THE INCENTIVE AWARDS PROGRAM recognizes exceptional students who demonstrate academic ability, uncommon persistence, and maturity despite obstacles in their path.

Directed toward graduates of select Baltimore City, Prince George’s County and KIPP schools who have significant financial need, the program ensures monetary support to cover tuition, fees, room, and board for four years.

The program offers more than a prestigious scholarship, however! The cohort of students who form the core of this community benefit from an extensive network of staff, peers, advisers and mentors, as well as outstanding programming. In return, students stay active in their home high schools and neighborhoods through peer advising, high school visits and other outreach programs, with the intention of inspiring young people to similar academic achievement.

The PROGRAM PROVIDES:

- Financial support to ensure that tuition, fees, room, and board are covered for four years
- Academic guidance
- Faculty or staff mentoring
- Social and community-building activities
- Study abroad opportunities
- Pre-freshman summer programs
- Professional development
- Guaranteed housing

ALL CANDIDATES MUST:

- Be graduating seniors from a participating high school in Prince George’s County or Baltimore City or KIPP schools
- Be U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Take the SAT I or ACT no later than October
- 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
- Be eligible for the Pell Grant

CANDIDATES ALSO SHOULD:

- 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 their 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.

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.

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

Baltimore City Public Schools
Baltimore City College High School
Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women
Baltimore Polytechnic Institute
Baltimore School for the Arts
Benjamin Franklin High School
Digital Harbor High School
Mergenthaler Vocational Technical High School
National Academy Foundation High School
New Era Academy
Northwestern High School
Patterson High School
Paul L. Dunbar High School
Renaissance Academy High School
Western High School

Prince George’s County Public Schools
Central High School
Fairmont Heights High School
High Point High School
Northwestern High School
Oxon Hill High School
Parkdale High School
Potomac High School
Suitland High School

Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) Schools

All KIPPsters are eligible to apply.

To learn more about or to support the Incentive Awards Program, please contact us at umincentiveawards@umd.edu or 301.405.9024.