



SAMRU **AWARDS**

award information and criteria



General Criteria

1. All SAMRU Awards recipients must be enrolled in at least one credit course for the 2025/26 academic year and be a SAMRU member.
2. Each award requires the submission of an essay. The essay topic for each award is included in the individual award criteria. If applying for multiple awards, a different essay is required for each award.
3. Many awards require the submission of a volunteer summary sheet. If applying for multiple awards, only one volunteer summary sheet is required. You can find a copy of this form on our website.
4. Many awards require the submission of a written reference. If applying for multiple awards, the same reference letter can be used, as long as it meets the award criteria.
5. Teaching Excellence, Champion Award, and Open Education Champion Award nominations require the submission of student names in support of the nominee. You must submit a completed Supporting Names form with your application. A copy of this form can be found on our website.
6. Ultimate determination of successful awards applicants will be made by the SAMRU Awards Selection Committee. The Committee may opt to not grant a particular award if no qualified applications are received. The SAMRU Awards Selection Committee will not consider frivolous applications.
7. SAMRU will normally not award any one person more than \$5,000 or more than three individual scholarships, bursaries, and awards in a single academic year.
8. The following individuals are **not eligible** for SAMRU Awards:
 - SAMRU Awards Selection Committee members
 - Members of the Student Governing Board
 - Former members of the Students' Association Executive Council for a period of two years following the end of their term of office
 - Full-time staff members of the Students' Association
9. To ensure that the application process is fair and accessible, we welcome accessible or adaptive formats. Please contact awards@samru.ca to learn more.

Deadline for Applications: February 28, 2026

Visit **samru.ca/awards** to apply,
or contact **awards@samru.ca** for more information.

Endeavour Awards

The SAMRU Endeavour Awards recognize outstanding student achievement on campus and dedication to self-improvement.

Citizenship Award

Value: \$2,000

Purpose: This award is presented to a student who has generously devoted their time and energy to inspire and enrich the lives of others.

Criteria: The candidate must be an active volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to their community through their activities. The candidate must demonstrate their commitment to enhancing the lives of others through community involvement. Academic achievement may be considered in determining a successful recipient.

To Apply:

- Be an active volunteer of the Students' Association, MRU, and/or the community
- Possess a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or greater
- Submit an unofficial transcript
- Submit a completed Volunteer Summary form
- Submit a 500-750 word essay demonstrating how your volunteer contribution(s) benefitted the community and enhanced others' lives. Your essay should focus on the specific outcomes of your volunteer efforts and clearly outline how your actions impacted the community in a positive way, including contributions promoting inclusion, equity, or community well-being.
- Submit a written reference from an individual who witnessed or supervised your volunteer-related activities.



Committed Learner Award

Value: \$2,000

Purpose: This award is presented to a student who has demonstrated an enduring commitment to their learning despite facing obstacles along the way.

Criteria: The candidate must be enrolled in full-time studies in any credit program at Mount Royal University. The candidate must demonstrate how they overcame specific challenges in order to pursue their post-secondary education. Volunteer involvement and academic achievement may be considered in determining a successful recipient.

To Apply:

- Possess a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or greater
- Submit an unofficial transcript
- Submit a completed Volunteer Summary form
- Submit a 500-750 word essay demonstrating how you overcame challenges in pursuit of your educational goals. Your essay should specifically identify the personal, academic, financial, or systemic barriers. to your education and outline the steps you took to overcome them.
- Submit a written reference from an individual who attests to your commitment to pursuing your education.



Enrichment Awards

The SAMRU Enrichment Awards recognize outstanding contributions to campus diversity in four categories.

Deanna Cardinal Memorial Award

Value: \$2,000

Purpose: This award is presented to a student who has made an active contribution to enriching Mount Royal University's Indigenous community.

Criteria: The candidate must demonstrate how their volunteer activities contributed to enriching and enhancing Mount Royal's Indigenous community. Academic achievement may be considered by the selection committee in determining a successful recipient.

To Apply:

- Be an active volunteer of the Students' Association, MRU, and/or the community
- Submit an unofficial transcript
- Submit a completed Volunteer Summary form
- Submit a 500-750 word essay demonstrating how your volunteer contribution(s) enrich Mount Royal University's Indigenous community. Your essay should focus specifically on the outcomes of your volunteer involvement and how it supported or strengthened community.

Gender and Sexual Diversity Award

Value: \$2,000

Purpose: This award is presented to a student whose active contributions enrich a gender and sexually diverse and affirming university community.

Criteria: The candidate must be a student actively involved in activities that enhance the profile, understanding, and equitable inclusion or empowerment of gender diverse and/or 2SLGBTQI+ individuals. The candidate must demonstrate how their contributions enriched the campus community. Academic achievement may be considered by the selection committee in determining a successful recipient.

To Apply:

- Be an active volunteer of the Students' Association, MRU, and/or the community
- Submit an unofficial transcript
- Submit a completed Volunteer Summary form
- Submit a 500-750 word essay demonstrating how your volunteer contribution(s) enrich a gender and sexually diverse, inclusive university community. Your essay should focus specifically on the outcomes of your volunteer involvement and how it benefitted others.



Inspiring Culture Award

Value: \$2,000

Purpose: This award is presented to a student whose active contributions to culturally-focused groups or activities have enriched the cultural fabric of Mount Royal University.

Criteria: The candidate must be a student actively involved in activities involving cultural empowerment, intercultural connection, cultural safety, or reducing barriers to participation to help create understanding and awareness within the larger campus community. The candidate must demonstrate how they enriched the cultural fabric of the campus community through their activities. Academic achievement may be considered in determining a successful recipient.

