Students do not apply for Phi Beta Kappa; rather, each year, the Washington University chapter elects students into membership from the College of Arts & Sciences. The chapter also gives the annual Burton M. Wheeler Sophomore Book Award for distinguished achievement during the first three semesters. Selection committees are composed of Washington University faculty who are members of Phi Beta Kappa.

### Departmental Prizes and Awards

Several departments recognize the superior achievement of graduating seniors with election to the honor societies of their major fields. These honor societies include Sigma Gamma Epsilon for earth, environmental, and planetary sciences students; Omicron Delta Epsilon for economics students; Delta Phi Alpha for German students; Phi Alpha Theta for history students; Sigma Iota Rho for international and area studies students; Pi Mu Epsilon for mathematics students; Mu Phi Epsilon for music students; Pi Sigma Alpha for political science students; and Psi Chi for psychological & brain sciences students.

Departments may recognize work a student has accomplished within the major by awarding the major with highest distinction, high distinction, or distinction.

In a number of academic fields, special recognition is given to students whose accomplishments have been exceptionally noteworthy. The majority of such awards carry modest monetary prizes and include the following, listed alphabetically by department:

- Best Essay on Any Subject Related to African-American Culture and Life in the United States (African and African-American Studies)
- Henry Hampton Prize for Best Civil Rights Essay
- James Baldwin Essay Prize for Best Essay on African-American Culture and Life in the United States
- Julius Nyerere Essay Prize for Best Essay on African Culture and Life
- Louis Lomax Journalism Prize in African and African-American Studies
- Ralph Bunche Prize for Best Political Science Essay about Africans or African Americans
- Sylvia Wynter Essay Prize for Best Essay on African Culture and Life Outside of the United States
- Lynne Cooper Harvey Undergraduate Writing Prize in American Culture Studies
- John W. Bennett Prize to the Outstanding Graduating Senior in Anthropology
- Mark S. Weil Prize for Distinction in Art History and Museum Practice
- Murphy Family Prize for Outstanding Honors Thesis in Art History and Archaeology
- Yale Book Prize for Distinction in Art History and Archaeology
- Harrison D. Stalker Prize in Biology
- Marian Smith Spector Prize for Outstanding Graduate in Biology
- John C. Snowden Prize for Outstanding Senior in Chemistry
- The Hemholtz Award in Chemistry
- The Lipkin Award in Chemistry
- The Wahl Award in Chemistry
The Weissman Award in Chemistry
Stanley Spector Memorial Award for Outstanding Paper in East Asian Languages and Cultures
Anshel Prize for Excellence in Chinese
Yukiko Takahashi Prize for Excellence in Japanese
Carl Conrad Prize for Excellence in Classical Studies
Eugene Tavenner Prize for Excellence in the Study of Classics
Edward Weltin Award for Excellence in the Study of Ancient History
Liselotte Dieckmann Prize for Excellence in Comparative Literature
William H. Matheson Prize for Excellence in Comparative Literature
A.E. Hotchner Playwriting Competition Award
Annelise Mertz Memorial Award for Outstanding Achievement in Modern Dance
Ian D.W. Cramer Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Dance
John J. Jutkowitz Memorial Prize for Outstanding Contributions in Performing Arts
Margaret Ewing Memorial Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Acting
Stephen H. Duncan Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Design and Technical Theatre
Courtney Werner Memorial Prize for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences
Ernest L. Ohle Jr. Award for Outstanding Potential in Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences
Margaret E. Bewig Memorial Field Camp Award for Academic Merit in Earth, Environmental, and Planetary Sciences
Adam Smith Prize for Excellence in Economics
Hyman P. Minsky Prize for Excellence in Economics
Olin Prize for Excellence in Economics
Howard Nemerov Award Prize in Poetry
James Merrill Prize for Poetry
Julia Viola McNeely Prize for Poetry
Norma Lowry Memorial Prize in Poetry
Roger Conant Hatch Prize for Lyric Poetry
F. Ward Denys Prize for Critical Prose
Herbert E. Metz Prize for Literary Criticism
Leanna Boysko Prize for Best Essay in English Literature
Admusen Prize for Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis in French
Cecilia L. Hospes Scholarship for Study Abroad in Germany
David Bronsen Prize for Excellence in German Studies
Raoul Wallenberg Prize for Excellence in Swedish Studies
J. Walter Goldstein Prize for Best Senior Thesis in History
Rowland T. Berthoff Award in History
Shirley McDonald Wallace Prize in History
The Madeleine Albright Scholarship in Global Studies
Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis in Global Studies
Paul and Silvia Rava Prize for Excellence in Italian Studies
David and Sarah Visenberg Prize for Outstanding Thesis in Jewish Studies
Steven S. Schwarzchild Prize for Overall Excellence in Jewish Studies
Martin Silverstein Award for Outstanding Student in Mathematics/Statistics and Probability
Putnam Examination Prize for Mathematics
Ross Middlemiss Prize for Outstanding Mathematics Major
Antoinette Frances Dames Award for Productive Scholarship in Music
Clare M. Westmont Award in Music
The Friends of Music Award
Lewis B. Hilton Award in Music
Helen Stenner Memorial Essay Prize in Philosophy
Nishi Luthra Prize for Outstanding Graduate in Philosophy
Greg Delos Prize for Undergraduate Research in Physics
Robert N. Varney Prize for Excellence in Introductory Physics
Antoinette Frances Dames Prizes for Lower-Division Paper in Political Science
Antoinette Frances Dames Prizes for Upper-Division Paper in Political Science
Antoinette Frances Dames Prizes for Best Senior Honors Thesis in Political Science
Arnold J. Lien Prize for Outstanding Graduate in Political Science
Grossman-Alexander Prize for Outstanding Graduate in American Politics
Robert H. Salisbury Prize for Initiative, Leadership, and Service in Political Science
Todd Lewis Friedman Memorial Prize for Outstanding Work in Comparative or International Politics
William Benton Parshall Prize for Outstanding Paper on Women in Politics
Hyman Meltzer Memorial Award for Undergraduate Research in Psychology
John A. Stern Award for Undergraduate Research in Psychology
Louis G. Zelson Award for Outstanding Junior in the Spanish Program
Sherman Eoff Prize for Excellence in Spanish
Helen Power Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Award for Scholarship and Service