

ECE Merit Scholarship Program

A varying number of Merit Scholarships totaling up to \$15k are available each year to students majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering. These competitive awards recognize students who both academically excel and who have substantively contributed to the department and profession over the past academic year.

Applications this year are due 31 Oct, one semester earlier than typical so we can distribute an unspent award from last year, and may be awarded for either the spring of 2026 or the fall of 2026 according to state disbursement rules. The applications are evaluated by the ECE faculty, and the awards (amount and semester of award) will be announced by 15 Dec. The money for these scholarships derive from:

- The Michael David Shealy 1970 Scholarship for Electrical and Computer Engineering for Merit
- The Electrical and Computer Engineering Alumni Merit Scholarship Fund

Eligibility

- ECE cadets
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and in-major GPA of 3.0
- Pays at least some tuition (e.g. not an Institute Scholar or on a full ROTC or full NCAA scholarship). This scholarship can only be used to reduce tuition, not books/food/uniforms, so if you are already on a full tuition scholarship, this award cannot benefit you, and may prevent others from benefitting from it.

Applications

- Statement of the applicant's current cumulative GPA and current in-major GPA
- Statement addressing the applicant's
 - 1) service to the VMI ECE Department **and**
 - 2) contribution to the ECE profession
- List of what other scholarship or award money you are receiving (e.g. partial VMI, partial ROTC, partial NCAA, other scholarships)
- Limited to one side of one page
- Send in pdf form, using your name for the filename, to COL Squire via email
- Will be evaluated by all ECE faculty
- These are competitive awards; applications that do not follow the above instructions will not be considered.
- You must make your case, so precision is to your benefit (e.g. "I receive 5k/yr from a Foundation scholarship and I volunteered at 4 Open Houses" is more likely to win than "I receive a partial Foundation scholarship and I volunteer at Open Houses" which will be interpreted as a conscious decision to avoid being specific.

Awards

- The number and amount of awards varies each year depending on many factors including the quality of applications, the number of applications, and the amount of award donations received.
- Previous awardees may reapply in following years. Having received this award in the past makes it neither more nor less likely to receive it again.