

Tips for Scholarship Applications

The ESA Foundation Scholarship applications are received via a 100% on-line process.

<http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/scholarships-and-grants>

ESA Foundation scholarships are awarded based on individual scholarship criteria. For example, some scholarships have requirements for GPA and/or field of study. While the website filters applications based on selections made, it is important to review the specific criteria for each scholarship prior to applying. Personal letters should be written with these criteria in mind, as scholarship judges will be reviewing these items.

Quick Tips:

- Apply early – volunteers try to screen the applications for required information (transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.) as they arrive and will send feedback to the applicant if the information is incomplete. Unfortunately, in the 2 weeks prior to the deadline, too many applications are received to pre-screen.
- Request school transcripts and letters of recommendation early – schools cannot provide transcripts on the weekend or a holiday. Give schools time to prepare them and FOLLOW UP to ensure the transcript is provided.
- **Provide current transcript – The transcript needs to include the school name and the GPA.**
- Ensure Letters of Recommendation are current and preferably signed. Letters of Recommendation should NOT be from a family member.
- Check your GPA – Some scholarships are for average students. Be sure you apply for those in your GPA range. Remember, if the scholarship's criteria are weighted heavily for academics, those with higher GPAs will score higher. Not all scholarships are weighted highest for academics. Be sure to check the GPA listed on your transcript and list that GPA on your profile information. If the GPA listed on the profile is different than that on the transcript, your application may be disqualified due to not meeting the scholarship criteria.
- Write personal essay to explain how you meet the scholarship requirements – If the scholarship is related to a specific major; speak to your planned major if it is related to financial need, then speak to that need. No matter what the specific requirements are, be sure to address any service / leadership you have participated in / accomplished currently or in the recent past. This may be the deciding factor if Financial Need / Scholastic Ability are equal.
- Double check scholarship requirements before applying – Before submitting your application for a scholarship, review the criteria to be sure you meet the minimum (or maximum) requirements.

Note: You will not be able to submit payment for the scholarship application fee until all the documents have been attached. This does not mean that these documents are complete. It is your responsibility to ensure the current transcript is attached.

FINAL NOTE: After you have completed the profile information, and transcript / letters of recommendations are uploaded and the personal letter written....you must then select the specific scholarships you want to apply for and pay the \$5 processing fee for each scholarship you apply for. Questions? Contact the Scholarship Chairman. Her contact information is located: <http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/scholarships-and-grants> under "Have questions?"

Feb 1 deadline