



# **FACULTY SENATE SCHOLARSHIPS 2026**

*for Merritt College Students*

**Application Deadline:  
April 13th, 2026**

For more information, contact Greg Vose at [gvose@peralta.edu](mailto:gvose@peralta.edu).

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# FACULTY SENATE SCHOLARSHIPS

## General Information

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To apply for a Faculty Senate Scholarship, the following items must be emailed together in one package to Greg Vose at [gvose@peralta.edu](mailto:gvose@peralta.edu) by the deadline:

1. A Faculty Senate Scholarship **application form** for each scholarship
2. A Faculty Senate Scholarship **recommendation form** and a **letter of recommendation** from a Merritt College faculty member (instructor, counselor, or librarian) for each scholarship
3. A **personal statement** for each scholarship
4. [Optional] Supporting documentation of meeting eligibility requirements (such as certificates of participation, Student Accessibility Services accommodation forms, transcripts, etc.)

**Scholarship applications are due by Friday, April 13th, 2026, 5:00 p.m.**

*Please read the scholarship criteria carefully before applying.  
The Scholarship Review Committee will only consider applications that meet the eligibility requirements.*

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Vose at [gvose@peralta.edu](mailto:gvose@peralta.edu).

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# FACULTY SENATE SCHOLARSHIPS

## Descriptions and Criteria

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### **ANITA M. BLACK SCHOLARSHIP IN THE COMPUTER SCIENCES - \$500**

Qualifying candidates must demonstrate the following at time of application:

- They have completed **9 semester units of Merritt College CIS (Computer Information Systems) or CS (Computer Science) courses.**
- They have an **overall (cumulative) GPA of 2.75** or higher.
- They submit a **Comprehensive Student Education Plan** stating an academic goal of either a Certificate or Degree from Merritt College in Computer Information Systems or Computer Science.
- Their Personal Statement speaks to their life challenges, their approach to adversity, and how the CS/CIS degree or certificate advances their life and career goals.

Qualifying candidates with special needs, including financial, housing, refugee and/or disability status, will be given extra consideration.

### **ARISTOTLE AWARD - \$500**

This is **not** an award that students can apply for. The award is given to the graduating student (not including transfer-only students) with the highest GPA. If several students share the same GPA, then the number of units and number of degrees will be taken into consideration to determine the recipient.

### **CAROLA THOMPSON-BOWERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - \$500**

1. The student must have been a tutor or tutee in regular attendance at the Merritt College Learning Center, tutoring or studying Mathematics, Sciences, or CIS.
2. The student should have completed **at least 35 semester units** at Merritt College and have an **overall GPA of 3.2 or higher** by the end of the Fall 2025 semester.
3. The student must have been admitted as a transfer student by an accredited, four-year college or university. (Applicant must provide a copy of admission letter to Greg Vose at [gvose@peralta.edu](mailto:gvose@peralta.edu) by May 1st, 2026.)

## **CAREER EDUCATION (CE) STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP - \$500**

1. The student has completed **at least 9 semester units at Merritt College in one of the CE programs listed below:**
  - Administration of Justice
  - Bioscience
  - Business
  - Child Development
  - Community Social Services
  - Computer Information Systems
  - Emergency Medical Technician
  - Environmental Management & Technology
  - Fire Science
  - Health Professions & Occupations
  - Landscape Horticulture
  - Medical Assisting
  - Nursing
  - Nutrition & Dietetics
  - Paralegal Studies
  - Radiologic Science
  - Real Estate
2. The student has an **overall GPA of 2.75 or higher** by the end of the Fall 2025 semester.
3. A student who has a degree is ineligible.

## **COURAGE & PERSEVERANCE AWARD - \$500**

The Courage & Perseverance Award may be given to more than one recipient based on the total number of applicants.

1. The student has experienced some life difficulty yet is persevering to be a good student.
2. The student has completed **at least 24 semester units** at Merritt College and has an **overall GPA of 2.75 or higher** by the end of the Fall 2025 semester.

## **GUY FORKNER AWARD IN REAL ESTATE - \$500**

Qualifying candidates must demonstrate the following at time of application:

- They completed **6 semester units of Merritt College Real Estate courses.**
- They have an **overall (cumulative) GPA of 2.75 or higher** by the end of the Fall 2025 semester.
- They submit a **Comprehensive Student Education Plan** stating an academic goal of either a Certificate or Degree from Merritt College in Real Estate.
- Their Personal Statement speaks to their life challenges, their approach to adversity, and how the Real Estate degree or certificate advances their life and career goals.

