



Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants

What is the Handshake Scholarship Program?

Handshake America believes in the importance of a proper handshake and what it may reveal about a person's character. Originally inspired by John Wooden's Pyramid of Success, the Handshake Scholarship Program adapted Wooden's pyramid into Handshake's 5P's: Perseverance, Passion, People, Positivity and Presence. The Program helps students become more aware of the basic elements and definition of "success" while leveraging their experiences gained through competitive athletics. The Program consists of a scholarship, the assignment of a coach, and eight sessions throughout the calendar year to help further prepare the students for their future.

How much is the scholarship?

The scholarship is \$1,500 and is paid directly to the college the student eventually attends. There are incremental scholarships available to students in the Program who best exhibit the attributes of success that are taught throughout the year.

Who are the Coaches?

The coaches (a.k.a. "Handshake Coaches") are all successful people in the community, most of whom were also former high school (and sometimes college) athletes. Each Handshake Coach also contributes \$1,000 to support the Program in addition to volunteering their time to work with their assigned student. Male students will be assigned to a male Handshake Coach, female students will be assigned to a female Handshake Coach.

How much is the time commitment for the student?

The Handshake Scholarship Program consists of eight group events (or sessions) throughout the calendar year with no more than one per month. Each session lasts approximately 120-minutes and are held at various locations in the area. Transportation can be provided if necessary. Upon being selected as a scholarship recipient, the student will be asked to sign an agreement to give his/her best effort to attend each session.

How many other students will be in the Handshake Scholarship Program?

The first Handshake America Scholarship Program was started with three students in Columbus, Ohio and has expanded every year. In 2017, the Columbus Program will grow from 35 students to 40-45. The Program in Atlanta will start with 4-6 students. Although the application process is open to every student-athlete in their Junior year, each school is limited to one male and one female in the Program.

How are the students selected to receive the Handshake America Scholarship?

The Handshake Scholarship Program looks for student-athletes who are coachable and have grit. The students submit applications and short essays by November 15th which are then reviewed by an independent Selection Committee. The students will be informed of the results no later than mid-January.

More information can be obtained from HandshakeAmerica.org, your high school coach, or counselor.