



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FAQ'S

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'm a GSBA scholar now; do I need to apply?

If you are a current GSBA scholar, pursuing your undergraduate degree, you do NOT need to apply to GSBA again. If you are graduating this academic year, and will then be applying for a new program or graduate school, you DO need to apply. For example, if you became a GSBA scholar while pursuing an Associate's degree, and received 2 years of funding to complete your Associate's degree, and have now decided to pursue a Bachelor's degree, you DO apply. If you have graduated with a Bachelor's degree and now want to pursue graduate school, you DO apply.

What if my school isn't in Washington state?

That's okay! While you must be a Washington State resident to qualify for a GSBA scholarship, you may study at any accredited college or university. Applicants are considered a resident if they meet one or more of the following criteria: 1. Have lived in WA since September 2024 or earlier. 2. Have lived in WA for at least one year at any time in the past five years (2020-2025). OR 3. Have lived in WA for more than one year at any time, and have been continuously enrolled in an accredited school over during the past five years (for ex: grew up in WA, have been attending school in another state).

What if I'm a graduate student?

We do offer a limited number of graduate school awards, and these vary from 1-2 years.

Is there a minimum GPA requirement?

There is no minimum GPA requirement. We understand that grades are only one piece of your academic journey. Do not allow doubts about your GPA stop you from completing this application! We are simply interested in where you are thus far on this journey.

What if English isn't my first language?

If submitting your application in a language other than English would better for you, please do! We contract with a language translation service for non-English applications to ensure the most accurate translation possible. If you have questions about this, feel free to reach out to us and we can address your specific scenario.



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How are essay questions evaluated?

Responses to essay questions are evaluated for detail and clarity in their responses, using a 1-5 point scale:

- 5 - fully answered this area with detail.
- 4 - mostly, but could have added more clarity and/or specific details.
- 3 - yes, and have several lingering questions.
- 2 - a start, but is lacking focus and/or detail.
- 1 - response is written, but does not address the question asked.

Is there a maximum word count for the essay questions?

The character limit for each essay question is 3000. Write your essay responses in a separate document to then copy and paste into the application.

What is the policy around using AI for essay responses?

While AI can be a useful editing tool, we want essay responses to be your authentic voice. Submissions that appear to include mostly or entirely AI generated content may be disqualified.

Can I create a video response instead of writing an essay?

If you would like to create a video response to any of the four essay questions, you may, and please include a link to that video in the text box. In the settings, be sure to allow anyone with the link to view the video. Please limit your video to 5 minutes for each question.



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When are applications due?

All applications are due by 5 p.m. PST on Friday, January 10, 2025. To be fair to all applicants, we will not accept late applications. When you submit your application, you will receive an email confirmation. If you have any questions or need assistance with uploads, please reach out to scholarship@thegsba.org

How many scholarships are available?

We expect to have 25 open scholarships for 2025-26, and can receive up to 400 applicants each year. This is about a 6% award rate, in line with the national average. Once you have applied for this scholarship, do check in to the following scholarships for the LGBTQ+ community:

[Pride Foundation](#)

[Stonewall Foundation](#)

[Point Foundation](#)

What is the timeline following the application due date?

January

Friday, January 10, 2025 at 5 p.m. PST

All applications due.

February

February 2025

Volunteers review applications with a rubric, scoring on the 5-point scale provided.

March

On either Friday or Saturday, March 14 or 15, 2025

A select number of applicants will be invited to interview, via Zoom, with GSBA volunteers and staff. You will be contacted via email and/or text (if phone number provided) between February 24-March 1 to schedule this interview.

January - February 2025

Applications are reviewed for eligibility and completeness.

Week of March 17, 2025

Awards will be announced, via email. Once all awards are accepted, all applicants will be contacted.