

Baptist Fellowship Association
Walter L. Banks Memorial Scholarship Guidelines

Application Process and Obtaining an Application:

To protect the applicant from misinformation, he/she should request an application package through the Walter Banks Scholarship Committee to ensure that he/she gets all current and pertinent information regarding guidelines, policies, procedures, etc. The request may be made by calling Judy Robinson at (816) 699-5733, or writing to: Baptist Fellowship Association, c/o Judy Robinson - Walter Banks Scholarship Committee, 1916 Central Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66102. All completed applications and supporting documentation should be sent to this address.

Deadlines:

Completed applications must be mailed to the Walter Banks Scholarship Committee no later than May 1st of the year in which the applicant intends to apply the funds if a scholarship is awarded to her/him. (Postmark will verify mailing date.) Applications postmarked after May 1st will not be considered for awards granted during the current year. There will be no exceptions.

All support documents (transcripts, references letters, etc.) must be postmarked to the Scholarship Committee no later than May 15. It is the applicant's responsibility to follow-up on his/her request for support documents to ensure receipt by the Scholarship Committee by the May 15th deadline.

Support Documents:

Transcript:

An official transcript from high school and/or college (if attended) listed on this application should be sent to the Scholarship Committee. A GED is also accepted and should be submitted to the Scholarship Committee.

Acceptance Letter:

Applications pursuing a bachelor's or advance degrees must submit a copy of an acceptance letter along with the scholarship application.

Certificate of Continuance:

Continuing students pursuing a master's or doctorate degrees must submit an official letter or certificate of continuance from the Office of Registrar (with a current official transcript) along with the scholarship application.

Letters of Reference:

- 1.) Three (3) letters of reference must be sent directly to the Scholarship Committee by May 15th.

- 2.) One letter must be received from each of the following persons acquainted with the applicant.
 - a. Pastor
 - b. High School or college professor who can evaluate applicant's academic performance.
 - c. Any one of (Sunday School teacher, employer, coworker, youth leader)
- 3.) Reference letters should not be given to applicants but mailed by the reference person themselves. Reference letters should be mailed to: Baptist Fellowship Association, c/o Judy Robinson – Walter Banks Scholarship Committee, 1916 Central Avenue, Kansas City, KS. 66102.

Policies:

Amount of Award(s):

- 1.) No prior guarantees will be made in regard to the award amount that any applicant will receive.
- 2.) The amount of any award will be impacted by the amount of money available in the scholarship fund, the number of applicants, status of applicants and other conditions or circumstances prevailing at the time the award decisions are made.
- 3.) The Scholarship Committee is solely responsible for making all award decisions and those decisions are final.

Disclaimers:

The Scholarship Committee is not obligated to grant scholarship awards to any applicant at any time. The committee acts on its own cognizance to carry out its intended purpose based on prevailing conditions and/or circumstances. However, the committee must report its decisions to the Chairman of the Discipleship and Christian Education Committee and the committee is ultimately accountable to the BFA Steering Council. The Scholarship Committee will base the scholarship awards on financial need, academics, and ministry service. The scholarship awards are also dependent on the dividends from the endowment excess of funds.

Disqualification:

- 1.) Failure to meet the application process deadline(s) will result in disqualification of an applicant from receiving an award for the ensuing academic year.
- 2.) It is our policy that the award money should not be used to pay off past student accounts.
- 3.) A student must be in good financial standing at any previously attended colleges or universities in order to be considered for a Walter L. Banks scholarship award.
- 4.) Falsification in completing the application, misrepresentation of grades or letters of reference or other conduct unbefitting a Christian will result in disqualification of applicants from current and future awards.

Eligibility:

- 1.) Scholarship award recipients must be members, in good standing, at a Full Membership status church that is in good standing with the Association.
- 2.) Only applicants pursuing post-secondary education at a BFA sanctioned Christian colleges or seminaries are eligible for scholarship awards.

- 3.) Applicants should be newly admitted, reinstated, or currently enrolled at a BFA sanctioned Christian college or seminary for the fall semester of the year of the award.
- 4.) Applicants who are continuing students should have maintained a grade point average above 2.0 out of 4.0 during their most recent semester of study in order to receive serious consideration for an award during the year of application
- 5.) Undergraduate applicants must be pursuing a degree program as demonstrated by registering for courses that match the college's curriculum requirements for their intended major.
- 6.) Applicants pursuing a bachelor's degree must be taking at least twelve (12) credit hours during the fall semester of the year of the award. Under unusual circumstances exceptions may be made, but not guaranteed, to those pursuing a bachelor's degree.
- 7.) Applicants pursuing advanced degrees beyond the bachelor's level must be taking at least six (6) credit hours during the fall semester of the year of the award. Exceptions may be made, but not guaranteed, to those pursuing master's or doctorate degrees that require extensive research for a thesis or dissertation.

Equal Opportunity:

- 1.) Any member in good standing at a Full Membership status church that is in good standing with the Association may make application for a scholarship award. All applicants will receive equal consideration for an award based on the established and current guidelines as approved by the Steering Council.
- 2.) No person shall be excluded from receiving an award based on ethnic or racial criteria.

Fairness:

- 1.) The Scholarship Committee seeks to conduct itself in a Christ-like manner. Therefore, it will by God's grace, make decisions that are honoring to Him.
- 2.) The Scholarship Committee pledges to keep itself functionally free from popular opinion, and pastor or leadership persuasion. Nor will the committee be unduly persuaded by internal pressures that are not in keeping with Christ-like behavior.
- 3.) The committee is a sovereign body dedicated to evaluating and making awards based solely upon truth, stated policies, the applicant qualifications and information that is supplied through the application process.

Frequency of Making Application:

- 1.) Applicants may apply for awards year-after-year, even if they have received previous awards, as long as all criteria and guidelines are adhered to.
- 2.) First time applicants will receive preferred consideration over previous award recipients.

Privacy:

- 1.) Information placed on applications, reference letters, transcripts, etc. and received by the Scholarship Committee is shared only on a "need to know basis" and will not become public knowledge.
- 2.) Committee members who may divulge information in violation of the "need to know basis" will be appropriately disciplined.
- 3.) In no case will information be shared with someone who is not affiliated with the BFA until the applicant makes a request in writing to the committee.

Timing of Awards:

- 1.) Scholarship Awards are granted only once each year and are generally announced at the Annual Conference.
- 2.) Awardees generally will receive written confirmation immediately following the Conference.
- 3.) The award check generally will be sent directly to the college in August and made payable to both the college and recipient.