



## RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM



*“Politics, life and business are not spectator sports. You have to get involved to get ahead. Most importantly, when you reach that level of success, keep the door open and the ladder down for others to follow.”*

—Ronald H. Brown

# Application & Information

### Our History

Established in 1996 by the CAP Charitable Foundation, the Ron Brown Scholar Program (RBSP) honors the legacy of Ronald H. Brown, the late Secretary of Commerce, through a selective, multi-level scholarship and leadership program which focuses on academic achievement, community service and career emersion for African American college bound high school seniors. The RBSP is dedicated to improving the lives of young African Americans and empowering and supporting them to achieve their potential within their chosen academic disciplines and into the workforce. Out of the approximately 6,000 applications received annually, the RBSP awards 20 or more new scholarships in the amount of \$40,000 each year (\$10,000 per year for 4 years) to talented high school seniors.

The RBSP enjoys a 99% college graduation rate of its Scholars. In addition, the RBSP has produced unique patterns of career success and accomplishments for 340 African American youth, who are now leaders, creators and transformers on their college campuses and in their chosen careers and professions, all while remaining dedicated to impacting the lives of others. Graduating Scholars go on to outstanding careers in the arts, sciences and public service, and many more pursue professional degrees in law, medicine and business.

Ron Brown Scholars benefit from a safety net of high-touch mentoring and guidance from committed staff who serve as an extended family to the Scholars to support and nurture their success in college and beyond. The Program coordinates career and community-oriented internships, promotes strong links and a spirit of interconnectedness among the Scholars, and annually hosts regional initiatives, including a highly-interactive summer leadership conference to promote fellowship and the exchange of ideas.

### Our Mission

The mission of the Ron Brown Scholar Program is to advance higher education and improve the lives of public service-minded and intellectually gifted African Americans and to accelerate their progress into impactful leadership roles and opportunities.

### Our Vision

The vision of the Ron Brown Scholar Program is to cultivate the next generation of transformational leaders who positively impact their communities and blaze new paths in their chosen careers and professions.

### DEADLINE

**November 1st —(postmarked)— application will be considered for the Ron Brown Scholar Program and forwarded to a select and limited number of colleges and scholarship providers.**

**January 9th—final postmarked deadline in order to be considered for only the Ron Brown Scholar Program.**

## Eligibility Requirements

The Ron Brown Scholar Program seeks to identify students who will make significant contributions to society. Applicants must excel academically, show exceptional leadership potential and make an impact on their communities through service to others.

Each year, twenty or more students are designated Ron Brown Scholars and receive \$10,000 annually for four years, for a total of \$40,000. The recipients may use the need and merit-based scholarships to attend the four-year college or university of their choice. Ron Brown scholarships are not limited to any specific field or career objective and may be used to pursue any academic discipline. As of April, 2014, 340 students have been designated as Ron Brown Scholars since the inception of the Program.

To be eligible, applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents, Black/African American and current high school seniors at the time of their application. **Current college students are not eligible to apply.** Applicants should demonstrate academic achievement, exhibit leadership ability, participate in community service activities and demonstrate financial need.

Ron Brown Scholars are selected in the spring prior to entering college. Applications are screened between November and February by Ron Brown Scholar Program staff. In March, finalists are invited to participate in a weekend selection process in Washington, D.C. at the expense of the Ron Brown Scholar Fund. Finalists are interviewed by members of the Ron Brown Selection Committee and are expected to participate in several Selection Weekend activities. Scholarship winners are selected on the basis of their applications, interviews and participation in Selection Weekend activities.

**Due to the volume of applications, the Ron Brown Scholar Program is only able to notify students who move on to the semifinalist and finalist rounds of the competition.**

## Application Deadline

The Ron Brown Scholar Program currently has two deadlines for applications (students must be current high school seniors at the time of their application):

**November 1st (postmarked)** — application will be considered for the Ron Brown Scholar Program and forwarded to a select and limited number of colleges and scholarship providers. Students must still apply to any colleges or for scholarship programs in which they are interested.

**January 9th (postmarked)**—final deadline in order to be considered for only the Ron Brown Scholar Program.

Application materials must be mailed in one packet. Transcripts and letters of recommendation should not be sent under separate cover. SAT/ACT scores must be included on the application at the time it is mailed. **Incomplete, e-mailed or faxed applications will not be considered.**

**Only semi-finalists and finalists will be notified by the Ron Brown Scholar Program office in March.** Winners of the scholarship will be notified by April 1st and names will be posted on the Ron Brown Scholar Program web site, no later than May 1st.

## Scholarship Conditions

Ron Brown scholarships may be used to supplement benefits from the college or university a student plans to attend. Students may use the scholarship to cover the costs of tuition, fees, books, room and board, computers, health insurance, study abroad and other college-related expenses.

