



Alumnae Panhellenic Scholarship Programs

Many Alumnae Panhellenics award scholarships to deserving female high school graduates, undergraduate members of National Panhellenic Conference sororities and/or NPC alumnae returning to graduate school. As the costs of a college education continue to increase, NPC encourages Alumnae Panhellenics to put an emphasis on scholarship in their annual programming efforts.

Alumnae Panhellenics undertake fundraising activities for scholarship programs that pull together Panhellenic women in support of education. Before starting an Alumnae Panhellenic scholarship program, it is wise to consult with an attorney to be sure that 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.

Scholarships - POLICY

A condition of awarding scholarship monies to graduating high school women cannot be that they participate in recruitment, pledging and subsequent initiation into a NPC member sorority.

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, it is important that applicants are able to express that need through an essay response rather than to provide private family tax documentation. NPC has passed new policies and best practices related to this.

Scholarship Requirements (2018) – POLICY

Alumnae Panhellenics must not ask scholarship applicants for personal/family financial information.

Need-Based Scholarships (2018) – BEST PRACTICE

Alumnae Panhellenics offering need-based scholarships should use the [Expected Family Contribution \(EFC\)](#) calculated by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Federal Student Aid when determining student need for need-based scholarships. Alumnae Panhellenics should ask scholarship applicants to submit a copy of the current year's Student Aid Report from the Department of Education.

Transcript submission requirement

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 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 as applicable.

Scholarship Awards (2018) – BEST PRACTICE

Alumnae Panhellenics awarding scholarships should supply the funds directly to the institution of higher education and not to the student.

Scholarship Awards Attendance (2018) – BEST PRACTICE

A condition of awarding scholarship monies to women should not be attendance at an Alumnae Panhellenic function.

Suggestions for enhancing your Panhellenic scholarship program

- Make the application form simple and easily accessible.
- Set up an email account specifically for the scholarship to which applications can be submitted.
- 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 (i.e., high school counselors, principals, etc.).
- Send a news release to local media about your scholarship and the recipient(s).
- Provide a venue for presenting the scholarship. If your Alumnae Panhellenic cannot host an event, consider presenting the award at an Alumnae Panhellenic meeting, a campus' awards program, a chapter's 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.