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DURHAM, N.H. -- First-year college applicants with family connections to the University of New Hampshire should mark this date on the calendar: March 31 is the deadline for the UNH Alumni Association's Family Legacy Scholarship.

Qualified applicants for this merit-based award will have leadership skills, an outstanding academic record and broad extracurricular interests. But they'll have something else, too — connections to the Alumni Association. To apply, students must have a direct familial tie (a parent, grandparent or great-grandparent) who is a dues-paying member of the Alumni Association.

“The scholarship grew out of the association's desire to give back to our alums,” says associate executive director Sarah Potter. The award goes to one incoming freshman each year and follows the student throughout his or her time at UNH. In the early years, the awards will be modest, probably several thousand dollars, explains Potter. “But our hope is to grow over time.”

Applications must be postmarked by March 31. For an application, or to learn more about the scholarship fund, visit www.alumni.unh.edu/forstudents/scholarships.html or call (603) 862-2040.