Scholarships and Financial Support

Looking for financial assistance?

Every spring, the School of Drama awards scholarships to current undergraduate and graduate students for the next academic year. Scholarships can range from $100 to three paid quarters of resident tuition (BAs only). Scholarships are intended for current drama majors, although we do occasionally award outstanding non-majors as well.

For the Hughes, Harrington, and School of Drama scholarships, students must be attending classes on the Seattle campus for the quarter they will be receiving the award. The department recommends scholarship applications for students who are maintaining a 3.0 overall and 3.5 departmental GPA. Students who do not meet this criteria are eligible to apply, and can also be recommended by faculty, but should understand that departmental and overall GPA are a major part of the scholarship selection criteria for most scholarships.

The scholarship [BA application](mailto:baapplication@uw.edu) must include a cover sheet, drama resume, current transcript, and short essay. Please read the eligibility requirements for each scholarship carefully. BA scholarship applications should be submitted as a single PDF file to [emboyle@uw.edu](mailto:emboyle@uw.edu) by April 17, 2020.

Grad students should submit their [scholarship applications](mailto:scholarshipapplications@uw.edu) to [sryan@uw.edu](mailto:sryan@uw.edu) by April 17, 2020.

Current scholarships available for 2020-2021 include:

**The Frank and Martha Ackerman Scholarship** – This fund was created by Frank and Martha Ackerman in honor of Martha's mother. It is intended to be equally divided between the Schools of Drama and Music. This scholarship is awarded to either graduate or undergraduate students who have provided evidence of financial need and are in good academic standing.

**The John Ashby Conway Memorial Scholarship** – John Ashby Conway taught design at the School of Drama for 40 years and retired in 1975. He was the original designer of the Penthouse Theater. Upon his death in 1987, a memorial scholarship was set in his name and overseen by his widow, Dorothy. This scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student in design or technical theatre. Students must be active participants in the School of Drama community.

**The James R. Crider Undergraduate Fund for Costume Design** – James Crider was a member of the UW School of Drama faculty from 1952 until 1990, during which he taught various history of dress and costume design/construction courses, as well as designing for School of Drama productions and outside professional productions. The purpose of this fund is to provide financial support to undergraduate students in the SoD, and to encourage and nourish the love of theatrical costume design and construction in students in whom the seed of that love has already sprouted. This scholarship is awarded to one undergraduate who shows special promise as a designer and builder of theatrical costumes.

**Donal Harrington Memorial Scholarship** – Donal (“Dan”) F. Harrington joined the School of Drama faculty as a directing professor in 1938. A beloved teacher and director, he served the school nearly 30 years, retiring in 1967. He spent one year as the School’s Executive Director. Harrington is remembered as remarkable for keeping in touch with all of his students after they graduated. An avid traveler, he could summer almost anywhere in the world and count on spending time with former students turned friends.
Shelley & Phil Schermer Endowment Scholarship – Shelley (Henze) Schermer (B.A. 1971) and Phil Schermer (M.A. Scenery and Lighting Design, and Technical Direction, 1969) both graduated from the University of Washington's School of Drama. For several years Shelley was a scenic artist and prop master at A Contemporary Theatre (ACT) and the Seattle Rep while she built her career as a scenery designer for ACT, the Bathhouse, Seattle Children's Theatre, Intiman and many other theatres. Shelley has designed for well over one hundred theatre productions, as well as museum exhibits, conventions and fairs, and facility interiors. Upon finishing graduate school, Phil was hired as the UW School of Drama's Theatre Production Supervisor where he oversaw the School's scenery shop and theatre facilities, and the technical staff and students working in them. In 1974, Greg Falls hired Phil as Technical Director of ACT. Phil spent twenty-three years with the theatre, overseeing all aspects of the productions and the expansion and renovation of the original Queen Anne facility. The Schermers' fruitful professional relationship with Greg Falls and his wife Jean led to partnerships beyond ACT. In 1975, the couples and another former UW associate, Mac Perkins, founded Pacific Northwest Theatre Associates (PNTA), which, would become one of the premier theatrical suppliers in the country. Upon the ACT board’s decision to move into a larger facility, Phil, with architect Gary Wakasuki, designed the renovation and then supervised the move into the historic Eagles Auditorium in 1996. Shelley, meanwhile, was tasked with designing the interiors of ACT's new home, and so they spent the majority of the last year of Phil's life, after his receiving a lung cancer diagnosis, working together on this venture. Shelley has since remained a...
vital part of the theatre community in the Puget Sound Area as a designer, producer, and author of a book series on the history of ACT—she can see her scenic design for ACT’s annual production of A Christmas Carol every winter. In creating this fund, it was Shelley’s desire to give students opportunities similar to those she was afforded by providing financial support to undergraduate or graduate students in the technical and theatre design programs. *This award provides financial assistance to undergraduate or graduate students who are studying technical theatre, scenic or lighting design, or sound design. Selection for the undergraduate scholarship will be determined by demonstrated aptitude for success in theatre design and/or technical theater. Graduate and undergraduate students who receive this award must participate in an internship with one of the professional theater companies in Seattle.*

**School of Drama Scholarship** – In 1962, when Greg Falls was Director of the School of Drama, he felt it necessary to establish a School of Drama Scholarship. Many, many alumni have and continue to support this fund. *This scholarship is awarded to students on the basis of merit and leadership within the School of Drama. This scholarship is typically given to undergraduate students, but can be awarded to graduate students as well. To be eligible, students must be attending classes on the Seattle campus for the quarter they will be receiving the award.*

**Senior Capstone Project Award** – The Senior Capstone Project award funds an applied research project that investigates, explores, and articulates the various areas of study in the Drama BA. *Project guidelines can be found on the Honors and Capstone Page.* In addition to financial support, this award grants students faculty mentorship, and designation as a School of Drama Honors student. Projects funded by this award are designed so that students have a portfolio documenting their work that can be used for graduate school applications and job interviews, as well as in pursuing practical experience creating arts in the Seattle community. *This award provides financial assistance to a rising senior undergraduate working on a capstone project in cooperation with a local Seattle community partner. The Senior Capstone Project award requires a separate application.*

**The Jenna Ulrich Memorial Award** – Jenna was a BA student who tragically was killed in an auto accident shortly after graduating. The award was established by her parents, Rick and Mya, “for a deserving BA student who emulates Jenna’s spirit and artistic contributions to the School of Drama.” *This scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate who whose overall citizenship and community engagement enhances the School of Drama. Undergraduate recipients are nominated and selected by a faculty committee.*

**The Meri Wada Award** – Meri Wada is an amazing woman and costumer who dedicated her 46-year career to the UW School of Drama. Upon her 1997 retirement, a fund was established by members of the Costume Shop Staff to honor her. This award is for a current or graduating undergraduate student who shows promise and skill in the area of technical costume. *Undergraduate recipients are nominated by costume shop staff or faculty, and then decided by consensus among shop staff and faculty. This award may be presented to a continuing or graduating undergraduate student.*

We also have information about [Graduate Tuition and Financial Aid](#) and past [Scholarship Recipients](#), available online.

More scholarship information is available from:

- [Undergraduate Scholarship Office](#)
- [Office of Student Financial Aid](#)
- [Student Fiscal Services](#)

**Related Files**

- [BA Scholarships Application (PDF)](#)
- [BA Scholarships Application (DOCX)](#)
- [Senior Capstone Project Award (PDF)](#)
- [Grad student 2018-19 scholarship application (PDF)](#)

School of Drama