

BISHOP MAHER CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The *Bishop Maher Catholic Leadership Scholarship (BMCLS)* is intended to assist Catholic undergraduate men and women who have financial need and who have demonstrated leadership capabilities in their parish or within their Catholic community.

After review and recommendation from the BMCLS Committee, the University will award scholarships annually to incoming and continuing students. Scholarships normally range in value between \$500 and \$4000 per year, depending on the financial need of the recipient.

New applicants must have a cumulative high school Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 3.00 (as determined by the USD Office of Undergraduate Admissions) and acceptable SAT scores. Transfer students from other four year universities or community colleges must have a cumulative minimum 2.8 GPA. First time continuing USD students must have a cumulative USD 2.5 GPA.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: FIRST TIME APPLICANTS

1. Complete the BMCLS Application (to the right), and return it directly to the USD Office of Financial Aid by the priority deadline: **March 2, 2009**.
2. All applicants must complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. All Admission and Financial Aid application forms must be completed by the priority deadline (**March 2, 2009**). See instructions in the **Guide to Applying/Reapplying for Financial Aid at USD for 2009-2010**.
3. Applicants must have a letter of recommendation from the pastoral leader of their parish or Catholic community, which describes their leadership and/or service. This letter should be forwarded directly to the BMCLS Committee, USD Office of Financial Aid.
4. Applicants must also submit a letter to the BMCLS Committee c/o the USD Office of Financial Aid citing those past and current activities that give evidence of Catholic leadership and pastoral participation in a parish, community and/or academic setting.
5. Incoming freshmen recipients, who will reside on campus, will live in Maher Hall in the Maher Scholars Residential Housing Community. Contact USD Housing if you receive a BMCL Scholarship and identify yourself as a Maher Scholar.

Bishop Maher Catholic Leadership Scholarships for first-time Freshman applicants will be awarded by **May 1, 2009**; first-time Transfer applicants soon thereafter. Applicants may receive an initial *Award Letter* (e-mail notification) and subsequent revisions prior to receiving notification of the BMCLS award.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: RENEWAL APPLICANTS *

1. All renewal applicants must complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**. Priority is given to applicants who meet the priority deadline of **March 2, 2009**. See instructions in the **Guide to Applying/Reapplying for Financial Aid at USD for 2009-2010**.
2. To be considered for a renewal scholarship each year a BMCLS recipient must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or greater by the end of the previous January Intersession.
3. Also, to be considered for a renewal scholarship, a Bishop Maher Catholic Leadership Scholarship recipient must submit a letter to the USD Office of Financial Aid. The letter should describe those activities in which he or she **participated which demonstrate continued leadership or services in University ministry, the parish or Catholic community**. Renewal applicants should submit their annual letters to the Office of Financial Aid by **March 2, 2009** in order to be considered for the scholarship for the upcoming academic year.

BISHOP MAHER CATHOLIC LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP Application for **FIRST TIME APPLICANTS only** (Renewal applicants, please see instructions in the box below *)

NAME _____
(Important: Please Print Name)

USD ID# _____ (if known)

Soc. Sec. # (optional) _____ - _____ - _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE () _____

PARISH _____

DIOCESE _____

CITY _____

NAME OF PASTORAL LEADER OF PARISH
OR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY WRITING
LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION:

HIGH SCHOOL _____

GRADUATION DATE _____

COLLEGE _____

UNITS COMPLETED _____

HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY APPLIED TO USD FOR FINANCIAL AID?

YES _____ NO _____

IF YES, WHEN? _____

FIRST TIME APPLICANTS, PLEASE CHECK ONE:

FRESHMAN SOPHOMORE JUNIOR

SENIOR TRANSFER STUDENT