



A. M. D. G.  
**WAH YAN COLLEGE HONG KONG**  
*A JESUIT SECONDARY SCHOOL*  
281 QUEEN'S ROAD EAST, HONG KONG  
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## **Father Deignan Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies in United States** **2008-2009**

### **Objective:**

This scholarship program will provide financial and personal assistance every year to two selected Wah Yan students who would like to have university education in the United States and who have bona fide financial needs.

### **Background:**

A group of Wah Yan alumni living in the San Francisco area, whose lives were touched by experiences at their alma mater, established this scholarship.

We feel that the top students have a lot of options, including other merit-based scholarships and probably do not need our help. We will instead direct our energy to help those deserving students who may not have stellar academic achievement and whose families do not have the financial means to allow them to pursue a university education in the United States. In essence, we want to give students a "second chance" to achieve their fullest potential.

We favor sponsoring students who want to complete the first two years of their university education at a junior college in the United States. Attending a junior college for 2 years is in many ways a better alternative. From our collective experience, we have found that junior college is an excellent stepping stone for an eventual bachelor degree at a prestigious university. Many of us in the San Francisco area did exactly that, and eventually graduated from MIT, UC Berkeley, Stanford, Columbia, etc. Quite frankly, many of us probably would not have been accepted as freshmen to these same schools we graduated from.

### **Scholarship Details:**

Students selected for the scholarship will receive financial support for full tuition and fees for attending a two-year junior college in the San Francisco area or up to US\$8,000 per year for 2 years in a 4-year university anywhere in the United States. In addition to financial aid, Wah Yan alumni living in the San Francisco area will also provide guidance and assistance in the students' lives when required. This group of alumni will assist in identifying opportunities for summer jobs in the area as practical training through no guarantee can be made.

Selected students will be responsible for their own room and board expenses estimated to be around HK\$80,000 a year. In case of demonstrated hardship, extra financial help in form of loans and/or further grants will be provided.



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### **Eligibility:**

Eligible applicants include current F6 or F7 students who attended Wah Yan College at least from F3 through F5. The scholarship will only be awarded to students who are accepted to a United States Junior College or University.

### **Selection criteria (in order of priority):**

1. Bona fide financial needs – This scholarship has been established first and foremost to help those Wah Yan students whose family cannot otherwise support them to pursue an education in the United States. It is different from many other scholarships, e.g. the Fr Barrett Scholarship, which are purely merit based.
2. Recommendation by the Principals of Wah Yan College.
3. Strong desire to pursue an education in the United States.
4. Unwavering commitment to excel in the two years of junior college studies to maximize their opportunities to transfer to a top 4-year university to complete their bachelor degree.
5. Although there are no minimum requirements for academic achievements to apply, candidates that are deemed more likely to excel academically in a university in the United States will have a higher probability to receive this scholarship.

### **Selection process:**

1. Candidates should submit their completed application to the Principal of their respective Wah Yan College.
2. The Principal of each school will screen and present up to 5 candidates to the selection committee.
3. The selection committee will consist of two Principals, and three Wah Yan alumni from the San Francisco chapter.
4. The selection committee will select one student from each Wah Yan College.

### **Guidance through the application:**

There will be information about the scholarship posted on our website: [sf.wahyan.org](http://sf.wahyan.org). Counseling and advice through questions and answers are available by e-mail at [info@wahyan.org](mailto:info@wahyan.org) or by mail to: PO Box 72, Saratoga, CA 95071, USA. San Francisco area Wah Yan alumni will provide advice to prospective applicants in all areas from various professions: academia, high technology, civil engineering, architecture, medical, finance/accounting, investment banking, consulting, securities brokerage,... etc.



