The 2014 McDermott Scholars

The 2014 class of Scholars is made up of 10 women and 15 men. It includes 14 students from Texas and 11 from 10 other states. Collectively, this class has an average two-part SAT score of 1545. 22 of the 25 received recognition from the National Merit Scholarship program, 10 were high school valedictorians, and 5 were Presidential Scholar nominees. [Click here to read more about the '14 Scholars.](https://provost.utdallas.edu/home/mcdermott/scholars/class-of-2014//makepdf)

**Hans Ajieren**

Hometown: Houston, Texas  
High School: Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science  
Major: Electrical Engineering

**Stephen Badger**

Hometown: Ocean Grove, New Jersey  
High School: High Technology High School  
Major: Electrical Engineering

**James Ballard**

Hometown: New Port Richey, Florida  
High School: River Ridge High School  
Major: Software Engineering

**Preston Butler**

Hometown: Maryville, Tennessee  
High School: Maryville High School  
Major: Neuroscience

**Matara Hitchcock**

Hometown: Overland Park, Kansas  
High School: Blue Valley Southwest High School  
Major: Emerging Media and Communications
Anishka Kappalayil
Hometown: Plano, Texas
High School: Liberty High School
Major: Biology

Elyse Mack
Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri
High School: Ladue Horton Watkins High School
Major: Visual and Performing Arts

Reilly Martinez
Hometown: Aubrey, Texas
High School: Billy Ryan High School
Major: Electrical Engineering

Grace McClure
Hometown: Plano, Texas
High School: Coram Deo Academy
Major: Cognitive Science

Dhruv Narayanan
Hometown: Tyler, Texas
High School: Robert E. Lee High School
Major: Mechanical Engineering

Derrick Ngo
Hometown: Austin, Texas
High School: Lake Travis High School
Major: Biomedical Engineering & Molecular Biology

Ali Peterkort
Hometown: Newberg, Oregon
High School: Saint Mary’s Academy
Major: Psychology & Arts & Performance
Christy Purnadi
**Hometown:** Coppell, Texas  
**High School:** R.L. Turner High School  
**Major:** Finance & Economics

Raja Reddy
**Hometown:** Harlingen, Texas  
**High School:** Science Academy of South Texas  
**Major:** Neuroscience

Matthew Salm
**Hometown:** Grafton, Wisconsin  
**High School:** Grafton Senior High School  
**Major:** Mathematics

Pooshan Shah
**Hometown:** Austin, Texas  
**High School:** McNeil High School  
**Major:** Computer Science

Sanaa Tejani
**Hometown:** Plano, Texas  
**High School:** Plano Senior High School  
**Major:** Biology

Rebecca Tjahja
**Hometown:** Cerritos, California  
**High School:** Gretchen Whitney High School  
**Major:** Finance

Alex Tomkovich
**Hometown:** Lewisville, Texas  
**High School:** Lewisville High School  
**Major:** Computer Engineering
Samuel Vallejo
Hometown: Rancho Cordova, California
High School: Mira Loma High School
Major: Biomedical Engineering

Sahana Venkatesh
Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina
High School: Leesville Road High School
Major: Biology

Aaron Weittenhiller
Hometown: Hallsville, Texas
High School: Hallsville High School
Major: Electrical Engineering

John Will
Hometown: Virginia Beach, Virginia
High School: Ocean Lakes High School
Major: Biomedical Engineering

Ximone Willis
Hometown: Austin, Texas
High School: Liberal Arts and Science Academy
Major: Biomedical Engineering

Ben Wroblewski
Hometown: McKinney, Texas
High School: McKinney North High School
Major: Biology