Undergraduate Financial Aid at Middlebury

FULFILLING OUR COMMITMENT TO ACCESSIBILITY AND AFFORDABILITY

A gift for financial aid is a gift of opportunity. Scholarships remove the financial barriers that stand between talented students and an extraordinary education, helping them to achieve their potential and pursue their dreams.

Financial aid can change the life of a student who has everything it takes to succeed at Middlebury—everything, that is, except the financial means. We believe that financial considerations should never deter qualified students from finding their place here, and we are committed to providing the financial support admitted students need.

Our ability to offer financial aid is important not only to the students who receive it, but also to the College itself. Students learn from those whose experiences, beliefs, and perspectives are different from their own. To prepare our students to be global citizens, we have to recruit exceptional young men and women from all backgrounds, from every state, and from around the world. And we have to make it possible for them to come to Middlebury, regardless of their families’ ability to pay. That is why building a strong, stable source of financial aid is one of the College’s foremost priorities.

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Middlebury is one of a handful of colleges and universities—only 3 percent nationwide—that accepts students solely on the basis of who they are who they can become, without regard to financial circumstances. This “need-blind” policy applies only to U.S. students; we are “need aware” when reviewing applications from international students, which means financial circumstances are one factor of many in admissions decisions. However, once any student is admitted, we will meet his or her full demonstrated need for financial aid.

FINANCIAL AID, 2013–2014

- 42 percent of students received aid
- Total financial aid awarded: $38,622,593
- Average grant: $38,384
- Maximum student loan: $3,000 per year


- Tuition and Fees: $44,919
- Room & Board: $12,156
- Total Cost: $57,075
By comparison, the average debt for all college seniors who graduated with loans in 2012 was $29,400, according to the most recent figures from the Project on Student Debt.

Securing our ability to offer financial aid is essential to Middlebury’s future. Currently the majority of the undergraduate financial-aid budget is covered by the College’s operating budget and by annual gifts from donors. Having a greater share of financial aid covered by dedicated endowed funds will help to ensure that future students will be able to get the assistance they need.

We have two goals in supporting our financial-aid program—to provide more immediate aid for current students and to build long-term scholarship support.

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE TODAY**

Gifts to the Annual Fund and Parents’ Fund go right to work, providing financial support for talented students and helping the College to build an exceptional community.

Donors can establish a named expendable fund with an annual gift of $10,000 or more. Those who give at that level can designate a preference for their scholarship, such as a student with a particular academic interest. Recipients of such scholarships then send the donors reports on their Middlebury experience: what they are studying, the activities they are engaged in, and so on. Donors at the $5,000 level receive a general financial-aid report.

An endowed fund requires a threshold gift or pledge of $100,000. Once that level has been reached, the College can draw 5 percent of the fund’s value each year for scholarships. Such endowments are often funded over a period of time. Someone might contribute $20,000 a year over five years, for example, or a number of different people might combine their contributions to create a scholarship in the name of a particular class or favorite professor. When the scholarship is fully funded, the first grant can be awarded.

Some donors who are building an endowed fund want to have an immediate impact, without waiting for their endowment to be fully funded. In that case, the donor could contribute $25,000 a year over five years: $20,000 for the endowment and the additional $5,000 to go to a student right away. Donors of endowed scholarship funds receive regular reports from the student recipients. Over time, as the fund grows through investment returns and additional gifts, so too does its impact.

**THE POSSE PROGRAM**

Since 1999, Middlebury has partnered with the New York-based Posse Foundation to provide exceptional students from inner-city areas with academic experiences that would ordinarily be out of their reach. The foundation recruits students who exhibit leadership and academic promise and matches them with any of 51 top-tier colleges, which agree to admit them with full-tuition scholarships.
CHANGING LIVES, CHANGING THE WORLD

Funding a scholarship is like dropping a pebble into a pond: the ripples reach farther than you can foresee. Scholarship recipients are beacons of hope for their families, examples for their peers, inspirations for their communities, and agents of change in the world.

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ANTOINETTE RANGEL ’09
Posse Scholar / Deputy Director, Hispanic Media, Obama Administration

Antoinette Rangel majored in political science, played rugby, sang jazz, and served as student co-chair of the Community Council. After graduation, she was offered an internship at the White House. Today she is deputy director of Hispanic media and a law student at Georgetown University. She says she has a front-row seat to history. The night Osama bin Laden was killed, she assembled the press to hear President Obama’s statement. She’s worked with the media on everything, from a nuclear summit and the Arab Spring to health care and student loans.

