



PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Application 2011/2012



PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION
Building a better America through Education and Hellenism

May 1, 2011

Dear Applicant,

Welcome to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation. We commend you for your interest in becoming one of our recipients, and for your commitment to your own education. Since 1998, this Foundation has been offering scholarships to Greek American students who attain high academic performance.

In addition to the monetary benefit of the award, being selected as a scholarship recipient is an honor in and of itself. Maintaining high standards is very important to the Foundation, and it is an important distinction which you will carry for the rest of your lives. We help preserve the uniqueness of this special status by having you automatically inducted into the PanHellenic Honors Society, just by being an award recipient.

On the following pages, you will find pertinent information on the Foundation including its mission, philosophy, and operational guidelines. It has been included so that you will have a better understanding of the value of the PanHellenic Award.

Good Luck,

Chris P. Tomaras
Chairman, Board of Directors



OUR MISSION

This Foundation has a singular mission: “To promote education by which Greek American PanHellenic Award Recipients become significant achievers and, guided by the values of their Hellenic upbringing, contribute meaningfully to the ongoing development of the American society.”

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Scholastic achievement and accomplishments are the primary ingredients for success. Add to these the practice of Hellenic values and you complement the character of individuals with a strong sense of civic responsibility and leadership credentials. In this way, we promote a future for a better America with advanced education and the principles of Hellenism. As a result we strengthen our civic fabric and deliver enlightened and engaged citizens.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is the largest national Greek American organization in America that recognizes and honors exceptional college students of Hellenic descent and supports their efforts with significant financial grants.

The PanHellenic Awards are offered to undergraduate students who are selected based, first and foremost, on academic merit, and secondly, on financial need.

It is the intention of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation to continue to offer \$250,000 in

Scholarship Awards to deserving Greek American students each and every year. In doing so, we offer twenty (20) Awards of \$10,000 each based on academic excellence and financial need, and twenty (20) Awards of \$2,500 each based solely on academic excellence. Both groups must first meet the Foundation’s academic criteria.

PANHELLENIC HONORS SOCIETY

A special distinction is granted to each Scholarship Award Recipient in addition to their monetary award. All recipients are automatically inducted into the PanHellenic Honors Society. This is a network of distinguished individuals, whose purpose is to foster the spirit of Hellenic culture and ideals, create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, sustain the Foundations’ goals and objectives, promote leadership, and develop character.

WHO WE ARE

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is an Illinois non-profit corporation with an IRS designation of 501(c)(3). It is administered by a Board of Directors and an Executive Committee (Officers). A separate Advisory Board representing a range of professional disciplines provides to the Foundation guidance and support. The selection of Scholarship Award Recipients is made by an Academic Committee appointed by the Board of Directors. This Committee works independently and makes its decisions based on defined criteria. Members of the Board of Directors, Officers, the Advisory Board and employees of the Foundation may not serve on the Academic Committee.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Applicants are advised that the next PanHellenic Scholarship Awards will be distributed in June 2012 instead of November 2011. Although applications may be submitted at any time before the January 31, 2012 deadline, applicants must have completed their Fall 2011 studies in order to qualify and submit official transcripts including Fall 2011.

PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS QUALIFICATION CRITERIA, REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES

PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The PanHellenic Scholarship Awards (“Awards”) are offered to recognize and honor Greek American students of high scholastic achievement and reward all recipients with monetary awards.

The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation (“Foundation”) will offer a total of \$250,000 to forty (40) recipients selected by the Academic Selection Committee (“Committee”) as follows:

- **Twenty (20) Awards of \$10,000 each based on academic excellence and financial need.**
- **Twenty (20) Awards of \$2,500 each based solely on academic excellence.**

