

Heritage Scholar Program

The Heritage Scholarship provides full-tuition scholarships to highly qualified students with exceptional intellectual ability. Holders of the scholarship are expected to demonstrate both the qualities of mind and the qualities of person that will allow a student to flourish in C of I's rigorous but community-oriented academic environment and in the challenging world beyond college.

The Heritage Scholarship is about more than free tuition, maintaining a certain Grade-Point Average (GPA), and demonstrating an active participation in the College community. In addition to receiving the College's highest scholarship award, Heritage Scholarship recipients are also members of the Gipson Honors Program, with all of the advantages that the Gipson Honors Program delivers to the College's leading students. Heritage Scholarship applicants should examine the more detailed description of the Gipson Honors Program, which includes special honors academic programming; a dedicated Gipson Honors program director and academic advisor; events with the president and other academic officers of the College; and additional guaranteed venture funding to support creative projects, internships, research work, off-campus study, study-abroad programs, or other experiences that advance each student's professional growth.

The full-tuition Heritage Scholar scholarship—wedded to the additional benefits of the Gipson Honors Program—is delivered in an intimate, cohesive community of about sixty high-achieving students. These various benefits make the Heritage Scholarship the most valuable academic award available to the most successful and ambitious students in the State of Idaho.

This document is intended to provide an introduction to the Heritage Scholarship. The benefits of the Gipson Honors Program, which Heritage Scholars also experience, can be examined in supplementary materials devoted to that program.

Benefits of the Heritage Scholarship:

- 1. Four-year, full-tuition academic support.** Across the four years of a Heritage Scholar's undergraduate career at The College of Idaho, he or she will receive a full academic tuition award. This scholarship award is indexed, meaning that any increases in tuition over the four years are covered by the scholarship.
- 2. Guaranteed "venture award" funding.** In the sophomore, junior, or senior academic years, Heritage Scholarship recipients will receive (upon presenting an acceptable application) one-time funding in the amount of \$3500 for an academic enhancement experience, such as a creative project, internship, research work, foreign study course, or study abroad.
- 3. Acceptance into—and the full benefits of—the Gipson Honors Program.** See the supplemental materials outlining the benefits of this program.

Admission Requirements for Applying for the Heritage Scholarship:

1. To be eligible to be invited to apply for the Heritage Scholarship, a student will need to meet at least one of the following academic criteria:

4.0 high school GPA with a 30 ACT or at least a 1390 SAT

3.9 high school GPA with a 31 ACT or at least a 1420 SAT

3.8 high school GPA with a 32 ACT or at least a 1450 SAT

**GPAs are based on an unweighted 4.0 scale, and SAT scores are based on the evidence-based reading and writing and the math sections of the SAT.*

2. Each applicant to the Heritage Scholarship will need to complete an application for admission and be accepted at C or I prior to being invited to come to campus for a Heritage Scholar interview, typically conducted during the College's Kathryn Albertson Scholar Days competition.
3. Each applicant invited to campus for a Heritage interview will need to complete and submit (at least one week in advance of the interview) an essay of 750-1000 words, describing how a specific non-academic experience which she or he has had in the last few years was beneficial to the applicant and her or his community.
4. Each applicant, upon meeting the above criteria, will come to campus for interviews with two faculty members on the Heritage Scholar Interview Committee, as arranged by the Office of Admission.

Requirements for Keeping the Heritage Scholarship (once awarded):

1. **Maintain a GPA of 3.25. Because students are often frightened by this policy, it is important to emphasize its flexibility.** Our policy allows for a bad semester or an illness: if a student falls below the required 3.25 GPA, he/she is placed on "probation" for the scholarship and has until the end of the next 15-week semester (that is, not counting Winter Term) to attain a TERM (not CUM) GPA of 3.25. (Attaining a CUM GPA of 3.25 would be much more difficult to do in one semester once the CUM GPA had fallen below 3.25.) As long as the Scholar earns a 3.25 term (GPA in that semester, he or she retains the scholarship and falls off of probation.
2. **Complete 20 hours each month of campus activities/community service.** Nearly any campus activity/service project "counts," so long as the student is not paid and does not receive academic credit for the activity. Heritage Scholarship holders are on sports teams, sing in the choir or play in band, participate in campus clubs, tutor on campus or in the public schools, volunteer at the local hospital or humane society, work with faculty on research, etc. **This requirement is intended to encourage the Heritage Scholar to pursue her/his passions and to develop as a whole person.**
3. **Participate in Heritage Scholar Program activities, including Gipson Honors Program gatherings.** Heritage Scholars are expected to be **active participants in campus life**, take leading and innovative roles on campus, and generally be positive role models in the College community.