Overview

The Park Scholarships Selection Criteria are Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Character. It’s important that you understand these criteria so all reviewers use the same measuring stick when evaluating candidates. This sheet details the definitions of these criteria and provides behavioral examples. We are looking for candidates who have demonstrated these behaviors in the past and who seem to have the potential to grow in each of these areas. The most successful Park Scholars excel in all of these areas.

Scholarship

Performs academically
- Earns good grades.
- Makes appropriate progress towards degree.

Manages personal and professional development
- Explores learning experiences outside the classroom; seeks, applies for, and participates in research, special programs, projects, or conferences.
- Pursues broad training in area of interest; takes a variety of classes to achieve academic goals.
- States career objectives clearly.
- Develops networks; identifies mentors who can assist in reaching and/or defining goals.
- Displays and cultivates special interests and aptitudes.

Thinks critically
- Develops intellectual curiosity (a burning desire to learn); asks questions and explores new interests, talents, and ideas.
- Makes connections; integrates existing knowledge with new ideas and considers alternative perspectives.
- Demonstrates intellectual awareness and perseverance; recognizes when s/he does not know something and takes steps to learn; asks questions in class and asks for help from appropriate sources.

Leadership

Builds leadership skills
- Listens and communicates well.
- Develops diplomatic and cooperative relationships with and between others.
- Handles conflict appropriately and appreciates differences.
- Is comfortable in novel or unstructured social settings.
- Takes risks and champions new ideas.
- Balances personal goals with those of the group.
- Persuades and encourages others.

Takes leadership roles
- Leads formally, by pursuing and accepting formal leadership roles.
- Leads informally, by influencing and supporting others and setting a good example.
## Selection Criteria: Behavioral Examples

### Service

**Committed to public service**
- Makes a positive difference in the lives of others.
- Participates in service activities every semester.
- Understands what ‘service’ needs to be done and does it.
- Finds service personally rewarding.
- Develops skills needed to serve on the board for a nonprofit organization upon graduation.

### Character

**Develops self-awareness**
- Knows strengths and weaknesses.
- Understands the ramifications of choices and manages self and resources well.
- Finds balance in activities; engages in activities just for fun; engages in physical activity.

**Is responsible**
- Knows the rules, assesses situations, and uses good judgment.

**Has integrity**
- Is honest; does not cheat or steal or help others do so. Is true to his/her word.
- Is conscientious; goes out of the way to deliver results as promised.
- Stands up for values and for what is right; assists fellow students or others who are being treated badly.

**Is adaptable and resilient**
- Profits from experience; recognizes the lessons from difficult situations; shows improvement over time in areas of weakness.
- Develops coping skills; does not fall apart when faced with failure, difficulty, or change; regroups with minimal disruption and distress; uses a social network; handles separation from family appropriately.
- Tolerates ambiguity.

**Has presence**
- Has self-confidence; adheres to views and values and is able to back them up.
- Is sincere, well mannered, and humble.
- Is sociable; gets along well with and looks out for others.
- Shows respect for self and others.