All applicants must first meet the Eligibility Requirements regardless of which of the two Awards they pursue and submit a PanHellenic Scholarship Application (“Application”) to the Foundation.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicants must be U.S. Citizens or U.S. Permanent Residents.
- Applicants must have permanent residency in the U.S.
- Applicants must be of Hellenic descent. Applicants must have at least one great grandparent with Hellenic roots.
- Applicants must have a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average (“G.P.A.”) 3.5 on a 4.0 grade scale. Transcripts issued on a 5.0 grade scale must be accompanied by a conversion to a 4.0 grade scale, issued by the academic institution. Both documents must be sent by the issuing academic institution directly to the Foundation.
- **High School Graduates:** 2011 high school graduates from a state certified high school, or equivalent, who are enrolled as full time students in Fall 2011 to attend an accredited university/college in the U.S. pursuing a four-year bachelor degree. Students who have graduated from a non U.S. high school must have completed 24 credit hours at an accredited university/college in the U.S. in order to apply.
- **University/College Students:** Undergraduate full time students who currently attend an accredited university/college in the U.S. pursuing a four-year bachelor degree. Applicants must be 25 years of age or younger at the time of application.

FINANCIAL CRITERIA

To qualify as a financial-need applicant, in addition to the Eligibility Requirements, the applicant must meet the following income criteria:

<u>Family of</u>	<u>Adjusted Gross Income (less than)</u>
2	\$39,000
3	\$47,000
4	\$55,000
5	\$63,000
6	\$71,000
7	\$79,000
Each additional family member	Add \$8,000

Complete copies of the family/household tax returns for the years 2009 and 2010 must accompany the application. The average adjusted gross income of these two years will apply. Additional financial information may be requested, if needed. All financial information remains confidential.

Note: The eligibility of applicants who are orphaned or both parents are unemployed shall be evaluated on a case by case basis. In cases of extreme hardship or other circumstances, the Committee may waive the above criteria at its sole discretion.

PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA, REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES *(continued)*

CHARACTER REFERENCES

Two letters of character reference are required for all applicants. Two individuals (not relatives), such as priests, current or previous employers or other members in your community, must each prepare and sign a character reference letter. Each letter must be accompanied by the letter of character reference form (p.10), mailed by the referee directly to the Foundation and postmarked no later than the deadline. All letters must be dated within the last nine months of the application deadline.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Two letters of recommendation are required for all applicants. University professors must prepare and sign a recommendation letter, specifically addressing your scholastic performance. Each letter must be accompanied by the letter of recommendation form (p.11) and must be mailed by the recommender directly to the Foundation and postmarked no later than the deadline. All recommendation letters must be submitted on official letterhead and dated within the last nine months of the application deadline.

All recommendation letters must be prepared by educators who are in the position to provide an informed evaluation of your academic performance. Recommendation letters prepared by any other individual such as guidance counselors, academic advisors, principals, etc., will not be accepted and the application will be disqualified.

Note: Freshmen students may obtain one of the two letters of recommendation from a high school teacher.

TRANSCRIPTS

Official transcripts must be sent directly to the Foundation from the issuing academic institution in a sealed envelope and postmarked no later than the deadline.

- Applicants that have completed more than 24 credit hours must submit official university transcripts (including Fall 2011).
- Applicants that have completed 24 or less credit hours must submit both official university transcripts (including Fall 2011) and official high school transcripts. These students must meet the minimum 3.5 G.P.A. requirement for both high school and university, as both will be taken into consideration.

Note: Transcripts on a 5.0 grade scale must be accompanied by a conversion to a 4.0 grade scale issued by the academic institution. Both documents must be sent by the issuing academic institution directly to the Foundation.

ESSAY

Applicants must submit a typed essay **between 750 – 1000 words** that addresses the connection(s) between Hellenic contributions to the world and America today. This essay will be judged by the Foundation's Committee and will be given serious consideration.

In writing the essay, do not limit your focus only on ancient Greece but also refer to the relations between Greece and the U.S. during the 20th – 21st centuries. Review Greek immigration history and its contributions to American society and evaluate the future of the Greek American community in the U.S.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Proof of Registration

Applicants must submit their Spring 2012 course registration as soon as it becomes available (*this may be submitted separately*). This does not apply to students graduating in Fall 2011.

