



Medical School Scholarships Meeting an Urgent Need



A medical education is growing increasingly expensive. More than ever, students consider scholarship support when choosing a school. Currently, through need-based scholarships, UVA provides students with only one-fourth the yearly cost of attending medical school. UVA's ability to attract outstanding students and help them succeed depends upon increasing scholarship support.

Shrinking Resources

Thanks to existing scholarships, UVA's School of Medicine can award some measure of support to almost 65 percent of its students. But the percentage of support, at only 25 percent or less, still results in an average student debt at graduation of more than \$132,000. In the years ahead, the impact of this scholarship support will be further stressed due to several important factors.

- **A new curriculum**—Starting in 2010, students will begin clinical training on day one of medical school. This is better for future patients, but more expensive than teaching in a lecture format.
- **A growing student body**—In response to state mandates and a national physician shortage, UVA is increasing its class sizes, forcing existing scholarship support to stretch even further.
- **Rising tuition**—With less support from the state and increasing program costs, tuition will almost certainly continue to rise over the next several years.

Merit Scholarships

In addition to need-based scholarships, the School of Medicine depends upon merit scholarships to attract the best and brightest students—those who receive competitive offers from numerous top-ranked schools. Merit scholarships can exceed 25 percent, but cannot be pulled from need-based funding. Attracting exceptional students through merit scholarships is important, especially in terms of:

- Challenging and mentoring fellow students,
- Attracting strong teaching faculty, and
- Raising UVA's reputation and standing.

A Plan for the Future

UVA's School of Medicine has set a goal of increasing maximum scholarship support to our neediest students to cover at least 33 percent of the cost of attendance.

Gifts of \$250,000 and above may be used to create named, endowed scholarships. These funds exist in perpetuity, generating interest to help future generations of students. Alternatively, an expendable gift of \$20,000 will provide scholarship support for a student for four years, while a \$5,000 gift will provide one year of scholarship support.

Gifts may be made by individuals or as class gifts. All scholarship gifts are tax deductible. **For more information, contact the UVA Health System Development Medical Alumni Team at (800) 297-0102 or the UVA Medical Alumni Association at (866) 315-0947.**