



Scholarship Information Packet

2020-2021 School Year Scholarships

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be an initiated member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity at the time of application
- Must be a member in good standing
- Must remain a member in good standing during the 2020-2021 Academic year
- Must maintain full-time undergraduate or graduate degree enrollment as defined by the policies of the institution.

To Apply:

- Complete the Online Scholarship Application which includes:
 - Applicant Personal Information Section
 - Uploading completed Academic Achievement Form
 - Uploading a professional headshot (high-quality photo)
 - Uploading an essay (requirements found on the next page)
- The Electronic Application is found at www.sinfonia.org/apply/

Application Deadline:

- Sunday, April 26, 2020 – Must be submitted online by 11:59 PM Central

Scholarship Distribution:

Scholarship money will be sent to the college/university at which you attend and credited to your student financial account. Note that certain federal scholarships already credited to the applicant may include stipends which require that "new" grant/scholarship money be deducted from the total. Scholarships, by default, are split evenly between the Fall and Spring semester if applicable. If not applicable the scholarship funding will be distributed to just the Fall semester.

Questions:

If you have questions about the scholarship application form or process, please contact the National Headquarters at scholarship@sinfonia.org

Essay Topics

All essays should be typed in Times New Roman font, font size 12, double spaced, and uploaded as a .PDF file. Deviation from this format will automatically disqualify your application.

You will need to upload your essay in the Scholarship Essay section of the application at www.sinfonia.org/apply/

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:

Please prepare a 1-2 page essay on the following topic:

"The Object of this Fraternity shall be for the development of the best and truest fraternal spirit; the mutual welfare and brotherhood of musical students; the advancement of music in America and a loyalty to the Alma Mater."

Why does our Object consider the development, and practical application, of fraternal spirit to be necessary precursors for the advancement of music in America?

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Please prepare an 8-10 page essay on the following topic:

In your experience, what makes Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity uniquely qualified and capable to advance music in America, and what are the key objectives in musical advancement that should be addressed by the Fraternity and individual Sinfonians?

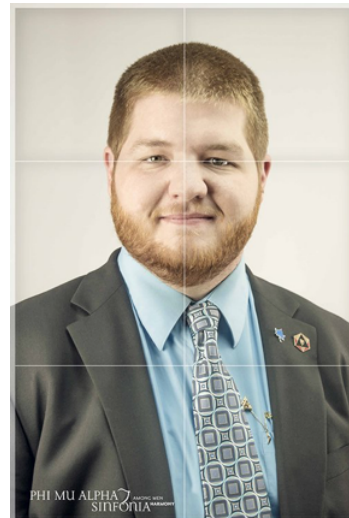
Headshot Specifications:

Upload a head shot style photo of yourself.

Any head shot should be of high quality and not a crop from a group photo.

(e.g. 300px x 500px high quality JPEG minimum).

The required photo should be in full-color (not Black & White or Grayscale), sufficiently centered against a non-distracting background, and in portrait orientation. The applicant should be presented in formal attire for the photo.



Questions:

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Scholarship Information

One completed application will qualify you for all eligible scholarships.

Undergraduate General Scholarships - \$7,500 and \$5,000

The Sinfonia Educational Foundation offers two general scholarships to undergraduate members of the Fraternity each year. The scholarships enable talented students to continue to pursue their education and prepare for careers through which they will enrich the lives of others and advance the cause of music in America.

Graduate Scholarship - \$2,500

Beginning in 2016, the Board of Trustees voted to establish a specific general scholarship in support of students continuing their education through post-graduate study. In recognition of the challenges presented by the rising costs of higher education and an increasingly competitive job market, the SEF is pleased to offer this scholarship to support promising and gifted Sinfonians who seek to pursue advanced degrees.

James H. Patrenos Memorial Scholarship - \$2,500

This scholarship honors the memory of a dedicated and loyal volunteer leader, who inspired generations of collegiate Sinfonians with his gentlemanly Southern charm, loyal friendship, and abundant fraternal spirit. Brother Patrenos was a true exemplar of the "manly musician and musicianly man."

Dr. James Hiram Patrenos, Sr. was initiated at the Epsilon Theta Chapter at Roosevelt University May 14, 1950. He passed away at the age of 77 on September 9, 2002 and is remembered as a friend, professor, and patriot. A marine aviator in the Pacific during World War II, Sergeant Patrenos was awarded seven air medals and two flying crosses for acts of valor during his service.