For further information, please contact:

Ron Brown Scholar Program  
1160 Pepsi Place, Suite 206  
Charlottesville, VA 22901  
Phone: 434 964 1588  
Fax: 434 964 1589

**Email:** [info@ronbrown.org](mailto:info@ronbrown.org)

**Website:** [www.ronbrown.org](http://www.ronbrown.org)



RON BROWN  
SCHOLAR PROGRAM



**Final Deadline  
January 9th  
(postmarked)**

**APPLICANT:** Please respond to the following questions. Attach your typed responses to this form.

1. Please list your extracurricular, community, employment or other activities in order of their importance to you. Indicate the dates you participated in the activity, positions held and the number of hours per week you spend on each activity. We realize that the way you spend your time outside the classroom may be affected by factors beyond your control, such as the need to work.
2. List any significant awards or honors you have received during high school for academic or extracurricular achievements.
3. Essays: You must respond to both (A) and (B). Each essay should be no longer than 500 words.
  - (A) Choose the one activity you listed as most important in question #1 and tell us why it is significant.
  - (B) Submit one essay that you plan to send or have sent as part of a college application. This may be on any topic. If your college application did not require an essay, please submit an essay on the topic of your choice.
4. Please ask two individuals who know you well to submit letters of recommendation. At least one letter should be from a teacher or other school professional.
5. Please submit an official transcript with most current semester course load and school profile with application materials. A school profile is an information sheet about your high school. **This profile would include information on the school location, student enrollment and/or types of courses offered. If the school does not offer a school profile the applicant will not be penalized if it is not included with the application materials.**

**Application materials must be mailed in one packet.** Transcripts and letters of recommendation should not be sent under separate cover. To verify receipt of your application, include a self-addressed stamped envelope. A photograph is optional. Incomplete, e-mailed or faxed applications will not be considered. We suggest that you keep copies of your application materials. Semi-finalists will be contacted in March and winners will be announced on our web site in May. **We regret that we are unable to individually notify other applicants of the decision on their applications.**

*The Ron Brown Scholarships are reserved for Black/African American high school seniors and may be used at accredited four-year institutions. If you have questions, please call, send e-mail or visit our web site, [www.ronbrown.org](http://www.ronbrown.org).*

## TO BE COMPLETED BY PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Father/Male Guardian

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Adjusted Gross Income (previous year IRS 1040) \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Adjusted Gross Income (current year) \_\_\_\_\_

# Exemptions Claimed \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Female Guardian

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Adjusted Gross Income (previous year IRS 1040) \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Adjusted Gross Income (current year) \_\_\_\_\_

# Exemptions Claimed \_\_\_\_\_

Parents marital status:  Single  Married  Separated  Divorced  Widowed

If parents are not married, please indicate with whom you reside: \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of Applicant's Siblings \_\_\_\_\_ # of Children Attending College next year \_\_\_\_\_

We certify that the information provided is true and complete to the best of our knowledge. We understand that if the applicant has applied under the **November 1st (postmarked)** deadline, application materials will be forwarded to a select and limited number of additional colleges and scholarship providers. Additionally, the applicant is still responsible for applying to all scholarship programs for which they may be interested. Semi-finalists may be asked to provide information about the non-custodial parent or step-parent financial contributions. If required, we agree to provide proof of this information, including copies of income tax returns. We realize that if documentation is not provided, the applicant may be deemed ineligible for this scholarship.

Applicant's Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Signature/Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Frequently Asked Questions

## By the Numbers

- More than 6,000 applications received each year
- 340 Ron Brown Scholars named (as of April 1, 2014)
- 99% percent graduation rate
- 58 percent of Ron Brown Scholars attend Ivy League universities
- 54% of alumni complete graduate studies
- 100% Involvement in extensive community service projects
- 2 Ron Brown Scholars were elected to be the First Marshals of their Harvard graduating class
- 1 Ron Brown Scholar has been named a Harry S. Truman Scholar
- 4 Ron Brown Scholars have been Rhodes Scholarship finalists

### 1. Who funds the Ron Brown Scholarship Program?

The Ron Brown Scholar Program benefits from the generous support of numerous donors and partners who provide not only financial support, but also valuable mentoring, internship opportunities and other important investments in Ron Brown Scholars.

### 2. How much financial assistance do Scholar recipients receive?

The Ron Brown Scholar Program awards twenty or more college scholarships annually in the amount of \$40,000 to extraordinary African American high school seniors. No restrictions are placed on the students' choices of school or discipline. Since 1997, the Program has awarded more than 300 scholarships.

### 3. Does the Ron Brown Scholar Program provide financial assistance to undergraduate education only?

Yes, financial assistance is provided only for undergraduate education. However, the Ron Brown Scholar Program strongly supports creating life-long bonds with and between the Scholars and the Program's staff. Scholars do continue to receive mentorship and guidance toward personal and professional goals far beyond their undergraduate careers.

