



MPC

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MONTEREY PENINSULA COLLEGE

Scholarship Award Strategy

I. Introduction: The 2022–2025 MPC Foundation Strategic Plan focuses on student empowerment, community awareness and engagement, and sustained growth. That is, it is largely focused on raising both awareness of the Foundation and scholarship funds. It does not address how these scholarship funds should be disbursed. This document is intended to complement the 2022–2025 Strategic Plan by articulating a disbursement strategy.

II. Vision, Mission, Overview: For reference, here are the MPC Foundation

Vision: Universal Access to Extraordinary Higher Education.

Mission: We create opportunities for students and enhance the learning environment at MPC by fundraising and friendraising.

Overview: The MPC Foundation provides opportunities for students in Monterey County to attend college and helps to ensure their experience at MPC is the best it can be. We accomplish this by providing financial support to students and by investing resources to complement the college’s programs, faculty and staff, and facilities.

Financial support to students includes scholarships, textbook assistance, emergency assistance/drop-out prevention. The Foundation’s Evans College Incentive Program provides wraparound support and financial incentives to 50 local youth annually who otherwise may never have gone to college. In 2024, the Foundation awarded over \$500,000 in scholarship funds to 283 students.

Our investments in the campus are often achieved by securing Federal, State, and local grant funds. We also provide grants to faculty and staff through our Faculty & Staff Advancement program.

III. General Guiding Principles: To ensure the ethical and equitable distribution of scholarship funds to MPC scholarship applicants, the scholarship distribution process will adhere to the general guiding principles. The funding methodology will:

1. Reflect and enhance the vision and mission of the Foundation
2. Honor the requirements for each scholarship
3. Optimize the application process such that the necessary information can be collected and evaluated efficiently, effectively, and in a timely manner
4. Have clear criteria and scoring methodologies that minimize bias and arbitrariness
5. Build a relationship with applicants/recipients, starting with the application process, and including equitable and ethical outreach practices, to best understand the success of the program and generate the next generation of donors.
6. Establish an annual dollar disbursement goal to inform the Foundation’s budget and disburse all funds available



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7. Encourage donors to establish endowed scholarship funds to promote long-term support for students.

IV. Primary Goals of MPC Foundation’s Scholarship Award Process

1. Given the vision for universal access, the primary goal will be to maximize the number of scholarships given to MPC scholarship applicants.
2. Grant all scholarships to qualified applicants who best meet donors’ intentions.
3. To the greatest extent possible, ensure each scholarship award is at least \$500 for incoming and continuing students or \$1,000 for a transferring student.

V. Strategy for Achieving the Primary Goals

1. A Scholarship Advisory Group (SAG), made up of MPC Foundation Board members and staff, MPC employees, and other community volunteers, will read and score applications. A subset of SAG members will make recommendations for awards, as noted below.
 - a. Taking the SAG application scores into consideration, MPC Foundation staff will determine scholarship recipients for awards at or below \$1,500 unless otherwise specified in a donor’s Letter of Gift.
 - b. A subset of SAG members, including at least one MPCF staff member, will be convened to collectively determine scholarship recipients for awards at or above \$1,500 unless otherwise specified in a donor’s Letter of Gift.
 - c. Interviews may be conducted for finalists being considered for scholarship awards of \$5,000 and above. Interviews will be conducted, and recipients will be selected by a subset of SAG members and/or additional MPC Foundation staff.
2. A separate Scholarship Program Task Force (SPT) consisting of an equal number of staff and board members (2-3 each) will meet periodically to ensure an optimal process and outcomes are achieved and to review and recommend updates to the program. MPCF staff will provide data to assist the Task Force with its analyses.
3. A summary analysis will be provided to the MPF Foundation Board regarding the implementation of the disbursement plan at the Board meeting following the planned disbursements.

Scholarship Amount	Read & Score Applications	Interview Finalists	Select Recipients
\$1 - \$1,499	SAG	NA	Foundation Staff
\$1,500 - \$4,999	SAG	NA	Subset of SAG & Foundation Staff
\$5,000 +	SAG	Subset of SAG & Foundation Staff	Subset of SAG & Foundation Staff