Dr. Patrenos began his career as a high school band director in his native Alabama. He later was hired as the band director at Troy State University, where he taught piano, organ and advanced theory. He left Troy for Livingston University (now known as the University of West Alabama), where he advanced to various administrative positions until he retired after serving as Interim Provost in 1994. James was a sought-after clinician, conductor and judge throughout the South, and served for many years as a music accreditation reviewer for the Southern Association.

James Patrenos was dedicated to the Fraternity and had a long-standing history of involvement. He was appointed as the inaugural Province Governor (PG) for Province 34 (Alabama) from the inception of the Province in 1967 to the date of his passing, for a total of 35 years. He served on the National Executive Committee (NEC) as Chairman of the PG Council and as Committeeman-at-Large, and served for fifteen years as a Foundation Trustee.

Brother Patrenos was the second recipient of the Ossian E. Mills award, the highest honor the Fraternity can bestow. He was awarded the Robert J. Rogers Lifetime Service Award posthumously in 2003. He was also known for the incredible breakfasts that he would make during his time on the NEC, for a dominating back-hand on the tennis courts, and for his enduring love of antique clocks.

W. Eldridge and Emily Lowe Scholarship - \$1,000

W. Eldridge Lowe was initiated into the Alpha Chapter at the New England Conservatory of Music in 1925. Lowe and his wife, Emily, were lifelong supporters of both education and the Greek movement. Lowe was one of the earliest significant planned giving donors to the Foundation, including us in his estate in 1985.

The Lowe Scholarship serves as an enduring testament to Brother Lowe's love for Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity and his belief in the importance of affording all people access to a quality education.

Christopher Patterson Memorial Scholarship - \$1,000

Funded by the Kappa Sigma chapter and established through Brother Kevin Goebbert, this scholarship honors the memory of Brother Christopher Patterson.

Christopher was initiated in October 2010 into the Kappa Sigma Chapter at Valparaiso University, where he was studying music education. Coming from a strong military family, Christopher enlisted with the Indiana National Guard and served as a 12B Combat Engineer with the 713th Engineering Company based out of the Valparaiso Armory. When his unit was activated, he did not have to go, but he chose to serve his country. Unfortunately, he lost his life in January of 2012 while on active duty in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

Brother Patterson designed a special challenge coin honoring his two passions: Sinfonia and military service. The Patterson family produced the coin following Christopher's death, and today the Sinfonia Veteran Challenge Coin is offered to any Sinfonian who serves, or has served, in the armed forces of the United States.

The Patterson Memorial Scholarship pays tribute to the enduring legacy of Brother Patterson's selfless devotion to his Fraternity Brothers, his brothers-in-arms, and the country he loved and served with honor.

Delta Iota Alumni Scholarship - \$500

The brothers of the Delta Iota chapter at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan, have been leading advocates and generous supporters of the Foundation for nearly five decades. The SEF has been able to develop and sustain a variety of initiatives through the active support of the collegiate chapter and its alumni brothers over the past 45 years, and the chapter has always provided annual support. The Alumni of Delta Iota chapter became the first such group to establish funding for an annual scholarship, allowing the SEF to provide scholarships to as many brothers as possible. This scholarship, in keeping with the strong tradition of fraternal interaction and support for the National Fraternity exemplified by Delta Iota brothers, is not restricted to members of the chapter, but is available to all undergraduate members of the Fraternity.

Questions:

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Academic Achievement

This form is to be completed by a Faculty Advisor, Department Chair, or Academic Advisor.

Date : _____

Dear members of the Sinfonia Educational Foundation Scholarship Committee:

Mr. _____, a student at _____, has requested that we confirm to you his academic status. Such statements are made for the convenience of the student and without liability on our part.

His cumulative academic average to the end of last term/semester is _____

We use the following grading system: A = _____; C = _____
(Example: A = 4.0, C = 2.0)

I hereby verify that he is a student in good standing under the policies of this institution.
Sincerely,

Name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Title: _____

For the Applicant

Please upload this completed document as a clear PDF in the designated area on your online Scholarship Application. The scan should be legible, so please verify before submitting.

*If you experience complications uploading please contact
the National Headquarters at scholarship@sinfonia.org*

Writing an Effective Essay

The written essay for the SEF Scholarship Application contributes 50% of your evaluated application score. It's important to focus on your essay and make it as effective as you can. This is the primary way to convey both your academic and reasoning abilities and your Sinfonian identity to the judging panel.

