



College of Arts & Sciences

In the Spirit of Odyssey Scholarship Application

The University of South Alabama College of Arts & Sciences recognizes the commendable academic and professional activities of its students and the students in the School of Continuing Education and Special Programs' Adult Degree Program. This endowment and scholarship is made possible by the generous support of donors and provides an opportunity for students to excel in their areas of study.

Scholarship Submission and Deadline

College of Arts & Sciences, Dean's Office, Humanities 118, 4 p.m., Thursday, March 20, 2014

Applicants Information

Please type or print all information.

Applicant name		JAG number
University of South Alabama email address		Phone number
Mailing address		City, State, Zip
Hometown		Anticipated graduation
Major		Minor
Major GPA	Overall GPA	College
Academic Classification <input type="checkbox"/> Freshman <input type="checkbox"/> Sophomore <input type="checkbox"/> Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Senior		
I have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
I have completed the USA Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) form. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure		

Application Requirements

Students may submit this application form once even if they are applying for multiple scholarships. Each scholarship has specific requirements, however, and a complete packet (copy of college transcripts, original essay and letters of reference) must be submitted for each scholarship. For letters of recommendation, at least one must be from a faculty member and letters must be sealed and signed across the seal by the recommending individual. Furthermore, students are required to have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the USA Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) form.

Please check to ensure all materials are submitted.

- ☐ College of Arts & Sciences/School of Continuing Education Adult Degree Program In the Spirit of Odyssey Scholarship Application
- ☐ Application for Summer 2014
- ☐ Application for Academic Year 2014-2015

☐ In the Spirit of Odyssey Scholarship and Requirements

Please check next to the scholarship and each requirement to ensure all information and materials are submitted.

Up to \$1000 is awarded to a student who can display the importance of continuing education in their life, especially those who have returned to school after an absence of a year or more, or those who initially delayed higher education.

- ☐ Declared major in the College of Arts & Sciences or School of Continuing Education Adult Degree Program
- ☐ GPA: at least 2.5
- ☐ Essay (500-750 words): 1. Explain your financial need, 2. Provide details of obstacles you have overcome in pursuing your education, 3. Explain your goals in pursuing your education.
- ☐ Letters of recommendation – two (2)
- ☐ Transcript of all college coursework up to the date of application (PAWS transcript acceptable)

Recipient Requirements

Students applying for the scholarships must be enrolled at USA in the Spring 2014 semester and in the Fall 2014 and Spring 2014 semesters. If awarded one or more of these scholarships, students must enroll in and complete a minimum of 12-15 credit hours each semester (Fall 2014 and Spring 2015). Additionally, recipients of a College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Award are required to attend the Arts and Sciences Awards ceremony.

I certify the information provided is true and complete.

I understand that information about me known to the Financial Aid Office may be used to evaluate my eligibility for a scholarship, and I authorize that office to release information to the appropriate scholarship committees. If selected for a scholarship, I authorize the University of South Alabama to disclose my directory information, which I have supplied voluntarily, to the donor(s) of any endowment funding I may receive and to be used in publicity related to the scholarship program.

By my signature below, I, do affirm all materials submitted in support of this application are complete and accurate; and I do further understand the Scholarship Selection Committee will preserve the 'right to privacy' of each applicant. With the signature below, I authorize the Scholarship Selection Committee to review my records and supporting materials. I also agree to waive my right to view the letters of reference submitted on my behalf. I fully understand that should I receive a scholarship, that my attendance at the Arts and Sciences Scholarship Awards ceremony is mandatory.

Signature of Applicant

Date

For additional inquiries, please contact College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Scholarship Chair Marsha Hamilton (mhamilton@southalabama.edu).

All awards, endowments, and scholarships are awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences regardless of race, special needs, color, creed, religion, political persuasion, sexual orientation or national origin. The number of scholarships awarded each year and the dollar amount for each scholarship may vary yearly depending on available funds.



College of Arts & Sciences

Tips for Completing Scholarship Applications

General suggestions

Get started early.

Do not wait until the last minute to prepare and submit your application materials. Give yourself time to review (*and revise*) your entire application before you submit it.

Read/Follow guidelines.

Make sure that your essays and letters of recommendation address the qualifications required by the scholarship, that you have the proper number of letters, and that you have submitted all necessary documentation.

Write an essay for each application.

Your essay should read as though you wrote it specifically for each application. This may mean that five of the paragraphs are the same for each scholarship, and one is different. However, sometimes it means tweaking other parts of the essay as well, or even writing an essay with a different structure altogether.

Get others to review your essay.

Ask a professor or friend to read your essay for grammar and relevance to the scholarship requirements. Do this early, so that you have time to make any necessary revisions.

Get strong letters of recommendation.

Make sure that the people you ask for letters can write strong letters. Talk to your referees and make sure that they understand what scholarship(s) you are applying for and the issues they need to address in the letter. Most of your references should be from professionals—professors or employers—who can address the appropriate issues. Letters from friends or family members that simply say “he/she is a great person who deserves the scholarship” are not strong letters.

Stylistic Issues

Use professional language.

Do not use colloquial or informal language (or slang) in your essay. Do not use contractions (i.e. “don’t,” “can’t”). Do not use abbreviations (other than standard ones, such as “Dr.” or “Mr.”). Do not use vague or unclear words such as “things.” Be very clear about the ideas and issues you are discussing and use clear, concise, specific language to convey those ideas. Use straightforward statements with active verbs rather than passive or conditional verbs (“would” or “could”).

Proofread.

Run your essays through spell-check AND read them yourself for proper spelling and grammar. Spell-check will not pick up homonyms (words that sound the same but are spelled differently). You MUST check your work.

Do a final check of your application.

Review your application(s) to make sure that it (they) are complete and clean, free from silly errors. This is the only chance you have to make a good impression on the scholarship committee; make sure that you put forth the best possible application you can.

Scholarship Guidelines and Suggestions

Additional information regarding the application process such as letters of recommendation or original essays can be found at: <http://www.southalabama.edu/artsandsci/scholarships.html>