Expanding our capacity to provide generous financial aid packages has never been more crucial. Competition for the students who could benefit most from a Simmons education is getting stiffer, for two key reasons.

- **Affordability:** This is the top concern of students and their families when choosing a college, especially these days: family budgets are tighter than ever, federal and state aid is declining, and private loan options are drying up.
- **Demographics:** High school graduation rates in the United States will dip between 2009 and 2014. And we already know that only 4% of the college-bound population will even consider a women’s college.

We’re confident the Simmons community can overcome these twin challenges by ramping up the College’s capacity to provide financial aid and expand access. Success will require:

- Funding new and larger endowed scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships
- Creating other, innovative funds to enhance the student experience and reduce dependence on burdensome loans

Simmons was founded with the goal of increasing women’s access to higher education. For more than a century, we’ve succeeded in enrolling an increasingly diverse population of qualified students eager to pursue their educational and career goals at Simmons. The most effective tool we have to promote access is financial aid.

It would be wonderful if every student we accepted actually enrolled. But that’s not the case. The number one reason accepted students give for not enrolling is, “You didn’t offer me enough financial aid.” We look forward to the day when no student’s goal of a Simmons education is derailed by finances, and we’re making progress. But we must do more.

Thanks to the generosity of Simmons alumnae/i and friends, we awarded $2.1 million in scholarships to nearly 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students (about 52% of all our students) for 2008. Among those receiving some form of financial aid from Simmons were 75% of all first-year students.

Simmons scholarship awards are generally in the $5,000 to $15,000 range. To put those figures in perspective, consider the current cost of attending the College: the total expenses for a typical full-time undergraduate resident student are now more than $48,800. Completing a graduate program can cost more than $55,000 in tuition alone.
how financial aid works at simmons

Simmons works with students and their families to make the College as affordable as possible. We believe the primary responsibility for educational financing belongs with students and families. But we know that the vast majority of our students require some form of financial aid to afford a Simmons education; in recent years, as much as 88% of Simmons students received some form of aid.

To decide how much Simmons should help, we evaluate a family’s ability to pay and the College’s capacity to help. The aid package we ultimately offer is based on both financial need and academic excellence.

Most of the College’s aid is need-based, but we also offer merit-based awards, including endowed scholarships established by generous alumnae/i and friends.

Endowed Scholarships
Simons alumnae/i and friends have established more than 300 endowed scholarships. Year after year, these named funds generate a steady, reliable source of income to help deserving students — undergraduates, graduates, or Ph.D. candidates — afford a Simmons education. We work with donors to establish appropriate award criteria — usually a combination of need and merit. Awards are based on the College’s 4% spending policy for all endowed funds.

Endowed Fellowships and Assistantships
Our acclaimed master’s degree and Ph.D. programs attract a diverse range of accomplished candidates. They — and their dependents — often have to make considerable financial and other sacrifices to relocate to Boston and enroll in Simmons. Fellowships and assistantships help make our programs more appealing and competitive. Fellowships help cover tuition and other expenses. Assistantships combine scholarship funds with opportunities to work with faculty and staff on research and other special projects.

Student Experience Funds
The student experience at Simmons involves stimulating learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. Off-campus possibilities include substantive internships (a popular option for fulfilling our independent study requirement), faculty-led travel courses or other study abroad adventures, and participation in professional conferences alongside faculty — often to present joint research. These experiences frequently involve costs not covered by tuition.

giving opportunities

Endowed Scholarships
“Restricted” scholarships can be designated for specific schools, programs, and students who meet criteria established in consultation with Simmons.

“Unrestricted” scholarships can be designated for specific schools.

- Leadership Scholarship (restricted)- $850,000 – 1,500,000
  Full tuition and other expenses
- President’s Scholarship (restricted)- $450,000 – 800,000
  Full tuition
- Dean’s Scholarship (restricted)- $200,000 – 400,000
  Half tuition
- Scholarship Fund (restricted)- start at $100,000
- Scholarship Fund (unrestricted)- start at $50,000

Endowed Fellowships and Assistantships

- Endowed Ph.D. Fellowship- start at $500,000
- Endowed Assistantship- start at $375,000

Student Experience Funds- start at $50,000
These endowed, current use, or term gifts can be designated for specific schools and a range of learning experiences including: internship/practicum, research, conference participation, and others.