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### **Background information on junior colleges in the United States:**

A major advantage of attending junior colleges in the United States is that the education is comparable to the first two years of an undergraduate degree from a 4-year college but typically costs quite a bit less than a 4-year college. Another advantage is that the admission to junior colleges is somewhat easier – offering an excellent alternative for motivated high school students who have less stellar academic achievements. Most leading private and public 4-year universities will accept graduates from junior colleges into their 3<sup>rd</sup> year classes for them to continue to finish their university degrees. It is not uncommon for junior college students who graduate at the top of their classes to receive financial aid from prestigious universities to complete their undergraduate studies. Many successful Wah Yan past students with bachelor, master or even doctoral degrees from famous United States universities used junior colleges as stepping-stones.

The average amount of tuition and fees for selected community colleges in the San Francisco Bay Area is about US\$5,000. Living expenses is estimated to be around US\$10,000. Application deadlines of these schools for fall are generally before April 15 of the year. Financial aid is typically not available from these schools for the first semester. A minimum score of 500 for TOEFL is required for admission. TOEFL should be taken no later than February of the year.

There are several junior colleges in the San Francisco area that offer a wide array of academic programs and a high transfer rate to 4 year universities including Stanford University, UC Berkeley and UCLA, to name a few. The following is a partial list of these junior colleges with contact information and application deadlines

1. Foothill College  
Maureen Chenoweth, International Admissions Coordinator  
12345, El Monte Road  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022-4599,  
USA  
Tel. 650-949-7293  
Fax. 650-949-7719  
Website: [www.foothill.fhda.edu](http://www.foothill.fhda.edu)
2. De Anza College  
Mark Fu, International Student Coordinator  
De Anza College  
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd  
Cupertino, CA 95014  
USA



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Tel. 408-864-8813  
Fax. 408-864-5638  
Website: [www.deanza.fhda.edu](http://www.deanza.fhda.edu)

3. Cañada College  
Soraya Sohrabi, International Student Assistant  
Cañada College  
4200 Farm Hill Blvd  
Redwood City, CA 94061-1099  
USA  
Tel. 650-306-6493  
Fax. 650-306-3113  
Website: [www.smccd.net/accounts/canada](http://www.smccd.net/accounts/canada)

4. Mission College  
Chau Nguyen, International Student Coordinator  
Mission College  
3000 Mission College Boulevard  
Santa Clara, CA95054-1897,  
USA  
Tel. 408-988-2200  
Website: [www.wvmccd.cc.ca.us/mc](http://www.wvmccd.cc.ca.us/mc)  
E-mail: [chau\\_nguyen@wvmccd.cc.ca.us](mailto:chau_nguyen@wvmccd.cc.ca.us)

**Timeline:**

Announcement of the scholarship program will be made on [www.wahyan.org](http://www.wahyan.org) and by the form master of F6 in both Wah Yan Colleges in January. Application forms will be available after the announcement in January. TOEFL and SAT tests in Hong Kong should be taken between January 2008 and April 2008 (managed by the applicant themselves). Application to selected junior colleges should be completed from November 2007 to February 2008 (managed by the applicant themselves). Advice and assistance will be available from Wah Yan alumni in the San Francisco area. Selection process will be made during the week of May 12<sup>th</sup> 2008. Award announcement will be made in early June. The announcement will also include the availability of additional financial aid if applicable.

**Important dates:**

1. Deadline for application:  
Fall 2007: April 30, 2008



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2. Announcement of selection  
Fall 2008: Early June 2008

**Application package:**

1. Required items for application package
  - Application Form
  - High school transcripts (or report cards from last 2 years)
  - Hong Kong secondary school certificate examination results
  - TOEFL results
  - Personal essay
  - Two (2) letters of recommendation
2. Option items
  - SAT results
  - ACT results
  - Additional letters of recommendation
3. Return application package to Principal of each Wah Yan College

**Correspondance:**

Questions regarding this scholarship program can be directed to:

1. E-mail Address: [info@wahyan.org](mailto:info@wahyan.org)
2. Mailing Address: Wah Yan Alumni Association  
San Francisco Chapter  
PO Box 72  
Saratoga, CA 95071  
USA

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