The University of Maryland Incentive Awards Program recognizes high-achieving young people who want to better their opportunities through a college education. Through ongoing, personalized and holistic guidance and mentoring, motivated students can achieve their full potential. Tailored activities that promote leadership, community responsibility, persistence and self-awareness help every student with the will to succeed to dramatically change the trajectory of their lives.

Every year, participating high schools in Prince George’s County and Baltimore City—and now KIPP schools in Maryland and Washington, D.C.—each nominate students to compete for a University of Maryland Incentive Award. Recipients of the Incentive Award are granted a four-year scholarship and benefit from a nurturing community of advisors, mentors and administrative staff while at Maryland. In return, Incentive Award Scholars are expected to be active in their home communities, serving as role models for future students.

Among the finest public universities in the nation, the University of Maryland offers a quality education in more than 100 fields. The diverse community of faculty and students at Maryland provides a stimulating environment that encourages exposure to new ideas and differing opinions.

WHAT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND INCENTIVE AWARDS PROGRAM PROVIDES:

- Full financial support (tuition, fees, room and board) to attend the University of Maryland for four years (or eight semesters), not to exceed financial need
- Academic coaching
- Faculty or staff mentoring
- Social and community-building activities
- Unique learning opportunities
- Special orientation for students and their parents
- Pre-freshmen summer classes
- Freshmen transition group

ALL CANDIDATES MUST:

- Be graduating seniors from a participating high school in Prince George’s County or Baltimore City or graduates of KIPP schools
- Be U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Take the SAT I or ACT no later than November
- Meet the minimum course requirements for undergraduate admission and complete the application process for the University of Maryland by Nov. 1
- Be admissible to the University of Maryland
- Submit the FAFSA by Feb. 15 with current tax return information
- Be eligible for the Pell Grant

ADDITIONALLY, CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO:

- Show an eagerness to assume increased academic challenges and exceed minimum academic expectations
- Prove leadership ability or show evidence of leadership potential
- Possess strong character
- Be exemplary role models to peers

THE APPLICATION PROCESS:

- In the fall, counselors at participating high schools conduct a nomination process and submit candidates for consideration
- Guidance counselors forward completed applications to the Incentive Awards office for review
- IAP staff and a committee of community volunteers select finalists
- Finalists are notified in the spring

For more information, contact your high school counselor or visit umincentiveawards.umd.edu