

Parent Guide

Frequently asked Questions

Q: What is a Posse?

A: A Posse is a group of 10 students from the same city who are selected for their leadership and academic potential and go to college together. They support each other throughout college and become active members of their campus community.

Q: How did Posse get its name?

A: One student said, "I never would have dropped out of college if I had my Posse with me."

Q: What is Posse's reputation?

A: Since 1989, Posse has placed 10,000 students into top tier colleges and universities across the nation. Today, in ten cities, Posse is one of the most well-known college success programs in the United States. In 2010, The Posse Foundation was selected as one of only 10 non-profits to receive a portion of President Obama's Nobel Peace Prize money. Posse Scholars are campus leaders and continue to persist and graduate at a rate of 90 percent.

Q: What cities is Posse in?

A: Atlanta, Bay Area, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, and Washington D.C

Q: What colleges and universities does Posse Los Angeles partner with?

A: Bucknell University, Dickinson College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Kalamazoo College, Northwestern University, Pepperdine University, Tulane University, and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Q: The Posse Scholarship is a full-tuition scholarship. Is there financial assistance to cover room, board, and other non-tuition college fees?

A: All Posse Scholars are required to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. This form helps a college or university determine a student's eligibility for additional financial aid in the form of grants, loans or work study. Please see the Federal Student Aid website at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> for more information. You MUST help your student fill out this form and provide any required supporting information.

Q: Can my student apply for other scholarships?

A: Yes, as long as there are no program requirements that interfere with the Posse program. In fact, students are encouraged to apply for other scholarships.

Q: Are there any costs associated with Posse, outside of room, board and other non-tuition college fees to a family or student?

A: There are no costs or fees for which students and their families are responsible. All programming and support is fully covered.

Q: Are we responsible for covering our own travel costs?

A: Yes, students responsible for their own transportation to and from the Posse office, as well as to and from their colleges and universities.

Q: Can we visit the college?

A: Families are welcome to visit campus at their own expense.

Q: What is my student's commitment if she/he attends the finalist meeting?

A: If your student accepts the invitation to attend the finalist meeting, he or she is promising that if accepted into the college or university on a Posse Scholarship, he or she will commit to attending that college or university. This is an early-decision process and only holds if the full-tuition scholarship is offered. We do this because Posse Scholarships are limited and highly sought after. Posse's partner colleges and universities commit to taking only ten Posse Scholars from a particular city. It is a big commitment on the part of the college or university and they hold these admission slots just for Posse Scholars.



Q: *There is a state sponsored scholarship to encourage students to go to college within the state where we live. What is the benefit of accepting a Posse Scholarship over this?*

A: Posse offers students the opportunity to attend a top-ranked college or university as part of a team of dynamic young leaders who will support each other along the way. The full-tuition scholarships make Posse's elite college and university partners as affordable as a state institution. As a program, Posse also offers a lifetime network of support, career opportunities and access to a growing number of alumni leaders across the nation.

Q: *How does Posse decide how to match each finalist to one of its partner colleges or universities?*

A: Posse asks each applicant to rank the college and university partners in order of preference. The Posse Foundation works to match students to a first, second or third choices. In some instances, Posse may ask an applicant to consider a partner not identified as a top choice.

Q: *What is Posse looking for?*

A: Posse and its partner colleges and universities are looking for dynamic leaders who, as part of a team, will be active members of the student body through academic and social leadership on campus.

Q: *I noticed that most Posse partner colleges and universities are out of state and sometimes across the country.*

A: Posse believes in the importance of going away to college.

Q: *What is the Common Application?*

A: The Common Application is a standard online college application that is used by over 450 colleges and universities across the country. Posse asks all finalists to complete the Common Application for consideration in the finalist round or through Posse Access.

Please see, <https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/Default.aspx>, for more information.

Q: *What if my student becomes a finalist but is not selected as a Posse Scholar? What is Posse Access?*

A: If your student is a finalist but is not selected to be a Posse Scholar, his or her profile will appear in Posse Access, an online database designed to give Posse partner colleges and universities access to finalists who were not selected. They may then consider these young people for regular admission. Though finalists who do not win the Posse Scholarship do not get Posse programming or Posse Scholarships, but benefit by getting exposed to Posse's complete roster of college and university partners. This exponentially increases their chances for admission to a great institution of higher education. Students who are admitted will be considered for financial aid and other scholarships.

Q: *What forms do parents need to sign?*

A: If a student is under 18 years old, then parents do have to sign the application and several consent forms.

Q: *If my student is admitted to Posse, what should I expect?*

A: There will be an awards ceremony to induct the newest Posse Scholars into the program. Then, beginning in January and continuing through August, your student must participate in a weekly 2-3 – hour workshop held at the Posse office. These workshops focus on academic excellence, cross-cultural communication, leadership development and team building and help your student become better prepared to be successful in college. Once on campus, Posse Scholars are assigned a mentor and an academic advisor who will also support your student. Scholars meet with the mentor weekly as a team and individually every other week. In addition, Posse staff visit each campus several times a year to meet with Scholars and to run programs on campus that will help them be successful in college.