



Countdown to College 2015 Guidelines for Nominations from Participating Schools

Each participating school may nominate four eighth-grade students/rising 9th graders. From this pool, 24 will be chosen to be offered the four-year scholarship for C2C. The following guidelines are intended to help you identify students who will be college-ready and scholarship-worthy when they graduate from the C2C program and high school.

1. Presently achieving a GPA of 3.0 (B average), or potential to achieve that level by the end of high school.
2. Probability of high financial need at college entrance. Current Scholars are chosen from candidates whose family contributions are less than \$1,000.00 per year.
3. High achievement in the area of noncognitive variables that have a proven correlation with persistence to college graduation:
 - a. Ability to overcome obstacles
 - b. Dependability (will stick with a project until finished)
 - c. Realistic self-appraisal (knows own strengths and weaknesses)
 - d. Focus on long-term goals over short-term gains
 - e. Strong time management and study skills
 - f. Seeks help and follows advice (teachers, mentor, counselors, family member) to persist through difficulties (poor grade on test, family illness, etc.)
 - g. Has good social problem-solving skills
 - h. Involved in community service (church, neighborhood, school)
 - i. Has a passion for a specific hobby or academic subject

The **Countdown to College Recommendation Form** needs to be completed by an eighth grade teacher. For those candidates from our partner high schools, nominated students should be instructed to get this recommendation form completed by one of their eighth grade teachers, and mailed to Edith Galvez, C2C Coordinator, 700 Terrace Heights 1445, Winona, MN 55987.

Nominated students will need to complete an application that involves a spontaneous writing assignment without the use of dictionaries, computers or other writing aids. Please arrange to have students complete their application in a supervised setting. You may determine the length of time, as there is no time requirement for this writing assignment.

For more information contact: Edith Galvez, C2C Coordinator countdown@smumn.edu or Dr. Jane Anderson, C2C Director janders1@smumn.edu