

## **Sanford I. Berman Debate Forum Scholarship Policy Statement**

1. Evaluation and consideration of applications for a debate scholarship offered by the Sanford I. Berman Debate Forum, as well as scholarship allocation decisions will be made by a “Debate Scholarship Committee.” The members will include The Director of Debate and The Chair of the Department of Communication Studies.
2. Applicants for debate scholarships must meet the general UNLV admission requirements. These requirements are available online at: <http://www.unlv.edu/admissions/applyOnline.html>.
3. Applicants for debate scholarships must submit the following materials:
  - a. A completed recruiting form—available on the team website
  - b. A letter of interest that explains why the student would like to debate in college (and specifically at UNLV). This letter should explain the student’s level of interest, enthusiasm for debate, work ethic, etc.
  - c. A letter or list that details the student’s level of high school debate experience. Each student should indicate how many years they debated in high school (and college if applicable), how many tournaments they attended each year, and any awards that they won.
  - d. Two letters of recommendation. One of those letters must be from either the student’s high school coach, or an instructor with whom they worked at a summer high school debate institute. The student should ask the recommenders to "frankly assess the student's potential to succeed in college policy debate." Students may submit more than two letters of recommendation if they wish.
  - e. Students also may submit additional materials such as evidence assignments that they personally have researched and organized, a video of a debate in which they participated, letters of recommendation from high school teachers, etc.
4. Criteria for awarding debate scholarships include:
  - a. The student’s level of talent and success in high school debate including whether the student’s success was local, regional, or national in nature.
  - b. The student’s predicted level of success (potential for success) in collegiate debate.
  - c. The student’s work ethic as demonstrated through letters of recommendation, work samples turned in by the student in the application, and the student’s letter of interest.
  - d. Additional criteria for awarding debate scholarships include:
    - i. Level of economic need
    - ii. Potential to increase the diversity of the debate team

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5. Debate scholarships are awarded for a one-year period. Students can apply for scholarship renewal on an annual basis. Requirements for annual renewal of a student's debate scholarship include:
  - a. Satisfactory progress toward a degree as defined by UNLV. These requirements are available online at: [http://financialaid.unlv.edu/Resources/PDF/Satisfactory\\_progress\\_requirements.pdf](http://financialaid.unlv.edu/Resources/PDF/Satisfactory_progress_requirements.pdf)
  - b. Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.75.
  - c. Active participation on the team including effective participation in all five core areas of "debate work" that each member of the squad is expected to do.
    - i. Attend and participate in squad meetings
    - ii. Turn in research assignments on a regular basis.
    - iii. Do weekly speaking drills, filing, and file reading/highlighting.
    - iv. Participate in at least one practice debate and deliver at least one speech re-work before each tournament to which a student travels.
    - v. Participate in debate—travel to tournaments and compete
  - d. Other duties that debaters must perform include:
    - i. Assist with hosting our annual high school debate tournament, and our annual college debate tournament
    - ii. Assist with running the summer high school debate institute
    - iii. Attend official alumni development functions.