Undergraduate Essays are expected to be 1-2 pages in length, providing a well-reasoned and thoughtful response to the topic question.

Graduate Essays are expected to reflect a more advanced writing capability and a demonstration of the skills necessary to succeed in graduate school. Applicants are required to write 8-10 pages to develop the response to the topic question.

Tip #1: Read the Instructions Carefully.

The format for the essay is given in the Scholarship Information Packet. Each year, approximately 10-15% of the applications are disqualified because the essays do not meet the required formatting instructions. Your best chance for a scholarship begins here. Failure to heed the formatting instructions can negate a winning essay.

Tip #2: Understand the Purpose of the Essay.

The essay type we utilize is a modified persuasive essay. You are provided a topic question in the application. The goal should be to answer that question as effectively as you can. Extraneous "filler" material wastes valuable space and should be avoided. Anything that does not contribute to the development of a precise answer to the topic question will tend to lower your score.

The very first paragraph of your essay should be your introduction of the topic question, with a summarized response. It should provide the reader with your opening argument, and that argument should be developed and justified through the body of the essay, and then restated at the end.

For example, if the topic question were "How has Sinfonia given you a greater understanding of the power of music, and how will you apply this power in your life and the lives of others in the future?", an effective opening paragraph would be the example given below.

"I was initiated into the Gamma Gamma chapter at State College University in 2017, but had no idea then of how much Sinfonia would change my life. The first time I was included in "The Parting Song" with the collegiate Brothers, my understanding of music changed. Sinfonia has allowed me to experience the power of music in three ways—by improving my musicianship, through the connections I experience at our Mills Music Missions, and by teaching me how to use music to connect with others. As a future teacher, I am committed to providing my students with a personal understanding of the healing power of music."

The essay would then expand on how improvements in musicianship allowed a greater personal experience of music's power, how the Mills Music Mission's use of music allowed you to experience its power to enrich the human spirit, and how you learned to use music with others as a means of interpersonal communication... *(cont.)*

The remaining paragraphs would focus on how you want to apply what you've learned in your own life, and how you plan to share the knowledge with others. The closing paragraph should summarize and restate your opening argument. The purpose of the body of your persuasive essay—what comes after the opening paragraph and before your closing paragraph—is to “prove” your opening argument by providing evidence and events that explain and document the claims you assert.

The essay should provide a compelling and persuasive narrative that expands on the statement you made in answer to the essay question, in your opening argument. It should flow logically from the first paragraph to the closing paragraph.

Tip #3: Plan your Approach and Follow the Plan.

- Analyze the topic question asked, and jot down some brief answers or points you want to make in response.
- Write out a 2-3 sentence opening paragraph, incorporating your answers.
- Write your essay, making sure that you have provided explanation for each of the main points in your opening argument.
- Revise your essay for form and content.
- Ask someone else to read your essay and make suggestions for further revision.
- Revise again.
- Proofread carefully. Try reading the essay aloud, slowly. This will help you catch any missing words, autocorrect errors and awkward phrasing.

Tip #4: “Do”s and “Don’t”s

DO...

- Answer all the questions asked.
- Be honest and confident in your statements.
- Write a coherent and interesting essay.
- Make your opening paragraph the best paragraph in your essay.
- Use the application essay as a form of introduction.
- Make sure your essay has absolutely perfect spelling and mechanics.

DON'T...

- Write what you think the scholarship committee wants to hear. You are probably wrong, and such a response is likely to make you blend into the crowd rather than stand out from it.
- Fail to answer the specific topic question. Writing a general essay on “Why I love Sinfonia” or “What I learned in Probationary Membership” will not work in your favor. You are being scored on how effectively you answered the topic question.
- Use empty, vague, over-used words like “meaningful,” “beautiful,” “challenging,” “invaluable,” or “rewarding.”
- Overwrite or belabor a minor point about yourself.
- Repeat information directly from the application form itself unless you use it to illustrate a point or want to develop it further.
- Try to be funny. You don’t want to take the risk they won’t get the joke.
- Get too personal about religion, politics, or your lack of education (avoid emotional catharsis).
- Include footnotes, clichés, or long-winded and slow introductions.
- Allow any superficial errors in spelling, mechanics, grammar, punctuation, format, or printing to go unnoticed.