

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



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<b>POLICY NUMBER</b>	ED 09-1
<b>APPROVAL DATE</b>	November 25, 2019
<b>AUTHORITY</b>	Senate
<b>PRIMARY CONTACT</b>	Student Awards and Financial Aid

## POLICY

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Thompson Rivers University (TRU) is committed to recognizing the outstanding achievement of its students through the provision of medals, prizes, scholarships, and awards.

Medals are awarded for excellent performance in a program of study.

Prizes are monetary or non-monetary awards that recognize outstanding performance in a course or program of study.

Scholarships are monetary awards based on high scholastic achievement and, unless otherwise specified, are to be used for further study at TRU.

Awards are monetary recognition of accomplishment or affiliation in a particular field. Financial need is not a factor.

## REGULATIONS

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### I. MEDALS

1. The Student Awards & Financial Aid Office will obtain from the Office of the Registrar and submit to the Dean of each TRU school or faculty the best candidate based on the criteria set forth herein. With the Dean's approval, the name, along with supporting documentation, will be presented to the Awards & Honours Committee for review and approval. The names of the medal recipients will be forwarded to the Chair of Senate or designate for final approval.
2. For undergraduate medals, consideration will be given only to students who are eligible to convocate at the June or prior October convocation as per Policy ED 17-0. For graduate medals, consideration will be given only to students who have fulfilled all of their degree requirements since the previous medal adjudication, as determined by the Graduate Studies Committee.

3. The name of any medal issued by TRU to a graduating student will be placed on the student's transcript.
4. Medals will be awarded at the June Convocation.
5. A medal may not be awarded for a program if its students do not qualify under this policy, or if there are considered to be an insufficient pool of graduates in a degree program in a given year.
6. No name may be brought forward for medal consideration for any reason subsequent to the relevant meeting of the Awards & Honours committee.

## II. MEDAL SELECTION

### 1. TRU Baccalaureate Medals

- a. One medal will be awarded in each TRU baccalaureate degree program to the eligible graduating student who achieves the highest grade point average over the final 60 credits of the degree program\*. The relevant dean may weigh the rigour of each degree against minimal differences in the medal finalists' GPAs, and recommend to the Awards & Honours Committee which candidate is deemed to have attained the highest level of academic excellence in the adjudication period. In cases of multiple degrees being concurrently awarded, the relevant dean may also request that the medal GPA be composed only of credits being used toward the degree in question.

*\*as per Policy ED 16-0, baccalaureate degree programs require a minimum of 120 credits*

- b. Assessment will be based on the most recent 60 credits completed prior to the granting of the degree. These credits must be completed within the student's final eight semesters (equates to 32 months of study).
- c. If the semesters included in order to obtain 60 credits result in a total of more than 60 credits, only the highest-graded credits from the earliest required semester will be assessed, using upper level credits first.
- d. The minimum grade point average for medal consideration will be 3.50 over the assessment period.
- e. Tie-breaking will be conducted by eliminating the lowest-graded equivalent number of lower level credits until the medal winner emerges. If a tie still exists, this process will be used with the upper-level credits.
- f. Consideration will be given only to students who have enrolled in and completed at least 24 graded TRU credits.

## 2. Governor General's Academic Medal (Gold)

- a. The medal is awarded annually to the student who is considered to have achieved the highest academic accomplishment upon graduation from a master's degree.
- b. The Graduate Studies Committee will seek one nomination from each master's degree program and, based solely upon the student's cumulative GPA and the merits of their thesis or final project work, recommend a medalist to the Awards & Honours Committee.
- c. The minimum grade point average for medal consideration will be 3.50 over the assessment period.

## 3. Governor General's Academic Medal (Silver)

- a. The medal is awarded annually in accordance with Regulation II.1.
- b. The winner of the Governor General's Medal will normally receive the TRU medal from his/her faculty. However, upon the recommendation of the appropriate Dean, the TRU medal may go to the second place student from the same degree program.

## 4. Governor General's Academic Medal (Collegiate Bronze)

- a. The medal is awarded annually to the student who achieves the highest overall average upon graduation from a diploma-level, post-secondary program of a minimum of two years full-time duration.
- b. The minimum grade point average for medal consideration will be 3.50 over the assessment period, based on a minimum of 15 graded credits, enrolled in and completed through TRU.
- c. Tie-breaking will be conducted by eliminating the lowest-graded equivalent number of credits until the medal winner emerges.

## 5. Lieutenant-Governor's Medal

- a. The medal is awarded annually to a top-ranking student in a Vocational or Career/Technical program of less than two years' duration who has participated actively in university and/or community affairs.
- b. The minimum program length for consideration will be four months.
- c. Consideration will be given only to students who have maintained a minimum of 80% average of a full program load over each semester of the assessment period.
- d. The minimum grade point average for medal consideration will be 3.50 over the assessment period for students on the Letter Grading System and Dean's List standing for students on the Competency Based Grading System.

- e. The Student Awards & Financial Aid Office will seek nominations from TRU students, faculty members, or staff.
  - f. The Student Awards & Financial Aid Office will advise students of their nomination for the medal and request biographical information.
  - g. The Student Awards & Financial Aid Office will forward the names of nominees, their transcripts and biographical information to the Awards & Honours Committee.
  - h. The medal will not be awarded if the candidate does not graduate in the calendar year in which they were selected.
6. This policy does not govern medals awarded by the Law Society of British Columbia to Juris Doctor students in the Faculty of Law.

### III. **PRIZES**

Prizes are awarded upon the recommendation of faculty, schools or divisions and do not require an application.

### IV. **SCHOLARSHIPS**

1. Unless otherwise specified, scholarships are tenable only at TRU.
2. The minimum standard for an award designated as a scholarship will require the student to:
  - a. have completed 80% of a full program load (60% for students with a recognized permanent disability which prevents them from studying at an 80% course load) at TRU in the qualifying period with a minimum of a 3.50 grade point average in each period (with the exception of TRU Entrance Scholarships, per ED 9-0).
  - b. maintain enrollment in 80% of a full program load (60% for students with a recognized permanent disability which prevents them from studying at an 80% course load) during the period in which the scholarship is issued.
3. Scholarships may be awarded upon the recommendation of a specific division, school or department, or by the Student Awards & Financial Aid Office.
4. Students entering TRU directly from secondary school and wishing to be considered for entrance scholarships require at least an 80% graduating average.
5. Students entering TRU directly from another post-secondary educational institution and wishing to be considered for scholarships will be assessed in the same manner as TRU students.

**V. AWARDS**

1. Unless an award specifies otherwise, applicants must possess a minimum 2.00 Undergraduate Cumulative GPA and have attained in their most recent semester of full-time study a minimum 2.00 Undergraduate GPA, or satisfactory standing in a trades or vocational program.
2. Unless an award specifies otherwise, applicants must be enrolled in at least nine undergraduate credits in the semester of application, or be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate trades or vocation program. Students approved to study at a reduced course load by StudentAid BC or Accessibility Services must be enrolled in at least six undergraduate credits in the semester of application.

**VI. CANCELLATION & RETRACTION**

Any medal, prize, scholarship, or award may be withheld, reduced, cancelled or retracted for any of the following reasons: lack of suitable candidates, failure of the candidate to meet the required terms and conditions, behaviour unbecoming of a recipient, withdrawal from the institution, reduced income on invested funds or withdrawal of the award by the donor.