

RECOGNITION OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Mills College encourages students to work toward their full intellectual potential in many ways including recognizing students' outstanding achievements through honors, awards, and nominations for national recognition. The following awards are open to all students regardless of major. Awards are also given at the departmental level. It is a Mills tradition that recognition of academic achievement in the form of special awards is not disclosed until the public announcement at Convocation or Commencement. See Student Awards (https://inside.mills.edu/administration/provosts_office/student_awards.php) on the Mills website for a complete listing.

Honors at Entrance

The award of Honors at Entrance is made to a small number of entering first-year students each year to give recognition to students of exceptional ability and promise. The award carries no monetary grant, and no application is made for it; all candidates for admission are considered.

Academic Honors

Full-time students completing all Mills work formally attempted with at least 12 regularly graded semester course credits and a semester GPA of 3.75 or above (3.55 or above for first-year students) are awarded academic honors at the end of each semester as a recognition of achievement.

Phi Beta Kappa Society

Seniors are elected as members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society in acknowledgment of their high scholarly achievements, breadth of liberal learning, and intellectual integrity and curiosity. Selection for membership takes place each spring, and courses taken during that spring semester are not taken into consideration. The charter for the Mills College chapter was granted on September 12, 1928, and our chapter—the Zeta Chapter—was installed soon after, on March 16, 1929.

Honors in the Major

The degree of bachelor of arts or bachelor of science with honors in the major field is awarded to students who demonstrate unusual ability in the major sequence. Each spring departments nominate outstanding students to the Academic Standing Committee for consideration. The minimum criteria for eligibility include a 3.7 GPA in the major courses, completion of at least half the courses in the major at Mills, and formal nomination by the major department. Departments may also impose additional requirements. Students should contact their major department to determine additional requirements.

Aurelia Henry Reinhardt Faculty Purse

This award, established in 1949 and announced at Commencement, provides a monetary award to an outstanding graduate to support graduate study abroad or in the US. No application is made; all

members of the senior class are considered for the award, decided by the faculty as a whole.

Elizabeth Mudd Senior Prize

This monetary award was established in 1927 for excellence in scholarship and is announced at Commencement. No application is made; all members of the senior class are considered for the award, decided by the faculty as a whole.

Staff Scholarship Prize for First-Year Achievement

Announced at Convocation, this award recognizes the returning sophomore who achieved the highest cumulative GPA during the first year. No application is made; all returning sophomores are considered for the award, decided by the faculty as a whole.

Mary Wetmore Prize for Sophomore Achievement

Established in 1926 and announced at Convocation, this monetary prize is awarded to the returning junior who achieved the highest cumulative GPA during the sophomore year. No application is made; all returning juniors are considered for the award, decided by the faculty as a whole.

Faculty Scholarship Prize for Junior Achievement

Established in 2006 and announced at Convocation, this monetary prize is awarded to the returning senior who achieved the highest cumulative GPA during the junior year. No application is made; all returning seniors are considered for the award, decided by the faculty as a whole.

Mary Atkins Merit Scholarship

This scholarship, announced at Convocation, was established in 1987 to recognize the academic achievement of a continuing resumer student. No application is made; all returning resumer students are considered for the award, decided by the faculty as a whole.