



Alumnae Panhellenic Scholarship Programs

Many Alumnae Panhellenics award scholarships to deserving graduating high school women, undergraduate members of National Panhellenic Conference sororities (NPC) and/or NPC alumnae returning to graduate school. As the costs of a college education continue to increase, NPC encourages Alumnae Panhellenics to emphasize scholarship in their annual programming efforts.

Before starting an Alumnae Panhellenic scholarship program, it is wise to consult with an attorney to be sure all legal stipulations are followed.

Criteria to consider for Alumnae Panhellenic scholarship applicants:

- Student academic levels — decide if the award will be for high school seniors, undergraduate and/or graduate students.
- Location — decide if applicants should be limited to primary residence in the Alumnae Panhellenic area or if applicants should be attending specific campuses.
- Scholastic achievement — determine the scholastic requirements of applicants, such as grade point average, extracurricular activities, etc.

Alumnae Panhellenic Scholarships (2024) – POLICY

Alumnae Panhellenics awarding scholarships must:

- Not ask applicants for personal/family financial information unless distributing need-based scholarships. If distributing need-based scholarships, it may only use the [Student Aid Index \(SAI\)](#), calculated by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid when determining student need.
- Not create conditions that a high school recipient participate in recruitment, pledge and/or join/be initiated into an NPC member sorority.
- Disperse funds directly to the institution of higher education, not to the student.

Merit-based versus need based scholarships

As a best practice, NPC encourages Alumnae Panhellenics to provide merit-based scholarships. If an Alumnae Panhellenic chooses to provide need-based scholarships, applicants should be able to express that need through an essay response rather than provide private family tax documentation.

Transcript submission request

With consideration to the rising cost of education, NPC is mindful of the extra financial burden students may take on in applying for scholarships, including the costs associated with providing official high school and college/university transcripts. As such, applicants should have the option



of providing unofficial transcripts as a part of their application. Once selected as a scholarship winner, an applicant can then provide an official transcript if necessary. Submitting unofficial transcripts can also expedite the completion of application packets that are not dependent on mailing official transcripts to the Alumnae Panhellenic.

Alumnae Panhellenics should also be mindful to safeguard any private and confidential student information that may be printed on an academic transcript.

Presenting scholarships

Scholarships and fundraising come with legal stipulations and tax concerns. Scholarship award fund payments should be sent directly to the campus and credited to the student's tuition account. This will save the student from having to claim the scholarship award as income to the IRS, which she will have to do if she is awarded the funds directly. A certificate or mock check can be presented to the award winner during a recognition event if applicable.

Suggestions for enhancing your Panhellenic scholarship program

- Make the application form simple and easily accessible.
- Set up an email account specifically for scholarship application submissions.
- Send information on the undergraduate/graduate scholarship(s) to the fraternity/sorority advisors on campuses within the area of the Alumnae Panhellenic.
- If offering scholarships to high school seniors, provide information to the appropriate high school staff (e.g. high school counselors, principals).
- Share the application form and details about your scholarship on social media and in applicable online forums.
- Send a news release to local media about your scholarship and the recipient(s).
- Provide a venue for presenting the scholarship. Consider presenting the award at an Alumnae Panhellenic in-person or virtual meeting, online event, a campus awards program, a collegiate chapter scholarship dinner or a high school honors program.

Promote scholarship on the NPC website

All NPC-recognized Alumnae Panhellenics have the opportunity to have their scholarship published on the NPC website. Alumnae Panhellenics should submit their scholarship information [here](#) to provide the most up-to-date information.