

2008-2009 UPPER CLASS MERIT AWARD COMPETITION

Each year, the Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee recommends a number of the most academically-talented of the Institute's freshmen, sophomores, and juniors for Upper Class Merit Awards. These awards are based on outstanding scholastic achievement and independent research since matriculating at Caltech, and are available regardless of financial need. The Committee will evaluate applications for merit awards by considering: applicant's statement and supporting materials, documented achievement, faculty recommendations, and transcripts. Students are responsible for verifying the accuracy of their academic transcripts with the Registrar's Office prior to the application due date of **April 4, 2008**.

For those applicants who wish independent scholarship or research to be considered as a part of their application, the Committee will review a statement from the student that contains a brief summary of previous independent scholarship or research. Such a statement may be up to 500 words in length.

The distribution of awards will be determined by the caliber of applicants. We anticipate that about \$1,000,000 will be awarded. Last year, 48 students were awarded Upper Class Merit Awards in amounts ranging from \$5,000, to full tuition, room, and board.

Upper Class Merit Awards are made for one year. Students may reapply each year. The award proceeds will be credited to the recipient's student account in thirds for each term of enrollment. Students taking a sabbatical may request to have unused portions reserved for a maximum of one year. All awards are based on full-time enrollment for the fall, winter and spring terms. Award recipients will only receive Upper Class Merit Awards for the term(s) in which they are enrolled at least half-time. Recipients enrolled less than full-time in a term will have their awards pro-rated based on actual enrollment and/or tuition charged.

If an Upper Class Merit Award winner is receiving need-based financial aid, Federal regulations require that the Upper Class Merit Award be counted in the computation of financial need. The Award will be used first to reduce the loan and work ("self-help") component of the student's financial aid package. In most cases, this will eliminate the eligibility for the student to receive work-study or borrow during the academic year. Students not on financial aid may receive the full benefit of the award, and those whose current need-based aid is smaller than the Upper Class Merit Award will retain the amount by which the Merit Award exceeds their financial need. The total of all awards, including Caltech and outside awards may not exceed the total cost of attendance. [Underload policy applies to Upper Class Merit Awards.]

All application materials must be submitted no later than **Friday, April 4, 2008, 5:00pm**. **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.**

All applicants will be notified in **late May** of the outcome of the 2008-2009 Upperclass Merit competition. The decisions of the Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee are final and no appeals will be considered.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008, 5PM

2008-2009 UPPER CLASS MERIT AWARD APPLICATION

Previous recipient of: Axline President's Upper Class Merit Award

Name:

Caltech UID:

Local Address:

Option:

Local Telephone:

E-mail Address:

Class Level (check one): Freshman Sophomore Junior

A. References

Please provide the names of three references (preferably members of Caltech Faculty) who have observed your academic work/research and are prepared to write letters of recommendation.*

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Mail Code</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
1.				
2.				
3.				

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2008, 5PM

*The Committee gives great consideration to faculty recommendations when making its award decisions. You are responsible for ensuring these recommendations reach the Committee on time. In particular, it is your responsibility to do the following:

1. Ask three faculty members who know you well to submit recommendations (only 3 recommendations will be considered);
2. Direct each of these faculty members to www.finaid.caltech.edu/merit to complete the online recommendation form;
3. Follow-up with the faculty member's administrative assistant to verify that the recommendation has been submitted.
4. Check with the Financial Aid Office (ext. 6280) to verify all your faculty recommendations have been received by **5pm, Monday, April 14, 2008.**

Please remember faculty have many commitments, some of which require them to be away from campus. Be sure you allow sufficient time for your recommendations to be completed and submitted before the deadline. If the originally-selected faculty are unavailable, alternates should be found **PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE.**

B. Employment

Please indicate your employment record, if any, since graduating from high school. Be sure to include your position, dates of employment, the name of your supervisor, and a brief job description.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Dates of Employment</u>	<u>Supervisor</u>	<u>Job Description</u>
-----------------	----------------------------	-------------------	------------------------

C. Extra Curricular/Co-Curricular Activities or Research Projects

Since beginning your undergraduate studies at Caltech, please list up to five extra curricular and co-curricular activities or research projects in which you have been involved. Be sure to list your role and hrs/week of involvement for each activity listed. You may also include relevant projects or jobs outside the Caltech community.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Dates of Involvement</u>	<u>Average Hours/Week</u>
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------

D. Academic Awards

Please indicate any academic awards, including, Axline, President's, Merit Awards, or any other special achievements you received upon admission or while attending Caltech.

E. Past Research

Summarize briefly the subjects, method, and results of any research you have done or any research project in which you have participated during your enrollment at Caltech. This should include summer or other jobs connected with research or technology applications. Be sure to upload a copy of any paper that is the result of your research activities.

F. Applicant's Statement (optional)

Please provide any additional details which should be taken into consideration with your merit award application. (Please limit this statement to 500 words.)

I certify that the information provided herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize the Registrar to release my academic transcript to the Scholarships and Financial Aid Committee. I agree to allow my name to be used in the Upper Class Merit Award announcements/public releases if I am selected for an award. The award amount will not be announced.

Type your full name in lieu of signature

Completed Applications must be submitted by Friday, April 4, 2008, 5:00pm. No exceptions to the deadline will be made. Please remind faculty members you have asked to submit recommendation forms by Monday, April 14, 2008.