

NATIONAL MERIT® SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS*



We know the path to National Merit® Finalist standing can be confusing, and we're here to help! Contact the Office of Admissions to learn more about USF and what we can offer you.



*Information is subject to change based on updates from the National Merit® Corporation.

6 Corporate and National Award Winners Notified

A Finalist could receive one of three sponsorship offers. Those receiving the Corporate or National sponsorships will be notified in March. Corporate sponsorships are generally given to students with family ties to an NMSC® partnering corporation. These corporations can be found in your PSAT/NMSQT® Student Guide. Roughly 10 percent of Finalists in each state will receive a National Award sponsored by NMSC®.

8 College Sponsor Award Letters Mailed

In May, NMSC® will begin mailing the College Sponsored award letters from partnering institutions to Finalist recipients. USF is a partnering institution (not all colleges sponsor). All students who select USF as their first choice school will receive a college sponsored award.

MARCH, SENIOR YEAR

MAY, SENIOR YEAR

MAY, SENIOR YEAR

APRIL-JUNE, SENIOR YEAR

7 Designate “School of Choice”

To be guaranteed entrance into USF’s Tradition of Excellence Award, admitted Finalists must designate USF as their “school of choice” with NMSC® by the NMSC® designated deadline. Students who previously listed “undecided” or who received a Corporate or National-sponsored award must designate USF as their “school of choice” at osa.nationalmerit.org in order to receive USF’s Tradition of Excellence Scholarship.

9 Accept Award Offer

Somewhere between late April and June, admitted Finalists are designated as National Merit® Scholars upon accepting the one award offer received and naming USF as their “school of choice.” The official Scholar announcement by NMSC® is not made until the summer.

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For a complete list of competition rules and deadlines, visit nationalmerit.org.