

Rackham Merit Fellowship: Table of Eligibility

The Rackham Merit Fellowship is open to newly admitted students who meet the eligibility criteria. This table is intended to provide concrete examples of what is (and is not) RMF eligible.

RMF Eligibility Criteria	Examples that <u>Meet</u> RMF Eligibility Criteria	Examples by Themselves <u>Do Not Meet</u> RMF Eligibility Criteria
“Have a record of superior academic achievement”	+ Admitted to a graduate program at U-M + Holistic approach to admissions	- Using a GPA cut off to determine eligibility - Using a GRE cut off to determine eligibility
“Are U.S. citizens, permanent residents, or undocumented students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA)”	+ Students who have applied for Permanent Residency and are pending a determination * + Students who have applied for DACA and are pending a determination *	- Students who were denied Permanent Residency - Students who were declined DACA
“Come from an educational, cultural or geographic background that is underrepresented in graduate study in their discipline in the United States or at the University of Michigan”	+ Graduated from a community college (i.e., Associate’s Degree) + Graduated from a Minority Serving Institution or single-gender college + Native American (political group) + Schools was under-resourced (e.g., rural area, inner city neighborhood)	- Gender is underrepresented - Race/ethnicity is underrepresented - National origin is underrepresented - Took classes at a community college - Students from a specific state or region - Veterans - Student with a disability

* Permanent Residency or DACA must be granted before the student can receive the RMF.

RMF Eligibility Criteria	Examples that <u>Meet</u> RMF Eligibility Criteria	Examples by Themselves <u>Do Not Meet</u> RMF Eligibility Criteria
<p>“Have demonstrated a sustained commitment to diversity in the academic, professional, or civic realm through their work experience, volunteer engagement, or leadership of student or community organizations. By diversity, we mean efforts in the U.S. to reduce social, educational or economic disparities based on race, ethnicity or gender.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Humanitarian efforts in the U.S. + Sustained commitment such as an immersive summer + Efforts to reduce disparities in gender, includes sexual orientation and LGBTQ + Efforts to reduce disparities in race/ethnicity, includes immigration and undocumented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Humanitarian efforts overseas - One-day volunteering - Spring-break activity - Group/organization that the student belongs to did an outreach activity, but the student does not describe their specific role
<p>“Have experienced financial hardship as a result of family economic circumstances”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Pell Grant + Participating in programs like Gates Millennium Scholars Program + Participating in programs like Mellon Mayes Undergraduate Fellowship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial Hardship rating alone without a compelling explanation - Student had a part-time job in college - Student took out loans - Parent took out loans
<p>“Are first-generation U.S. citizens or are the first generation in their families to graduate from a four-year college.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Both parents do <u>not</u> have a bachelor’s degree or higher + Both parents were <u>not</u> citizens at the time of the student’s birth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One parent with a bachelor’s degree or higher - One parent was a citizen at the time of the student’s birth - Extended family is first generation

Some students who meet multiple eligibility criteria often have started with limited resources and found ways to be successful (e.g., admitted to into a Rackham program). These students have often overcome significant barriers and are excellent candidates for the RMF.