



Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Awards 2024

The Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Awards are generously donated by the Hurd Family to honor the late Mark Hurd and his commitment to and support of college tennis in the United States. Mark Hurd was passionate about tennis, played for Baylor University, and was instrumental both personally and as the CEO of Oracle in creating opportunities for American college players to develop their games and transition to competing beyond college. Previous winners of the Oracle US Tennis Awards and their career-high ATP/WTA rankings include:

2017 – Mackenzie McDonald (UCLA, #37), Danielle Collins (UVA, #7)

2018 - Chris Eubanks (Georgia Tech #29), Francesca Di Lorenzo (Ohio State, #118)

2019 - J.C. Aragone (UVA, #224), Jamie Loeb (UNC, #132)

2020 – JJ Wolf (Ohio State, #39), Sophie Whittle (Gonzaga, #399)

2023 - Andrew Fenty (Michigan), Peyton Stearns (Texas, #43)

The Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Awards will be awarded to one (1) American male and one (1) American female tennis player who has competed for an American college tennis program and has competed at tennis at the international level.

AWARD OVERVIEW

- Total Grant Value: \$100,000 total per player selected
- Up to \$50,000 will be awarded per year, for two consecutive years, with distributions twice each year beginning as soon as April 1, 2024, or upon completion of the NCAA season in May 2024 if the player is currently enrolled in college
- Players must show a commitment to playing a competitive tennis schedule and improving their tennis skills, as well as exhibiting exemplary sportsmanship representing American tennis, college tennis, and the Universal Tennis Foundation in a positive manner

APPLICANT EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Competed for and represented a college/university tennis program for a minimum of one college tennis season
 - Players who graduated college in May 2023
 - Players who announced they did not intend to return to college after the Spring 2023 season and are currently competing internationally

- Current college players who are in their last year of collegiate eligibility, intend to compete for their college team until the end of the 2024 NCAA season and compete internationally after
- American citizen or dual US citizen committed to solely representing the United States in competitive tennis events both in the US and internationally
- Ranked in the top 25 of the UTR Collegiate rankings at least one time during their college tennis career
- Displaying strong indication of future tennis success as evaluated by:
 - UTR Rating and trend
 - National and international tournament results
 - NCAA Individual singles and doubles tournament results
 - UTR, ATP, WTA, ITF ranking, and ranking improvement
- Demonstrated commitment to competing at high levels of national and international tennis competition at various tennis tournament events, including UTR Pro Tennis Tour (PTT), ATP, WTA, and ITF events
- Demonstrated exemplary sportsmanship in their collegiate career and other tennis events
- Submitted written Personal Statement and short video describing the applicant, how the applicant will make use of the Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Award and why the Universal Tennis Foundation should select them

APPLICATION LOGISTICS AND GUIDELINES

- The Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Award application will be made available the first week of January 2024 and will be announced on the Universal Tennis Foundation website and will be communicated to college tennis coaches, players, and the tennis community
- The application deadline will be 11:59 PM PST on **February 4, 2024**
- Universal Tennis Foundation will assemble and review the list of candidates in conjunction with the Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Award's Advisory Council
- Award winners will be announced and presented at the 2024 BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, CA. Recipients will be notified approximately two weeks prior and must attend in person
- Award recipients will be expected to participate in designated Universal Tennis Foundation events, programs, or publicity during the two-year award term. Universal Tennis Foundation believes in a "Pay it Forward" culture and the Hurd Award recipients will be viewed as role models in the greater tennis community
- Monies will be dispersed as soon as April 1, 2024, or upon completion of NCAA in May 2024 if the player is currently enrolled in college and be distributed roughly every six months until the total grant is exhausted
- After the initial grant amount, the recipient will provide an accounting of previous tennis-related spending and activity before each subsequent distribution, as well as a proposed schedule of upcoming competitive events
- Any monies not used by the recipient during the two-year period will be retained as monies for future Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Awards
- Should a player become injured, the player can request to pause the grant timeline until the player can return to competition

- Should a player decide to retire as a competitive tennis player before the total grant monies have been distributed, the remainder of the unspent grant will remain with Universal Tennis Foundation to be issued for future Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Awards
- The player is subject to a morality/character clause, and if, in the sole judgment of the Universal Tennis Foundation, it is violated, the Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Award may be forfeited
- The applicant is expected to complete the application questions honestly and to the best of their knowledge. If the applicant is the recipient of the Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Award and is found to have provided false or misleading information, it may result in termination of the grant and payback of any monies received

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The applicant will need to complete the following sections in the application:

- Basic information
- Education History
- Tennis accomplishments singles and doubles
 - Current UTR Rating
 - UTR, ITA, ITF, ATP/WTA rankings
- Honors and awards including sportsmanship
- Tennis Reflections
 - Top 5 College tennis career highlights
 - Top 5 Non-College tennis highlights
- Written Personal Statement: Tell us about yourself as well as describe how the Hurd Award will help further your tennis development (Please limit to 500 words)
- Short video answer: Why should you be selected for the award? (Please limit to one minute)
- Financials - Tennis expenses, prize money & sponsorships to date
- Two references from one college coach and one peer.

To apply for the Universal Tennis Foundation Hurd Award click [here](#).