

## Why do we charge a scholarship application fee?



FOUNDATION  
EPSILON SIGMA ALPHA

"Serving The World Community... Because We Care"

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The Epsilon Sigma Alpha Foundation was established in 1970 with the purpose of promoting continuing education and altruistic activities that make a positive difference in the world. The primary goals of the ESAF are education and leadership. ESAF is an IRS designated 501[c]3 public foundation serving the world community. The ESAF Board of Directors is a 'working' board and serves, like all appointed persons, without compensation; only the auditing firm is paid. Learn more about ESAF here: <http://bit.ly/AboutESAF>

### Where does the application fee go?

- Maintenance costs and updates to the online application website
- The cost of our annual financial audit. The audit report can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/AnnualAudit>
- Leftover funds are added to the ESA General Scholarship and distributed in the form of additional scholarships

### Scholarships by the numbers

- ESAF offers more than **200 scholarships** each year
- On average **8000 students** apply for one or more of our scholarships
- **\$248,000 plus** is distributed to winners each year
- ESAF has a force of more than **100 volunteers**

ESAF shares your concern for your students. In that pursuit, we do not allow our scholarship program to be advertised or used by companies that charge for scholarship information. [The Federal Trade Commission](#) offers an excellent resource for identifying potential scholarship scams.

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## Tips for Scholarship Applications

The ESA Foundation Scholarship applications are received via a 100% on-line process.

<http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/scholarships-and-grants>

ESA Foundation scholarships are awarded based on individual scholarship criteria. For example, some scholarships have requirements for GPA and/or field of study. While the website filters applications based on selections made, it is important to review the specific criteria for each scholarship prior to applying. Personal letters should be written with these criteria in mind, as scholarship judges will be reviewing these items.

### Quick Tips:

- Apply early – volunteers try to screen the applications for required information (transcripts, letters of recommendation, etc.) as they arrive and will send feedback to the applicant if the information is incomplete. Unfortunately, in the 2 weeks prior to the deadline, too many applications are received to pre-screen.
- Request school transcripts and letters of recommendation early – schools cannot provide transcripts on the weekend or a holiday. Give schools time to prepare them and FOLLOW UP to ensure the transcript is provided.
- Provide current transcript – The transcript needs to include the school name and the GPA.
- Ensure Letters of Recommendation are current and preferably signed. Letters of Recommendation should NOT be from a family member.
- Check your GPA – Some scholarships are for average students. Be sure you apply for those in your GPA range. Remember, if the scholarship's criteria are weighted heavily for academics, those with higher GPAs will score higher. Not all scholarships are weighted highest for academics. Be sure to check the GPA listed on your transcript and list that GPA on your profile information. If the GPA listed on the profile is different than that on the transcript, your application may be disqualified due to not meeting the scholarship criteria.
- Write personal essay to explain how you meet the scholarship requirements – If the scholarship is related to a specific major; speak to your planned major if it is related to financial need, then speak to that need. No matter what the specific requirements are, be sure to address any service / leadership you have participated in / accomplished currently or in the recent past. This may be the deciding factor if Financial Need / Scholastic Ability are equal.
- Double check scholarship requirements before applying – Before submitting your application for a scholarship, review the criteria to be sure you meet the minimum (or maximum) requirements.

Note: You will not be able to submit payment for the scholarship application fee until all the documents have been attached. This does not mean that these documents are complete. It is your responsibility to ensure the current transcript is attached.

FINAL NOTE: After you have completed the profile information, and transcript / letters of recommendations are uploaded and the personal letter written...you must then select the specific scholarships you want to apply for and pay the \$5 processing fee for each scholarship you apply for. Questions? Contact the Scholarship Chairman. Her contact information is located: <http://www.epsilonsigmaalpha.org/scholarships-and-grants> under "Have questions?"