

Dell Scholars Program Overview Session Q&A

After submitting the FAFSA, should students wait to receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) to confirm Pell eligibility before beginning the application process?

If a student thinks they may be Pell-eligible, we encourage them to apply whether or not they have received a Student Aid Report (SAR). Documentation of Pell eligibility isn't required until the semi-finalist stage and all Dell Scholars are accepted on a conditional status until Pell eligibility is verified.

Why are students asked to provide their top three colleges on the application?

We ask students to share their top three colleges and why they have chosen them. Our goal is to see whether they have done the due diligence to make an informed college choice. For example, are the institutions a realistic option based on their GPA and high school performance? If they have selected private institutions, have they considered the financial implications? Are the colleges they have in mind good options based on the student's intended area of study? The list of colleges gives us some insight into a student's college readiness.

Why are students asked to provide intended major?

Similar to the previous question, our goal here is to see if they have given in-depth thought to their choice of major and are prepared for success in college. Have they selected a major that aligns with their academic strengths, personal interests, and career aspirations? If so, we can expect that they are more likely to understand the expectations of their area of study. We also think students who have a clear vision of what they want to study in college (and thus do in their career) are more apt to overcome the challenges they'll undoubtedly face on their path to completion.

The ideal candidate for the Dell Scholars program will demonstrate grit, potential, and ambition in their pursuit of a college education. Could you elaborate on how the program defines grit?

The Dell Scholars program seeks students who demonstrate grit by taking action to address or overcome personal challenges in their lives related to their families, schools, or communities. Whether or not they were able to overcome the challenge they faced, we are looking for a growth mindset, belief in their capacity to create a better future for themselves, and their willingness to take action on this belief. These qualities make it more likely that they will persevere through difficulties along the college journey.

Are we able to access information on which college readiness programs Dell Scholars participated in?

We don't share information publicly about which college readiness programs our selected candidates come from. We will share information with individual CRPs about the candidates from their program so they can see how their students performed in the selection process.

My college readiness program (CRP) serves students in high school and continues with them into college. Do we partner with the Dell Scholars program or provide programming separately?

The stronger the support system for our students, the better! Students may not share with us if they are still in touch with their CRPs, so our advisors will err on the side of caution and assume they aren't otherwise receiving support. If we know a student is still working with their CRP, we will work with this partner to coordinate efforts and avoid any confusion for the student. We also recognize that students

may be more willing to open up to one advisor than another. Our goal is for them to receive the support they need to stay on track through college, no matter who is providing that support.