### 4. When is the deadline for submitting applications?

The Ron Brown Scholar Program currently has two deadlines for applications (students must be current high school seniors at the time of their application): **November 1st AND January 9th** – If January 9th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, your application should be postmarked by the following Monday.

We begin accepting applications after August 1<sup>st</sup> of your senior year in high school. **Since the postmark is what matters, there is no advantage in sending your application by overnight delivery service.**

### 5. When are letters of recommendation and school transcripts due? Can they be sent separately from my application?

Application materials **must be mailed in one packet**. Transcripts and letters of recommendation should not be sent under separate cover. **Incomplete, e-mailed or faxed applications will not be considered.**

### 6. Do my letters of recommendation have to be written by teachers, or can they come from anyone?

We ask for two letters of recommendation. At least one of these should be written by your high school guidance counselor, teacher or principal. The second letter may be submitted by anyone who knows you well and can attest to your character, leadership ability, commitment to community service, and/or academic achievement. This may include an employer, mentor or coach. It cannot be your mother, father or guardian.

### 7. What standardized test results are required? How and when do I submit my scores?

We require either SAT (Verbal and Math) or ACT (composite) scores. Results of SAT II (Subject Tests) and AP exams are optional. Record the required scores on page 1 of your application in case they don't appear on your high school transcript. **You should take the SAT I or ACT no later than the November test administration date so that the scores are available when you submit your application or shortly thereafter.**



## Frequently Asked Questions (Cont'd)

### 8. Are there minimum SAT or ACT scores?

No. We do not have cut-off scores. Competition for the scholarship is intense, however, successful applicants have demonstrated a serious commitment to academics. This is reflected in their high grade point averages, rank in class, and test scores.

### 9. What essays are required? The application says to submit an essay that I wrote for my college applications. What if they didn't require any?

We require 2 essays, each approximately 500 words. In the first essay, we ask that you to answer a specific question. The second essay can be on any topic. If you haven't written one for a college application, you may submit an essay that you wrote for one of your classes, or write a new essay. Keep in mind that the essays are an opportunity for you to tell us something about yourself that we cannot learn from your transcript or test scores.

### 10. Can I apply on-line?

No. You may print the application from our web site and mail it to us, but it is not possible to apply on-line. If you do print the application from the web site, be sure to print all pages. There are sections for you, your parent/guardian, and high school guidance counselor to complete.

### 11. Can I fax or email my application?

**APPLICATIONS MAY NOT BE FAXED OR EMAILED.** Due to the large number of applicants, we are unable to accept faxed or emailed applications.

### 12. I missed the deadline. Can I still apply?

If you have a legitimate reason, beyond your control, for missing the deadline, you may call to request an extension. Approval must be given by the Ron Brown Scholar Program in order for the deadline to be extended.

### 13. Do I have to be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident in order to apply for a Ron Brown scholarship?

Yes. You must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident in order to apply.

### 14. Is there an income limit?

Financial need is a factor that we consider in awarding scholarships. If you think that you will be eligible for financial aid at the colleges to which you are applying, you should apply for a Ron Brown scholarship.

### 15. Whose income should be listed if my parents are separated or divorced? If my parents have remarried, do I include my step-parents' income?

In the first stage of the application process, you should list the income of both parents if it is available to you. This should include the non-custodial parent. If a parent's whereabouts is unknown, you should list that on the application. If you are residing with a legal guardian, you should list their income on the application. Should you advance to the next stage, information about your non-custodial parent's income will be requested and will be taken into account in determining financial need.

### 16. Do you need verification of my parents' income?

The application asks your parents for their adjusted gross income on last year's federal income tax return, that is, the return that they filed when you were a junior in high school. By their signatures, they also agree to provide proof of income, including copies of income tax returns, if required. If you advance to the next stage in the application process and become a semi-finalist, verification of income will be required.

### 17. Can I use the Ron Brown scholarship at any college and for any major?

The scholarship may be used at any degree-granting four-year college within the United States. Recipients may study any academic discipline of their choice. The scholarship may not be used for vocational or technical training.

### 18. When are the winners notified? Are applicants who have not won also notified?

Semi-Finalists will be contacted in late February. Finalists will be notified in early March and invited to Washington, D.C. (we pay expenses) to be interviewed by the National Selection Committee. **Because of the large number of applicants, we are not able to notify those who have not reached the semi-finalist or finalist stage. We will post the names of the scholarship winners on our website by May 1st.**

### 19. Which schools do Ron Brown Scholars attend?

Scholars attend a wide range of schools and are not limited in where they may attend or the discipline they may study. To date, more than 250 Ron Brown Scholars have graduated from more than 50 different colleges and universities. Fifty-eight percent of Scholars have attended Ivy League universities including Harvard, Yale, and Princeton.