

RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

CAP CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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“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.”

—Ron Brown



Information & Application

The Ron Brown Scholar Program

The Ron Brown Scholar Program is a national program that awards scholarships to academically talented, highly motivated African American high school seniors who intend to pursue undergraduate degrees full-time. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. The Program honors the late Ronald H. Brown, Secretary of Commerce during the Clinton administration. These scholarships are reserved for exceptional individuals who share Brown's traits of excellence, leadership, commitment to public service and a desire to make a difference. In addition, applicants must demonstrate financial need.

Established in 1996, the Program is funded entirely by the CAP Charitable Foundation, a foundation dedicated to education, the arts and the environment. The Program focuses on young African Americans of outstanding promise who seek to become leaders in business, education, government and a wide spectrum of professions.

In addition to financial assistance, Scholars benefit in other important ways: summer internships, career guidance, placement opportunities, mentors and leadership training. During college, Scholars are required to pursue at least one summer internship devoted to community service and one pre-professional internship. Community service may include a wide range of fields, from education and health to government and politics. Pre-professional in-

ternships provide opportunities to further the Scholar's academic discipline or career objectives.

Council on African American Affairs, Inc. (CAAA)

CAAA, located in Washington, D.C. and funded by CAP Charitable Foundation, serves to identify critical needs of African Americans and their communities and generates research to support the development of new public policies to address those needs. Students selected as Ron Brown Scholars are required to make a substantial contribution to the completion of the Council on African Americans Affairs' (CAAA's) research initiatives.

Ron Brown Scholars will need to complete a minimum of 25 hours yearly of service to CAAA. Hours of participation could include essay writing, work

on the topic selection process, literature reviews, field research or other efforts. Scholars will receive the title of Junior Research Fellow, policy research training and acknowledgment in the final research report for the initiative in which they participated.

Upon graduation, Scholars automatically become members of the Ron Brown Alumni Association, which offers continuing involvement with the Council on African American Affairs Inc. (CAAA). Scholar involvement in CAAA is one of the core objectives of the Alumni Association.

DEADLINE

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

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

RBS Alumni Association

The Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Association (RBSAA), comprising Ron Brown Scholar Program college graduates, RBSAA advisers and friends, has the following objectives:

1. To support philanthropic and social causes directly related to neither the RBSAA nor the Ron Brown Scholar Program but that nevertheless celebrate kindred ideals.
2. To participate in the policy issue research and selection processes of the Council on African American Affairs (CAAA), and oversee CAAA activities through its position on the Board of the CAAA.
3. To foster lifelong goodwill among Ron Brown Scholar Program Alumni and promote communication and mentorship between RBSAA members and Ron Brown Scholars.

Invariably, the Ron Brown Scholar experience does not end with graduation. The Alumni Association is an organic, vibrant organization, empowering its members to add substance to a lifelong RBS experience. The Association benefits both Alumni themselves and current Scholars.

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, a minimum of ten students will be designated Ron Brown Scholars and will receive \$10,000 annually for four years, for a total of \$40,000. The recipients may use the renewable 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. More than 180 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 or 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 during the month of February by Ron Brown Scholar Program staff. In March, twenty finalists are invited to participate in a weekend selection process in Washington, D.C. at the expense of the CAP Charitable Foundation. Finalists are interviewed by members of the Ron Brown Selection Committee and are expected to participate in several Selection Weekend activi-

ties. Scholarship winners are selected on the basis of their applications, interviews and participation in Selection Weekend activities. Notification follows immediately.

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 additional scholarship providers.

January 9th—final postmarked 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.

Scholarship Conditions

Ron Brown Scholarships may be used to supplement benefits from the college or university a student plans to attend and fellowships from other foundations or organizations. Students may use the scholarship to cover the costs of tuition, fees, books, room and board, computers, health insurance, general living expenses and other college-related expenses. Scholars may request that all or a portion of the award be utilized each year of undergraduate study or deferred for graduate study.

For further information, please contact:

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