Smith Scholarship

Providing Scholarships to Deserving Alabama Students

400 Caldwell Trace
Birmingham, AL 35242
(205) 202-4076
(205) 202-4171 Fax

website: http:// www.smithscholarships.com

DEADLINE JANUARY 10, 2020 – DEADLINE JANUARY 10, 2020
ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, PARENTS, TEACHERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The Smith Scholarship Foundation will begin accepting on-line Applications on October 1, 2019 for the Smith Scholarship Program. The Smith Scholarship Foundation Program is an Accountability Scholarship Program providing assistance to High School Seniors who have "given back" to their community through volunteer activities or by caring for family while overcoming financial and personal challenges.

The SSF Programs provide up to $15,000 a year in financial assistance plus opportunities for study abroad, professional training through its Internship Program as well as valuable assistance from Mentors who counsel and assist students with academic, personal and professional obstacles. All assistance is subject to strict compliance with SSF Guidelines. SSF is a last dollar supplemental scholarship.

Please visit our website today at www.smithscholarships.com for additional information. Look in the shaded box to the left and click on "Most Frequently Asked Questions" for more information.

NEW DEADLINES:

APPLY EARLY! EARLY APPLICATIONS RECEIVE MORE REVIEWS AND MOST PAST WINNERS APPLIED EARLY.

APPLICATIONS WITH LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION MUST BE SUBMITTED BY: January 10, 2020.

Proof of Filing FASFA must be submitted with SSF Scholarship Application. Student Aid Report ("SAR's") must be attached to the application

Notice: Applications for Pell Grant and State SEOG Grants will be accepted October 1, 2019 for aid in the 2020-21 school year. Remind your students *to apply as soon as possible for their governmental aid. Early applications can qualify for additional funding up to $2,000.*

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Most Common Questions on Application

Where do I go on the Website to apply? Go to the Smith Scholarship Foundation Website: (www.smithscholarships.com). On the Home Page click on "**Apply for the Smith Scholarship Here!**"

How do I get back on the application? Once you have created an "Account", remember that your "required" email address and password will be your "Keys" to return to the application. You can return to your application as many times as you desire. However, once you click on "Submit", you cannot return to your application. Note: DO NOT click on "Submit" until you are completely finished with your application.

Do I have to finish the entire application at one time? No… You do not have to complete it all at once, however make sure you remember that the deadline to submit your application is January 10, 2020. ALL ATTACHMENTS INCLUDING ALL LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION MUST BE UPLOADED OR EMAILED to the Foundation no later than January 10, 2020. Do not wait until the deadline. Past Applicants have experienced difficulty in uploading due to the large numbers of applications submitted on the deadline.

What if I do not know the answers to some of the questions? If you are unsure of any of the questions, thoroughly review the "commonly asked questions" on the website and then contact the Smith Scholarship Office **via email** (appsupport@smithscholarships.com) for further assistance. Only students and school personnel should submit a request, not family or friends of the applicant, as this scholarship is an accountability program. Parents and guardians should not call the office. Please do not call unless you have failed to receive a response within 48 hours. Be sure to remember your username and password to return to your application for completion.

What if I do not have the Income Tax information for this year yet? *FASFA 2020-21 uses 2018 Tax Information and the application can be filed starting*

October 1, 2019. If you are homeless or a ward of the state or receiving no support from your parents, please follow the FASFA rules carefully so you are properly classified for aid. It is imperative that students obtain homeless or "at risk homeless" and "unaccompanied" documentation to obtain "independent" classification. Contact your school or district homeless liaison.

(Federal Student Aid and Homeless Youth: https://studentaid.ed.gov; Dependency Status: https://fasa.ed.gov>fotw1920>help).

The new FASFA form allows you to directly access IRS tax information while completing the new form. The FASFA application must be filed before the SSF application is submitted and a copy of the Student Aid Report ("SAR") attached. If possible, use the IRS information option to upload required information. If unusual circumstances prevent you from submitting the FASFA, including DACA status, contact SSF by email as soon as possible with written explanation of steps taken to complete, missing information and an explanation regarding such information.

Can I mail the application in? No. The application is not formatted for print out. Therefore, if you have issues submitting your application, call us and we will help. Public libraries often have computers available for use or ask your school counselor to use a school's computer. The application can also be completed on a smart phone or mobile device.

What if I do not have information for "Mother" or "Father"? Enter UNKNOWN but you must include on your Application your circumstances as directed on the Application instructions in significant detail to allow SSF to understand your current living arrangements and what events led to your situation. **WARNING** "Unknown" without accompanying explanation will not be accepted and your application will not be reviewed.

What if I have not taken the ACT? List the date you are scheduled to take the ACT and follow up by providing your scores. You must take the ACT and provide scores to be eligible for this scholarship. There are waivers to cover the cost of taking the exam. Take the test multiple times to increase your score. Ask your counselor or Upward Bound representative for help in obtaining a waiver and registering. See www.act.org. No minimum ACT is required.

Who should apply for financial aid? All applicants are required to apply for financial aid. Recipients of the SSF Scholarship must complete all follow up information required by FASFA or their college before SSF will remit any payments.

Why should I apply for financial aid? Financial Aid is required to be eligible for SSF scholarships. Financial aid is available to assist students and families in meeting the costs of a college education. The total amount of funding by SSF may not cover all college cost.

What if I have not applied for college admission? Apply now if possible and list the schools you plan to apply for later and why you have a preference for that institution. Apply for College ASAP. Utilize application fee waivers to avoid application costs. Deadlines for University Scholarships are early so review scholarships offered by several institutions. The SSF Application requires that you apply to at least 3 other scholarships, including scholarships provided by each of your preferred institutions.

Example. If you list 2 colleges as preferred, you must apply to each college and their scholarship program(s) and an additional outside scholarship. If you apply to 3 colleges and all 3 of their scholarship programs, you have met your minimal requirement of 3 "other" scholarships.

Examples of College Scholarship Deadlines

Auburn University has a December 15, 2019 deadline for freshmen who must apply using "AUSOM" and complete the admission application. (See Auburn website.)

University of Montevallo – Admission application must be submitted before students qualify for college scholarships.

Academic and Leadership:	December 1, 2019
Academic Recognition:	December 1, 2019
Freshman Leadership:	December 1, 2019
MLK:	December 1, 2019
Presidential:	December 1 2019
Ambassador:	December 1, 2019

Troy – See Troy "Online Scholarships" and the Troy website for deadlines as *they may vary by campus and scholarship type. December 1, 2019 is the deadline for several scholarships.*

USA – Requires Admissions Application to be completed by December 1, 2019. Some scholarships are automatic for freshman; others require a separate scholarship application.

UAB – Requires students to submit admissions application and all required documentation by December 1, 2019 for all ACT and GPA scholarships. See "BSMART", the Blazer scholarship management.

UAH – UAH allows students to retake the ACT even after admission to increase scholarship eligibility. See the UAH website for deadlines.

SSF has established new deadlines to try and encourage all students to qualify for both institutional or college provided aid and governmental aid both state and federal.

Please visit college websites and contact scholarship personnel at your selected universities. Examples provided may not be updated and should not be relied upon.

See SSF website for a list of additional scholarships.