Qualifying candidates with special needs, including financial, housing, refugee and/or disability status, will be given extra consideration.

## **JENNIFER BRIFFA SCHOLARSHIP IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT - \$500**

Qualifying candidates must demonstrate the following at time of application:

- The student has completed **at least 9 semester units of Merritt College Child Development courses.**
- The student must have an **overall GPA of 2.75 or higher** by the end of the Fall 2025 semester.
- Filed a Comprehensive Student Education Plan
- Their Personal Statement speaks to their life challenges, their approach to adversity, and how the Child Development certificate advances their life and career goals.

Qualifying students with special needs, including financial or refugee status will be given extra consideration.

## **JOHN F. SUMMERSETTE AWARD - \$500**

- The student shows evidence and promise in working for interracial harmony in our society and exemplifying the values ultimately necessary to achieve the goal.
- The student has completed **at least 35 semester units** at Merritt College and has an **overall GPA of 3.5 or higher** by the end of the Fall 2025 semester.
- The student must have been admitted as a transfer student by a four-year, accredited college or university. (Applicant must provide a copy of admission letter to Greg Vose at [gvose@peralta.edu](mailto:gvose@peralta.edu) by May 1st, 2026.)

## **NORBERT BISCHOF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - \$500**

1. The student has completed at least three semester courses of college-level work in Mathematics, Sciences, or Philosophy with the intent to continue education at Merritt College and thereafter to transfer to a four-year institution for work in one of these or a closely related area.
2. The student has completed **at least 24 semester units** of work at Merritt College and has an **overall GPA of 3.0 or higher** by the end of the Fall 2025 semester.
3. The student shows evidence of community service (noted in personal statement), in addition to a wide breadth of academic and extracurricular interests.
4. A written statement that includes a summary of background, future educational and career goals and describes why the student thinks they satisfy the scholarship selection criteria.

5. Qualifying students with special needs, including financial or refugee status will be given extra consideration.

### **STRONG START: FIRST-YEAR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP - \$500**

1. The student has only attended Merritt College and no other college.
2. The student has completed **at least 9 semester units** and **no more than 30 semester units** at Merritt College and has an **overall GPA of 2.75 or higher** by the end of the Fall 2025 semester.
3. The student must be currently enrolled in **at least 9 semester units** in the Spring 2026 semester.
4. The student has experienced some life difficulty yet is persevering to be a good student.
5. A student who has a degree is ineligible.

### **WILLIAM J. LOVE/RONALD L. MOSS COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES (COSER) SCHOLARSHIP - \$500**

Qualifying candidates must demonstrate the following at time of application:

- They have completed **9 semester units of Merritt College COSER courses**.
- They have an **overall (cumulative) GPA of 2.75 or higher** by the end of the Fall 2025 semester.
- They submit a **Comprehensive Student Education Plan** stating an academic goal of either a Certificate or AA Degree in Community Social Services/Substance Abuse from Merritt College.
- Their Personal Statement speaks to their life challenges, their approach to adversity, and how the COSER degree or certificate advances their life and career goals.

Qualifying candidates with special needs, including financial, housing, refugee and/or disability status, will be given extra consideration.

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# FACULTY SENATE SCHOLARSHIPS

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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### **1. Where can I find an application packet?**

Application packets are available online on the [Merritt College](#) and [Merritt College Academic Senate](#) websites.

### **2. Who can I contact for more information?**

Contact Greg Vose at [gvose@peralta.edu](mailto:gvose@peralta.edu) with any questions.

### **3. I am applying for more than one scholarship. Do I need to have a different letter of recommendation and personal statement for each scholarship?**

You may have the same faculty member write your letters of recommendation, but you must attach a recommendation form and a letter of recommendation to each scholarship application. The same letter of recommendation may be used for multiple scholarships, if it addresses the different criteria for each scholarship you are applying for. For example, if you are applying for both the Courage & Perseverance Award and the Career Education Scholarship, the faculty member should complete two recommendation forms (one for each scholarship) but may attach a copy of the same letter of recommendation to each form.

You may also use the same personal statement for multiple scholarships but must include a copy with each application. We recommend that you write a personal statement that specifically addresses each scholarship criteria.

### **4. How will I know if I won an award? When will I receive my award?**

Award winners will be notified individually by the first week of May. A list of award winners may also be published in the President's newsletter, on the Merritt College website, and on social media.

### **5. I won a Merritt College Faculty Senate scholarship last year. Can I still apply?**

Yes, your application will still be considered, but priority will be given to applicants who have not previously be awarded a Merritt College Faculty Senate Scholarship.