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ELYSE BARNARD ’15
Recipient of the Class of 1963 Scholarship

Elyse came to Middlebury from Augusta, Maine, to study music and psychology, but after a four-week MiddCORE experience in the summer of 2013, she wants to be an entrepreneur. MiddCORE challenges participants to think of innovative products or services and figure out how they could be turned into profitable ventures. Having been tortured by braces as a child, Elyse came up with an idea for a dental device that protects the mouth from the braces’ sharp wires. She kept working on that device after MiddCORE wrapped up, and she now has a provisional patent.

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HANS WALTER CABRA HERNANDEZ ’09
Davis United World College Scholar / Executive Director, Fundacion Haciendo Equip of Medellin, Colombia

As a child growing up in a poor neighborhood of Bogotá, Colombia, Hans did not have high expectations for his future. That changed when he got a scholarship to attend the United World College in Norway. “I knew this was my only chance to make it out of the neighborhood and to one day give my family a better life,” he says. At Middlebury, he studied politics, French, and philosophy. Today he heads a foundation that works with at-risk young people in Medellin, Columbia.

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Posse Scholars have a remarkable effect on their academic communities. By increasing the diversity of the campus, they help to create a more welcoming environment for other students from different backgrounds. They bring new perspectives to discussions in classrooms, residence halls, and student organizations, creating a better learning experience for all.

Middlebury has welcomed a new Posse from New York City every year since 1999. A second Posse from Chicago was added in the fall of 2012, and beginning in the fall of 2015, Middlebury will host a third Posse from Los Angeles. This Posse will be made up entirely of students who have expressed an interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Middlebury is one of only 10 institutions selected by the Posse Foundation to host a STEM Posse—a positive reflection on the College’s record of success with Posse Scholars and the strength of its science curriculum.

**FUNDING POSSE SCHOLARS**
The average grant to a Posse Scholar is $50,000, and Middlebury admits 10 to 12 students from each city annually.

Middlebury is building endowed funds to help cover the cost of Posse scholarships. The College welcomes gifts to the endowment of $100,000 or more and expendable gifts of $5,000 or more. A $1 million gift to the endowment would fully cover a grant for one Posse Scholar each year, and a $10 million gift would fund one Posse—10 students enrolled at the same time from one of the three cities.

Financial aid enables Middlebury to build a community of students with different backgrounds, perspectives, interests, and dreams. This diversity enriches the experience for all students and prepares them to succeed in a global society.

**FUNDING DAVIS UWC SCHOLARS**
Donors can support a scholar through an expendable gift of $5,000 or more, or they can endow a permanent scholarship with a gift of $100,000. Shelby Davis has challenged Middlebury alumni, parents, and friends to match his contributions to establish an endowed fund for future scholars. The minimum gift to receive the match is $400,000. It will be paired with Davis’s gift to create an $800,000 endowment, which will provide $40,000 in financial aid for one student each year.

**THE DAVIS UWC SCHOLARS PROGRAM**
Middlebury was one of the first five colleges chosen to participate in the Davis United World College Scholars Program when it was founded in 2000 by Shelby M. C. Davis P’01 and Philip O. Geier P’06. This is now the world’s largest privately funded international scholarship program. It has supported more than 6,000 undergraduates from 150 nations at 91 colleges and universities. Middlebury hosts the program’s national headquarters.

Davis UWC Scholars are all graduates of United World Colleges, a group of 14 high schools across the globe that bring students of different nationalities together for studies emphasizing intercultural knowledge and awareness. Each Davis UWC Scholar receives financial aid based on need. Shelby Davis contributes up to $20,000 per year toward each scholar’s education—a commitment of tens of millions of dollars each year. At Middlebury alone, his support for Davis UWC Scholars amounts to $1.8 million this year.

Over the past 15 years, the program has brought 355 talented students from 81 countries to Middlebury. These students bring a distinctive energy to campus. They arrive with a sense of purpose and the determination to make the most of their education. In sharing their widely varied experiences and perspectives, they transform the learning experience for everyone.

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