Short Biography

Submit a short biography in paragraph format and **up to 100 words**. Include your major, career goal and any special interests and achievements together with any scholastic honors or distinctions received. This text will be used in our program book if you are selected as one of the recipients. Please refer to our website to view award winner biographies from past years for examples. (www.panhellenicscholarships.org/alumni.php).

Photograph

Submit a small portrait photograph, which will be used in our program book if you are selected as one of the recipients. Please do not send any photocopies or photographs with other persons in the picture. Please refer to our website for examples.

Additionally, you must submit your Essay, Biography and Photograph (high resolution) via email to info@panhellenicscholarships.org.

PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
QUALIFICATION CRITERIA, REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES *(continued)*

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application and all required documentation must be postmarked by **Tuesday, January 31, 2012**. Failure to have the application and required documentation postmarked by the deadline will disqualify the application.

AWARDS DISTRIBUTION

- The Awards are granted regardless of other scholarships the applicant may have received from other institutions.
- The same student may not be granted an Award more than once by the Foundation.
- Awards will be given to the recipients in June 2012 at the Foundation's annual awards ceremony in Chicago, at a time and location to be announced.
- In order to collect the Award, recipients must attend the awards ceremony in person. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.

AUTHORIZED USE OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The Award shall be used solely to cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, room and board, computers, health insurance, study abroad, or other college related expenses.

ELIGIBILITY LIMITATIONS

- Directors, officers, employees of the Foundation and their immediate families are not eligible to apply for an Award.
- The Awards are not available to home school study applicants.
- The Awards are not available to graduate or post-graduate students.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The application must be postmarked by the deadline of January 31, 2012 and sent to:

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
17 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 600
Chicago, Illinois 60602

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: 312-357-6432
Fax: 312-357-0527
Email: info@panhellenicscholarships.org
Website: www.panhellenicscholarships.org

All information provided by the applicants is strictly confidential.

PART B: APPLICANT'S INFORMATION (continued)

Are you or your family a member of a Greek Orthodox Parish? Yes No

If yes, please state: _____
Church Name *City* *State*

Your answer will not affect your eligibility for an award.

PART C: APPLICANT'S ACADEMIC HISTORY

High School: _____
_____ *City* *State*

Final Cumulative High School Grade Point: (on a scale of 4.0): _____

ACT Score: _____ and/or SAT Score: _____

Rank in high school graduating class: # _____ out of _____ (if available)

University/College: _____
_____ *City* *State*

In Fall 2011, I will be attending as a (select one):

- Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

University/College credits completed through Fall 2011: _____

University/College Grade Point Average through Fall 2011: _____

Intended Major: _____

Please detail any Greek education received (this may include Greek school, college courses, private lessons, etc):

PART D: PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Honors and Awards: List any academic distinctions and awards you have received.

Aspirations and Career Goals: Describe how your academic coursework will contribute toward your aspirations and career goals.

Extracurricular, Personal and Volunteer Activities: List your principal extracurricular and community activities. Include any major accomplishments.

PART D: PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS & DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES *(continued)*

Paid Work Experience / Student Income Information: List any job (including summer employment) you have held during the last three years.

Do you contribute to your family's household expenses? Yes No If yes, please explain:

If there is any additional information you would like to share, please do so below.

PART E: LIVING SITUATION AND PARENT / GUARDIAN INFORMATION

What is your current living situation?

- Live with parent(s) Live at a dormitory Live with relatives
 Other (please specify): _____

FEMALE Parent/Guardian Living with Applicant:

- Mother Stepmother Relative who is not foster parent
 State-licensed foster mother No female parent in household Other: _____

Name: _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced or Separated Widowed

Place of Birth: _____
City State Zip Country

Address (if different from yours) _____

City State Zip Country

Employer Name: _____

Position: _____

MALE Parent/Guardian Living with Applicant:

- Father Stepfather Relative who is not foster parent
 State-licensed foster father No male parent in household Other: _____

Name: _____

Marital Status: Single Married Divorced or Separated Widowed

Place of Birth: _____
City State Zip Country

Address (if different from yours) _____

City State Zip Country

Employer Name: _____

Position: _____

PART F: PLEDGE OF AUTHENTICITY, AGREEMENT AND CONSENT

If you are under the age of 18 at the time of this application, you must have a parent/guardian sign the statement below.

