

College Planning Guide



Scholarships & Merit Award

Scholarship Applications

⇒ Personal Information

- Name, expected major, etc.

⇒ Personal Statements and Essays: Most scholarships will require one or more of the following:

- Written *personal statement or essay* describing yourself, your goals/plans for the future, barriers you have or will need to overcome, etc. or a statement about your community service, leadership, and extracurricular activities.
- Statements or essays about topics they give you. These statements or essays may range from one paragraph to a couple of pages.
 - Make sure you address the questions they are asking.
- Resume- online templates can be found at www.aie.org/finding_a_career/

⇒ Recommendations

- Many scholarships require letters of recommendation from people that know you well in an academic setting.
 - **Do not** use family members, your old babysitter, or a friend. These are usually not good choices.
 - **Do not** get all recommendations from the same organization; get them from variety of people: a school teacher, school counselor, UB counselor, community org., etc.
 - **Do not** just ask for letters of recommendation. Provide a letter of request and either your resume or an information form (see pages 23-24).
 - Make sure that your recommender knows what you are applying for - what the scholarship emphasizes (e.g., leadership, academics, overcoming challenges, etc.) and when the application is due.
 - When asking for a recommendation – give your recommender plenty of time (at least 2 weeks).
 - Consider waiving your right to view the recommendation, colleges prefer that teachers and counselors have the ability to write candidly about a student.
-

- Arrange a day to pick up the recommendation and include it with your application. If the recommender is to send the letter directly, be sure to provide a pre-addressed, stamped envelope.

⇒ **SAT & ACT scores and high school transcript**

- Most scholarships will require that you enclose a copy of your high school transcript and your ACT or SAT scores.

COPTIC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION- MERIT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2010

Overview:

To encourage our youth to continue their education following secondary school, the Coptic Educational Foundation is pleased to offer a Merit Achievement Award Program (MAAP) for high school seniors.

Selection is based on both academic and non-academic aspects of student achievements. The evaluation criteria for academic achievement is based on grade point average, scholastic tests score such as SAT & ACT, extra-curricular activities, educational aspirations, career goals, and an appraisal by the high school counselor. The evaluation criteria for non-academic achievement are based on community services and other aspects such as leadership, and work experience.

Number of Awards:

A minimum of ten (10) applicants will be awarded a one-time \$1,000 award applicable toward the educational expenses of four-year schools. This is a competitive award program. Not all students who apply will receive awards.

Student Eligibility:

1. Students must be graduating seniors of public or private (secondary) high schools in California.
2. Students must be an active member of one of the Coptic Orthodox Churches in Southern California.
3. Students must have demonstrated strong community involvement.
4. Students must complete "The Personal Statement" describing their plans as they relate to their educational and career objectives and long term goals.
5. Students must submit a copy of the "Letter of Admission" from the College or University they plan to attend.
6. Students must have their high school toward a copy of their transcripts.

Complete the on-line application and submit all the required documents by May 31

Awards and Selection Process

Academic Achievement, Community Involvement and Leadership:

Selection is based on academic and non-academic achievement and information demonstrating the student's participation and leadership in community service activities. The students selected must rank high in a combination of areas. Students are evaluated only on the information they provide; therefore, serious attention should be given to completing all areas of the application.

COPTIC EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION- MERIT ACHIEVMENT AWARD

- CEF retains the right to change or terminate this program at any time.
- CEF is not responsible for applications lost, misplaced, or delayed through the mail or other delivery processes.
- Once submitted, the application becomes the property of CEF. All information is kept confidential.

Winners of the merit achievement award will be notified by July 31.

How do I apply?

1. Carefully complete the on-line application, listing all pertinent facts relating to your personal and academic achievements.
2. Request a copy of your official transcript of grades from your school, as well as your GPA calculation and your SAT Score.
3. Request from your school counselor, advisor, teacher or supervisor who knows of your accomplishments for completion of the "Applicant Appraisal" section. Two appraisals are required.
4. Submit a copy of the "Letter of Admission" from the College or University you plan to attend.

Application

For More Information:

If you have any questions, please call Cherif Youssef at 818-807-8505 or print out application at www.copticedu.org under *Merit Achievement Award* tab.
