Walker Merit Scholarship (academic background, commitment to field of education, leadership experience in an educational setting, special accomplishments and interests that align with the leadership outcomes listed for the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership program).

- Student must also submit documentation of ways in which he/she meets one or more of the three program outcomes listed above. This may be in the form of an essay, a bulleted list which provides a description of the evidence, or artifacts such as copies of presentations (or any combination of the above). Examples of this type of documentation include (but are not limited to):

Evidence of taking a leadership role in supporting colleagues, i.e. leading a grade level team, providing professional development to peers, writing district-level curriculum, serving on a campus improvement team.

Teacher action research: data collected about a specific evidence-based teaching strategy or initiative, and analysis of the data in terms of student achievement.

- Student must submit a recommendation letter from a principal or other supervisor that provides specific evidence that the applicant is meeting one or more of the three program outcomes. Please be sure to give the supervisor plenty of notice so that the recommendation is submitted on or before the application deadline.

- The Master's Degree Committee will meet the week following each deadline to review materials submitted by applicants. All applicants will be informed of the committee's decision by letter that week.

- Each scholarship recipient must submit a 1-page update to the Master's Degree Committee each semester in order to continue receiving the Walker Merit Scholarship.

- Deadlines for scholarship updates:

November 1

April 1 (This update will be in the form of a thank you letter to the family of the donor. Instructions and details will be provided.)

Submit completed application and all documentation to:

Department of Educational Leadership

Attn: Walker Merit Scholarship Committee

P.O. Box 750114

Southern Methodist University,

Dallas, TX 75275-0114

WALKER MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FORM

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Telephone Number(s):

Email Address:

2. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Undergraduate University:

Undergraduate Major:

Date of initial entry into the M.Ed. program

(Continuing students only) Number of Master's Course Hours Completed:

3. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

4. SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS AND RECOGNITION

Submit completed application and all documentation to:
Department of Educational Leadership
Attn: Walker Merit Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 750114
Southern Methodist University,
Dallas, TX 75275-0114