By my/our signature on this form I/we pledge that:

- The statements made and circumstances represented throughout the entire PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation application are truthful to the best of my/our knowledge.
- The essay accompanying this application is the applicant’s own work, although it may have been reviewed by parents, teachers or other advocates.
- All of the financial information I/we have provided is complete and accurate.

By my/our signature on this form we understand and agree that:

- The information submitted in this application will be reviewed by the independent Academic Selection Committee of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation for the purposes of selection.
- During the selection process, the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation staff may contact school officials to confirm information provided by the applicant.
- All financial information is subject to verification by the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation staff. If requested, additional information and other documents will be provided.
- It is my responsibility to ensure that all required documentation that is sent directly to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation, such as character reference letters, recommendation letters and transcripts, have been received by the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.
- If the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation finds information provided in this application to be false or inaccurate, it is sufficient cause for disqualification from the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation program.
- The PanHellenic Scholarship Application, including but not limited to eligibility requirements and obligations, is subject to change at the discretion of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.
- The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation may demand return of the scholarship award in the event the funds are not used for educational purposes as stated in this document or the student discontinues his/her undergraduate studies at an accredited university in the U.S.
- Selection of the award recipients is made by the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation's independent Academic Selection Committee and its decision is final.
- Availability of scholarship funds is subject to change at the sole discretion of the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.

By my/our signature on this form:

- I, the undersigned student, irrevocably give the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation the right to (1) share all personal information that I have provided with this application and (2) use my name and photograph for any program or PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation purpose. The above shall be subject to public dissemination by any media or other form of release. Income Tax Returns are excluded unless so ordered by a court of law or government agency.
- I hereby authorize access to, and release of, information to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation regarding my application, such as academic records and/or financial records necessary to verify my eligibility for scholarship consideration.
- If I am selected as a PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation award recipient, I will, upon the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation’s request, sign additional releases in form and substance acceptable to PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation.
- If I am selected as a PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation award recipient, I agree to become a member of the PanHellenic Honors Society and cooperate with the Foundation to achieve its goals within the spirit of its mission.
- If selected to receive a PanHellenic Award, I am aware that I must be present at the Awards Ceremony to collect the Award.

APPLICANT NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
17 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 600
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Letter of Character Reference Form

This form must accompany your letter of character reference. Please mail this form and your signed letter directly to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation at the address shown above postmarked no later than **January 31, 2012**. All letters must be dated within the last nine months of the application deadline. Please be advised that reference letters from relatives will not be accepted.

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Letter provided for (Applicant's full name): _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
17 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 600
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Letter of Recommendation Form

This form must accompany your letter of recommendation. Please mail this form and your signed letter directly to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation at the address shown above postmarked no later than **January 31, 2012**.

Please be advised that all recommendation letters must be prepared by instructors that have had the opportunity to evaluate the applicant as a student. All recommendation letters must be submitted on official letterhead and dated within the last nine months of the application deadline. Recommendation letters prepared by any other individual such as guidance counselors, academic advisors, principals, etc., will not be accepted.

