

The George Foundation Scholarship Program

THE PROGRAM

The George Foundation has established a scholarship program to assist U.S citizens or permanent residents of Ft. Bend County, Texas who are either “first generation” college students or “nontraditional” students who will be attending the entire next academic year at one of the following schools: Wharton County Junior College, Houston Community College System, University of Houston System at Sugar Land, University of Houston - Main Campus, or the University of Houston - Downtown.

This scholarship program is administered by Scholarship Management Services[®], a division of Scholarship America[®]. Scholarship Management Services is the nation’s largest designer and manager of scholarship and tuition reimbursement programs for corporations, foundations, associations and individuals. Awards are granted without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, disability or national origin.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants to the George Foundation Scholarship Program must be:

- A) high school seniors or graduates who plan to enroll or students who are already enrolled in a full-time* undergraduate course of study at one of the five designated schools. Furthermore, applicants must be “first generation” college students**.

**Full-time study is defined as full-time enrollment (at least 12 credit hours) for the entire upcoming academic year.*

***A first generation college student is defined as a college student from a family in which neither parent has a two- or four-year degree.*

OR

- B) “nontraditional” students*** who plan to enroll or are already enrolled (at least 6 credit hours) in an undergraduate course of study at one of the five designated schools.

****A nontraditional student is defined as a student who has been out of high school for more than five years, not continuously enrolled in postsecondary school(s) and who now finds it necessary to resume studies due to changing work and/or family demands. The student may be returning to college or entering college for the first time.*

All applicants must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

All applicants must be bona fide U.S. citizens or permanent residents of Ft. Bend County, Texas.

Non-U.S. citizens must submit a photocopy of their Permanent Resident Card with their application. Student visas or temporary Employment Authorizations are not accepted.

Applicants may not receive any other George Foundation scholarship within the same academic year.

All applicants must plan to attend the school indicated on their application form. See section titled “Payment of Scholarships” for details.

The five designated schools are:

- Wharton County Junior College
- Houston Community College System
- University of Houston System at Sugar Land
- University of Houston - Main Campus
- University of Houston - Downtown

AWARDS

To the extent eligible applications are received from each school, up to 50 awards for first generation students and 20 awards for nontraditional students will be granted to each of the three schools (Wharton County Junior College, Houston Community College System and the University of Houston three campuses). Annual awards of \$2,000 will be made to first generation students and \$1,000 to nontraditional students.

Awards are not renewable, but students may reapply to the program each year they meet eligibility requirements.

APPLICATION

Interested students must complete the application and mail it along with their last filed IRS FORM 1040 and a current, complete transcript of grades to Scholarship Management Services postmarked no later than **May 25, 2010**. Grade reports are not acceptable. Online transcripts must display student name, school name, grade and credit hours earned for each course, and term in which each course was taken.

Applicants are responsible for gathering and submitting all necessary information. Applications are evaluated on the information supplied; therefore, answer all questions as completely as possible. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated. All information received is reviewed by Scholarship Management Services and shared with The George Foundation.

SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

Recipients will be selected solely on the basis of financial need as determined by Scholarship Management Services.

Selection of recipients is made by Scholarship Management Services. In no instance does any officer or employee of The George Foundation or the schools play a part in the selection. All applicants agree to accept the decision as final.

Applicants will be notified in mid July. Not all applicants to the program may be selected as recipients. Non-recipients may reapply to the program each year they meet eligibility requirements.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship Management Services processes scholarship payments on behalf of The George Foundation. Payments are made in equal installments mid September and late January. Checks are made payable to the school and mailed to the school for the student's account.

Schools will provide to Scholarship Management Services the student's:

- Registered credit hours for the fall and spring terms, and
- Fall semester enrolled credit hours and GPA

Student **may** forfeit award if a fall school transfer occurs and all allotted funds have already been awarded to the transferring school, or if Scholarship Management Services is not notified of the transfer by August 30.

Within the academic year, a student **may** transfer from an eligible two-year college to an eligible four-year university; provided, the student notifies Scholarship Management Services of transfer by December 28.

Student **will** forfeit award if:

- not already registered for classes in September and January when their designated school provides enrolled credit hours to Scholarship Management Services.
- required minimum credit hours are not met.
 - First Generation – at least 12 credit hours for each semester
 - Nontraditional – at least 6 credit hours for each semester
- fall semester GPA is less than a 2.0.
- mid year transfers occur between two eligible two-year colleges.
- mid year transfers occur between two eligible four-year universities.
- dual enrollment occurs between two eligible schools; with the exception of Houston University System at Sugar Land where at least 6 credit hours must be registered at this campus.

OBLIGATIONS

Recipients have no obligation to The George Foundation. They are, however, required to notify Scholarship Management Services of any changes in address, school enrollment, or other relevant information and to send a complete transcript when requested.

REVISIONS

The George Foundation reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time including termination of the program.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions regarding the scholarship program should be addressed to:

The George Foundation Scholarship Program
Scholarship Management Services
One Scholarship Way
Saint Peter, MN 56082
Telephone: (507) 931-1682



INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE FINANCIAL DATA SECTION OF THE APPLICATION

The Financial Data section of the application should be completed by parents, guardians, **or** by the applicant if independent. Independent is defined as one who is **not** claimed as a dependent by the parent/guardian for tax purposes. Information should be from a completed tax return filed with the IRS.

1. **State of Residence** is the state where the parents and/or (independent) applicant reside and pay state income tax.
2. **Adjusted Gross Income** can be found on IRS FORM 1040 and is gross income reduced by specific adjustments allowed by law.
3. **Total Federal Tax Paid** includes the total amount of **federal** income tax to be paid as reported on IRS FORM 1040. This is **not** the amount withheld from employee's paychecks. (The amount withheld should be adjusted by any refund or additional taxes due.) Do **not** report state income tax.
4. **Total Income** of parent(s) should be reported individually for both parents if applicant is a dependent student, or by the applicant if independent. Provide information for both natural parents, when possible. **If the student resides with only one parent**, financial information **must** be received from the parent who claims the child as a dependent for tax purposes. If a parent has remarried, the spouse's information is required if the spouse is a legal guardian of the student, or claims the student as a dependent, or the student is included in the spouse's benefit plan. **If necessary, two Financial Data sections may be submitted by the student.** A copy of the Financial Data section may be made in order for one to be completed by each parent.
5. **Untaxed Income and Benefits** include any other income or benefits not included in the adjusted gross income figure. Do not include untaxed contributions to retirement plans.
6. **Medical and Dental Expenses** include only those expenses not paid by insurance. Do not include premium payments.
7. **Total Cash, Checking, Savings, Cash Value of Stocks, etc.**, include liquid assets that can be used for educational expenses. **Do not include** IRA, 401k, or other retirement plan funds.
8. **Total number of family members** living in the household and primarily supported by the reported income may include:
 - the applicant
 - the applicant's parents
 - other children living in the household
 - dependent college students living away from home
 - other people who live in the household and receive more than half of their support from the reported income
9. **Marital status** is the current status of the person from whom the financial information is submitted.
10. **Of the total number of family members on line 8, number of students attending college** includes family members attending a two- or four-year college, university, or vocational-technical school at least half-time. Include the applicant in this number. Do not include parents.

NOTE: Any exceptions to providing financial information as instructed above must be submitted to Scholarship Management Services in writing.