

Scholarship FAQ

If you have additional questions, please contact Teresa Glassman foundationscholarships@sigmakappa.org or 317-381-5548.

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General Information

1. When is the application available for Sigma Kappa Foundation scholarships?
The 2015-2016 Sigma Kappa Foundation Scholarship program opens **December 1, 2016** and remains open until **midnight EST on February 1, 2017**. Sigma Kappa National Headquarters is located in the Eastern Time Zone, so the deadline is midnight Eastern Standard Time.
2. How do I apply?
The application can be found at <https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/35322-Sigma-Kappa>. The link will be LIVE only **December 1, 2016 through February 1, 2017**.
3. What is SmarterSelect?
SmarterSelect is a third party online application and recommendation system. Applications must be completed and submitted via SmarterSelect. If you are a first-time user, you will be prompted to create an account
4. What if I don't remember if I have an account with SmarterSelect?
Applications **must** be submitted through a personal account, not a chapter account. Previous users should log in with their email they used to create the original account. If you do not remember your password, click the Forgot Password link. If you do not remember the email you used to sign up, you can contact SmarterSelect or email: foundationscholarships@sigmakappa.org to verify your account status.
5. Who chooses the recipients?
Sigma Kappa Foundation appoints a Scholarship committee to review applications.

6. How many awards are given out?
Last year, the Sigma Kappa Foundation awarded 74 individual awards for more than \$84,000 in scholarship support.
7. What term/semester/quarter is the financial award applied toward?
The scholarship award is divided over the academic year. Example: For schools on a semester calendar half of the award will be applied to Fall 2017 fees and half will be applied to Spring 2018.
8. What if I will only be in school one term?
This topic is addressed on the application. Please indicate your plans if you will not be enrolled the entire academic year.

Eligibility

1. Who can apply?
Any Sigma Kappa member in good standing who will be enrolled during the 2017-18 Academic Year in a college degree program.
2. What if I applied last year, can I apply again?
Yes, you are welcome to apply. Each scholarship application cycle is handled separately from previous cycles.
3. Will all applicants receive an award?
We are unfortunately not able to award a scholarship to each deserving candidate. We often have more applicants than we have funding available, but we encourage you to apply.
4. I am eligible for multiple scholarships. Do I need to submit separate applications for each award?
No. We use one application for all scholarships. Upon submitting an application, you are automatically a candidate for any scholarship for which you qualify, based on each specific scholarship's criteria.
5. I am currently applying to graduate school and will not know if I am accepted until after the scholarship application deadline. Should I still apply?
Yes. If you are chosen as a scholarship recipient we will require your school acceptance information at that time (between April 15 - May 15).
6. Is there a minimum GPA requirement to apply?
No. However, many scholarships do have GPA requirements. Please see Scholarship listing for specific criteria.

7. Can I use the Sigma Kappa Foundation scholarship for membership dues?
No. Sigma Kappa Foundation scholarships can only be applied toward academic expenses.

8. Can I use the Sigma Kappa Foundation scholarship for study abroad?
You must remain a Sigma Kappa member in good standing. The scholarship can be applied toward academic expenses, including study abroad.

Application Information

1. Do I have to complete my application in one session?
No. You can save your application and return to it when you have more time.

2. What key information do I need to have available when I apply?
 - Sigma Kappa member number
 - official cumulative GPA
 - financial aid information; and
 - e-mail addresses for two individuals, who will complete letters of recommendation on your behalf
 - Personal essay

3. How do I find my Sigma Kappa member number?
Visit [Live Sigma Kappa](#). First-time users must claim your account.

4. What is meant by official cumulative GPA?
Members should report their official cumulative GPA based on the most recently available academic period and should report the two digits beyond the decimal. No rounding is permitted.
While no documentation is requested at the time of the application, verification of GPA and enrollment will be requested from those who are selected to receive a scholarship award. Students are expected to report accurate and truthful information. Any student found to have knowingly reported false information will be deemed ineligible.

5. What financial aid information is needed?
Members who have applied for financial aid using the FAFSA form should have their Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) available. All applicants are asked to complete a declaration of financial need that comprises expected educational costs and sources of income to pay expenses.

6. Who should I ask to submit letters of recommendation?

It is your responsibility to request letters of recommendation from two individuals and you must enter their email addresses. Once you have entered your references' email addresses, a message with the letter of recommendation link will be sent to them.

Undergraduate applicants: one recommendation must come from a chapter advisor, an advisory board supervisor (ABS), or collegiate district director (CDD).

7. What is required for the personal essay?

Please provide an essay describing yourself and how you exemplify Sigma Kappa's values: personal growth, friendship, service and loyalty, your career goals upon graduation, and why you feel you are qualified to receive a Sigma Kappa Foundation scholarship award. The essay should be 500 words or less.

8. How do I submit my application?

Once you have completed each page of the application and entered email addresses for your recommendation letters, you can click the Submit Application button.

9. Can I update my application once I click "Submit Application?"

No.

10. What if I don't know an answer to a question on the application?

You need to take the time to find the answer so your application can be completed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

11. Will I receive a confirmation when my application is submitted?

Yes, once your application is created and submitted you will receive confirmation.

Letter of Recommendation Information

1. Are there specific requirements for my Recommendations?

Undergraduate applicants: one recommendation must come from a chapter advisor, an advisory board supervisor (ABS), or collegiate district director (CDD). Other recommendation sources include: Corporation Board members, chapter president, Panhellenic advisor, Fraternity/Sorority advisor, employer, professor or mentor.

2. I have completed my portion and my references did not receive the link to the recommendation form. What should I do?

Please verify the listed email address is correct then contact foundationscholarships@sigmakappa.org for the link to be resent.

3. How do I know if my references have submitted their letters of recommendation?
You will receive an email confirmation of the recommendation being received.
4. My reference says she has submitted her letter of recommendation, but I haven't received a confirmation email. What should I do?
Please contact foundationscholarships@sigmakappa.org.

Deadlines

1. When is my scholarship application due?
Midnight EST on February 1, 2017
2. What is the deadline for my letters of recommendation to be submitted?
February 15, 2017
3. When will I be notified if I have been chosen or not?
By April 15, 2017

Award Status Notification

1. If chosen for an award, what happens next?
You will receive an email with a checklist of materials to be submitted to National Headquarters by May 15, 2017.
2. What if I am out of the country when the materials are due?
If you know you will be travelling, you should submit your materials early or have someone submit for you.
3. What happens after my award recipient materials are submitted?
You will receive an email confirming your checklist items have all been received.
4. Where and when is the award check sent?
The award check is mailed directly to your school on or before June 15, 2017.
5. Will my university notify me when they receive my award?
Notification varies from school to school.