Full Name: _____

Title: _____

University or High School: _____

Office Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Letter provided for (Applicant's full name): _____

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What is considered a complete application?**
A complete application will include:
 - Scholarship application completed and signed by applicant and/or parent/guardian
 - Income tax returns (*if applicable*)
 - Essay
 - Proof of registration for Spring 2012 (*may be submitted separately*)
 - Short biography
 - Photograph
 - Two character reference letters (*mailed separately*)
 - Two letters of recommendation (*mailed separately*)
 - Official transcripts (*mailed separately*)
- **Can I apply for more than one PanHellenic Scholarship Award?**
The same student cannot be awarded a PanHellenic Scholarship Award more than once.
- **What is a family of two?**
A family of two is one parent and one child.
- **What is a family of three?**
A family of three is one parent and two children or two parents and one child.
- **My G.P.A. is 3.5. Am I eligible to apply as a financial need candidate?**
All applicants with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.5 that meet the Financial Criteria (page 1) are eligible to apply for the \$10,000 Award.
- **My G.P.A. is 3.5. but I do not qualify as a financial need candidate. Am I eligible to apply for a PanHellenic Award?**
All applicants with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.5 that do not qualify to apply for a \$10,000 Award are eligible to apply based on their scholastic achievements for a \$2,500 Award.
- **I am a high school senior. Am I eligible to apply?**
Only 2011 high schools graduates who are enrolled as full time students in Fall 2011 to attend an accredited university/college in the U.S. pursuing a four-year bachelor degree are eligible to apply for this year's awards. 2012 high school graduates must wait for the 2012/2013 application.
- **I graduated from a non-U.S. high school and I will attend an accredited university in the U.S. Am I eligible to apply?**
You must be a U.S Citizen or U.S. Permanent Resident and you must first have completed 24 credit hours at an accredited university in the U.S. in order to apply.
- **I am U.S Citizen or U.S. Permanent Resident. I am applying as a financial need candidate. My parents do not live in the U.S. but in another country. How do they report their income?**
Copies of original Income Tax Returns for 2009 and 2010 must be submitted accompanied by conversion to an equivalent U.S. Income Tax Return prepared by a U.S tax accountant. Additional financial information may be requested, if needed.
- **How do I prove my Greek descent ?**
Describe in some detail your family line of Greek descent. No specific documentation is required at this time. If further proof is required you will be notified.
- **Where do I submit my application?**
PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
17 North Wabash Avenue, Suite 600
Chicago, Illinois 60602
- **When will I be notified?**
All applicants will be notified by mail by April 15, 2012.
- **If I am selected as a recipient do I have to attend the Awards Ceremony?**
If you are selected to receive an award, you must attend the awards ceremony in person to collect your award. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis.
- **If I am selected as a recipient and I attend the Awards Ceremony, who covers my expenses?**
Your attendance to the ceremony and gala dinner is complimentary but all your other expenses, such as airfare and hotel, are your responsibility.
- **What is your contact information?**
Phone: 312-357-6432
Fax: 312-357-0527
Email: info@panhellenicscholarships.org
Website: www.panhellenicscholarships.org

CHECKLIST

(for Applicant's use only)

Please review and check each item before you submit your application:

- I read the Qualification Criteria, Requirements and Guidelines and I am eligible to apply.
- I completed Part A: Scholarship Awards.
- I completed Part B: Applicant's Information.
- I completed Part C: Applicant's Academic History.
- I completed Part D: Personal Achievements & Development Activities.
- I completed Part E: Living Situation and Parent/Guardian Information.
- I have signed and dated Part F: Pledge of Authenticity, Agreement and Consent.
- I have submitted my essay with my application.
- I have submitted my proof of registration for Spring 2012.
- I have submitted my short biography with my application.
- I have submitted my portrait photograph with my application.
- I sent my Essay, Biography and Photograph (high resolution) via email to info@panhellenicscholarships.org.
- I have requested character reference letters from two (2) persons. *Each letter must be accompanied by the letter of character reference form (p.10), mailed by the referee directly to the Foundation and postmarked no later than the deadline.*
- I have requested two (2) recommendation letters from my professors. *Each letter must be accompanied by the letter of recommendation form (p.11) and must be mailed by the recommender directly to the Foundation and postmarked no later than the deadline.*
- I have ordered my official transcripts (see page 2) to be sent directly to the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation by the issuing academic institution postmarked no later than the deadline.
- I have submitted complete copies of the family/household tax returns for 2009 & 2010.

Missing any of the above items will render your application incomplete and you will be disqualified.