

Guidelines for Alta High Sterling Scholar Applicants

Submit the application form, the personal essay, a transcript, and any other forms **BOTH ONLINE in the CANVAS Course and IN-PERSON** to the appropriate category page and to the department chairperson for the area(s) in which you are applying by Monday, October 20th at 3:00pm

You must compete the following:

1. Submit a completed application in the category of your choosing.

- You may apply in multiple areas. **A limit of 3 applications per student.**
- - Choose your areas carefully. Apply for the ones in which you feel most qualified. Please see the Canvas page for category qualifications. Copies of your essay and transcript may be used. You may be chosen for any of the categories, and you are expected to participate fully, even if it isn't your first choice.
 - Candidates will be evaluated by the content specific department. A **nominee and alternate will be recommended to a final selection committee.** The final selection committee will make the final determination of which area nominees will represent. However, every effort will be made to place students in areas for which they applied. The committee reserves the right to make placements where necessary in order to best fill a slate of nominees for the school.

2. Obtain a copy/copies of your transcript from the registrar.

- You must give them some "turnaround time" to print your transcript. Do not expect to walk in and receive it immediately! Therefore, **PLAN AHEAD.** Do not leave this until the day your application is due. You must use this transcript.
- - You may use the Alta High School Parchment Account <https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/24401/account>
 - You may also go to the Alta Counseling Center in person to request transcripts.

3. Personal Essay

- For each category you apply for, you must write a personal essay discussing why you should be the Sterling Scholar for that category.

Criteria and Judging at the School Level:

Sterling Scholar nominees are judged on the basis of:

1. Scholarship (25%)
2. Leadership (25%)
3. Citizenship (25%)
4. Category Expertise (25%)

Although the judging process may vary slightly from department to department because of factors unique to each area, the following factors are major considerations in the selections of nominees:

- **High grade point average** (3.5 is minimum GPA to apply) and Test Scores ie. ACT, SAT
- **Course schedule**: The number of advanced placement, honors, content specific courses, etc. taken
- **Participation in academic and leadership pursuits**
- **Scholarly pursuits**- research, writing, publication, projects, etc. in regard to the category. (See the category description for further information)
- **Participations in self driven service**. This means that you have led service groups at a local scale. The Deseret News likes to see students that initiate service projects on their own, that are not tied to any school or religious based service organizations.

Sterling Scholar Categories: You may apply for up to three (3) categories

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| • English | • Visual Arts |
| • Mathematics | • Instrumental Music |
| • Social Science | • Dance |
| • Science | |
| • World Language | |
| • Computer Technology | |
| • Skilled & Technical Sciences | |
| Education | |

Remember, if you apply for multiple areas, you may be chosen for any of them, even if it is NOT your first choice.

- Family & Consumer Sciences
- Business and Marketing
- Speech/Theater Arts / Forensics
- Vocal Performance

