

**Annette Caldwell Simmons**  
**School of Education and Human Development**  
**Walker Merit Scholarship Program**

**Walker Merit Scholarships:**

SMU's Master of Education programs are designed to support classroom teachers as they develop the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the following four program outcomes:

- Scholars and leaders in professionalism,
- Educators and researchers committed to evidence-based practice,
- Leaders in translating research into classroom practice, and
- Experts in differentiated instruction.

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 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:**

- Scholarship students must be full-time practicing teachers.
- Student must have completed one semester in the M.Ed./M.B.E. program before applying for a Walker Merit Scholarship.
- Student must have a minimum GPA of a 3.75 in the M.Ed./M.B.E. program.
- Student must provide evidence that demonstrates how he/she meets one or more of the four program outcomes. Examples of this documentation are provided under the Application Process.

**Application Process:**

- Student must submit a complete scholarship application form and submit this form to the Department of Teaching and Learning, P.O. Box 750455, Dallas, TX 75275-0455 by the established deadlines:
  - **August 15** for **fall** scholarships
  - **December 1** for **spring** scholarships
  - **May 1** for **summer** scholarships
- Student must write a 4-5 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 program.
  - Describe what makes you a good candidate for a Walker Merit Scholarship (academic background, commitment to field of education, special

accomplishments and interests that align with the four program outcomes listed under Master's of Education Merit Scholarships).

- Student must submit documentation of ways in which he/she meets one or more of the four program outcomes listed 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 grade level team, providing professional development to peers, writing district-level curriculum.
  - Teacher action research: data collected about a specific teaching strategy and analysis of the data in terms of student achievement.
  - Sample of evidence-based teaching practices, including description of those practices, teaching plans, and student work samples.
  - Documentation of differentiated instruction with students who have special learning needs.
- Student must submit a recommendation letter from principal or teaching colleague that provides evidence that the applicant is meeting one or more of the four program outcomes.
- The Master's Degrees 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 2-page update to the Master's Degrees Committee on or before each subsequent deadline in order to continue receiving the Walker Merit Scholarship for each semester after receiving the scholarship until the recipient is granted a Master's of Education.
- Deadlines for scholarship updates:
  - July 1
  - November 1
  - April 1

## **WALKER MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FORM**

### **1. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

**Name:**

**Student ID Number:**

**Address:**

**City, State, Zip:**

**Telephone Number(s):**

**Email Address:**

### **2. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

**Undergraduate University:**

**Undergraduate Major:**

**Number of Master's Course Hours Completed:**

**Current M.Ed. Specialization:**

### **3. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

### **4. SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS/HONORS AND RECOGNITION**