



Univ. cuts merit aid to raise need-based aid

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In order to redirect funds to need-based financial aid, the amount of merit-based scholarships awarded to students has decreased this year.

During the 2008-09 academic year, 1,523 students received merit-based scholarships; this year, the number decreased to 1,227. Additionally, the total amount of institutional merit-based aid dispersed to NYU students declined from \$11.6 million last year to \$9.5 million this year.

According to NYU spokesman John Beckman, this decrease was part of an intentional re-direction from merit-based aid to need-based aid for students.

"Given that there is unmet need among our students with need, this seems to us to be the proper course to pursue," he said. Beckman acknowledged that higher student enrollment also affected the changes in aid.

Richard Kalb, CAS associate dean for students, said during the admissions process, merit-based scholarships are awarded to students on a need-blind basis. But if students choose to undergo an appeal process in the spring, need is factored into the merit-based scholarship they would receive, Kalb said.

Other NYU schools have completely abandoned merit-based aid.

"NYU Stern walked away from merit-based financial aid several ago," said Sally Blount, dean of Stern's undergraduate college.

Throughout NYU, there are several school-based scholarships that students can apply for, including the Reynolds Foundation Program in Social Entrepreneurship.

Students from every NYU school apply for this program, which provides a select number of undergraduates with \$40,000 over two years in addition to a \$5,000 paid summer internship. But according to Director Gabriel Brodbar, the program is very competitive; last year, only six students were awarded the scholarship.

Many students still feel that NYU should increase the amount of merit-based scholarships students receive upon admission.

Although he received an LSP scholarship last year, LSP sophomore Mark Faber said he thinks NYU doesn't give enough merit-based money.

Some students are skeptical about their future merit-based aid packages. LSP freshman Tyler York, who was awarded both work-study and a yearly scholarship from his program upon admission, said he expects to receive less money next year because of the improving economy.

"I feel like they may lure students to the school by giving them merit money one year and not the next," York said.

Beckman said this is not the case and that although NYU has decreased the amount of merit-based aid given to students, the school will not reduce merit-based scholarships that have already been awarded to students.

Beckman said: "There will likely always be some merit."