To Apply:

- Be an active volunteer of the Students' Association, MRU, and/or the community
- Submit an unofficial transcript
- Submit a completed Volunteer Summary form
- Submit a 500-750 word essay demonstrating how your volunteer contribution(s) enrich the cultural diversity of the university community. Your essay should focus specifically on the outcomes of your volunteer involvement and how it benefitted others.

Beyond Disabilities Award

Value: \$2,000

Purpose: This award is presented to a student whose active contributions have enhanced inclusion of students with disabilities, and helped foster understanding and awareness of accessibility issues within the larger campus community.

Criteria: The candidate must be a student actively involved in activities that focus on accessibility, disability justice, barrier removal and physical and social inclusion of students with disabilities on campus. The candidate must demonstrate how they promoted the inclusion of students with disabilities on campus through their activities. Academic achievement may be considered in determining a successful recipient.

To Apply:

- Be an active volunteer of the Students' Association, MRU, and/or the community
- Submit an unofficial transcript
- Submit a completed Volunteer Summary form
- Submit a 500-750 word essay demonstrating how your volunteer contribution(s) enhance the inclusion of students with disabilities and promote understanding and awareness of accessibility issues within the larger campus community. Your essay should focus specifically on the outcomes of your volunteer involvement and how it benefitted others.



Faculty and Staff Awards

Teaching Excellence Award

Purpose: A certificate is awarded to each recipient. These awards are presented to those faculty members who have gone above and beyond their responsibilities as instructors. They have made outstanding contributions to student life and to student endeavours.

Criteria: Candidates must be Mount Royal University faculty members who have demonstrated a commitment to teaching that goes beyond their responsibilities as instructors.

To Apply:

- Submit 20 nominating names from current MRU credit students (please use the Supporting Names Form found on our website)
- Submit a 500 word essay, written by the nominating individual, detailing the reasons for the instructor's nomination and focusing on the instructor's exceptional contributions.

Open Education Champion Award

Purpose: A certificate is awarded to each recipient. These awards are presented to those faculty or staff members who adopt or create Open Educational Resources (OER) in their classes or faculty who support Open Education through open pedagogy or research. This includes any open practices that improve access to knowledge and information that benefits students.

Criteria: Candidates must be Mount Royal University faculty or staff members who have demonstrated a commitment to Open Education that goes beyond their responsibilities as instructors.

To Apply:

- Submit 5 nominating names from current MRU credit students (please use the Supporting Names form on our website)
- Submit a 500 word essay, written by the nominating individual, detailing the reasons for the instructor's nomination and focusing on the instructor's contributions to Open Education including any, but not limited to, the following:
 - Using an OER in their Course
 - Creating Open Content
 - Publishing Open Access Materials

Champion Award

Purpose: A certificate is awarded to each recipient. These awards are presented to those faculty or staff members who are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of students at MRU. These individuals go above and beyond the expected in their commitment to students and to making a difference at Mount Royal University.

Criteria: Candidates must be non-student members of the campus community who have demonstrated a passion for enhancing the lives of students at Mount Royal University.

To Apply:

- Submit 5 nominating names from current MRU credit students (please use the Supporting Names form found on our website)
- Submit a 500 word essay, written by the nominating individual, detailing the reasons for the individual's nomination.



Club Awards

Club Awards recognize outstanding achievement by ratified student clubs.

Excellence in Community Service Award

Value: \$1,000

Purpose: This award is presented to a student club that has demonstrated meaningful contribution, influence, or support within their community, group, or peers, and involvement while serving the community.

Criteria: The club must be ratified by the Students' Association and must demonstrate how it offered outstanding leadership and services to the community. Any club member is welcome to apply on behalf of their club.

To Apply:

- Submit a 500 word essay focusing on how the club has promoted community involvement and/or enriched the Mount Royal University campus.

Excellence in Membership Service Award

Value: \$1,000

Purpose: This award is presented to a student club that has demonstrated outstanding leadership and involvement in its endeavours to serve its members.

Criteria: The club must be ratified by the Students' Association and must demonstrate how it offered outstanding leadership and services to its members. Any club member is welcome to apply on behalf of their club.

To Apply:

- Submit a 500 word essay focusing on how the club has provided educational and career-building opportunities for its members.



Excellence Awards

The SAMRU Excellence Awards recognize students who have made outstanding contributions to student life through participation in Students' Association activities or volunteer opportunities and who have maintained excellent academic records.

Outstanding Student of the Year, Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards

Purpose: These awards are presented to individuals who have exhibited a high degree of professionalism and commitment in extra-curricular involvement. The recipients will have shown enthusiastic participation in the Students' Association and Mount Royal University activities while maintaining an outstanding academic record. Demonstration of community leadership is also an asset.

Criteria: Only one application is needed for the SAMRU Excellence awards. The following chart outlines the minimum GPA requirements for each award. In all cases, a 1000 word essay focusing on the candidate's involvement in the Students' Association, MRU, and/or community must be included with the application.

The following chart outlines minimum GPA requirements and award values:

Award	Minimum GPA	Value
<i>Outstanding Student of the Year</i>	3.5	\$5,000
<i>Gold</i>	3.0	\$4,000
<i>Silver</i>	2.5	\$3,000
<i>Bronze</i>	2.0	\$2,000

To Apply:

- Be an active volunteer of the Students' Association, MRU, and/or the community
- Possess the required minimum GPA (see chart)
- Submit an unofficial transcript
- Submit a completed Volunteer Summary form
- Submit a 1000 word essay demonstrating your commitment to extra-curricular involvement, focusing on your outstanding volunteer contributions. Your essay should specifically outline your volunteer experiences and explain how those volunteer contributions created positive outcomes for SAMRU and/or the campus community.
- Submit a written reference from an individual who witnessed or supervised your volunteer-related activities.







samru
students' association
of mount royal university

samru.ca/awards