

For many students, continuing education beyond high school is a challenging decision due to financial circumstances. The United Methodist Foundation wants to empower students to continue their education by providing financial assistance.

PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT CAREFULLY TO ENSURE YOUR ELIGIBILITY AND TO PREPARE.

ONLY APPLICANTS APPLYING FOR SELF WILL BE ACCEPTED.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING CLASSES 2017 THROUGH 2023.

CHURCH LEADER MUST EMAIL BRIEF LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION TO SCHOLARSHIPS@UMFNIC.ORG BY APRIL 30, 2023.

DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2023

AMOUNT: \$2500

This scholarship is designed to assist **MINORITY UNITED METHODIST** students to attend a trade school, community college, college, or university. "Minority" refers to people of racial and ethnic minority identities.

This information is only used for the scholarship application process and will not be used for any other purpose. Only the UM Foundation staff and scholarship committee will have access to this information. Your responses will be kept private and secure.

All students must meet the following criteria:

- Must be an active member of a United Methodist Church within the Northern Illinois Conference for at least one year prior to applying.
- Must be enrolled or planning to enroll in a part-time or full-time program at an accredited NON-PROFIT educational institution in the United States. Preference will be given to applicants planning to attend a community college and/or a trade school.
- Part-time or full-time program attendance.
- **Scholarship will prioritize students considering their circumstances for financial assistance.**
- Graduate programs and Doctoral (including PhD and any other doctorate-level program) candidates are not eligible.
- International students are not eligible.

Other Important Notes:

- Students may receive only ONE scholarship from UYMS per year.
- The scholarship can be used for one complete academic year.
- Awards are made for one academic year. Recipients may apply for a second year, however new applicants will be given priority. A person may not receive awards for more than two academic years.
- Awards must be used for the payment of tuition. Checks will be mailed directly to the business office of the school where the student is enrolled, with instructions that the full amount be applied to the student's account.
- Scholarships offered by UYMS are separate from those offered by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF) and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM). You are welcome to apply for all. You can only receive one scholarship from UYMS per year.

Application process:

- Verify eligibility.
- Complete application online by April 30 of applicable year.

- All awards are made for the subsequent academic year.
- You will be notified via email of your application disposition by mid-June.
- UYMS will transfer awarded funds to the recipient's school in the fall after verification of enrollment is received from the school's Registrar's Office. It is the recipient's responsibility to request and ensure that their Registrar's Office sends verification of their enrollment to UYMS no later than October 1. A reminder about this requirement will be sent with award notifications.

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ONLY ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

START HERE: <https://umfnc.org/uplift>

BEFORE YOU BEGIN, PREPARE AND GATHER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Applicant Information

Your Email *

Your FIRST name as it appears in your school registration *

Your LAST name as it appears in your school registration *

Your MIDDLE name or initial as it appears in your school registration (if applicable)

Your date of birth *

Your preferred mailing street address *

Your street #2 (if applicable)

Your city *

Your state *

Your zip code *

Your primary phone number *

Your preferred pronouns (if desired, enter "prefer not to answer") *

Describe how you identify in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, and other terms. *

Church Information

In which UM church is your membership? (enter full name and address) *

Name of church leader (pastor, youth leader, Sunday school teacher, etc.) to provide personal recommendation (you must ask this leader to email a very brief letter of recommendation) *

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Church leader's email *

How long have you been a member of this UM church? (round to years) *

Briefly describe your involvement in the church (1000 characters or less) *

High School Information

High school graduation year *

High school name and address *

High school unweighted GPA (4.0 scale) *

Briefly describe your school activities (clubs, sports, band, etc.), volunteer service, jobs, internships, and any honors you may have received (2000 characters or less) *

Post-High School Information

Name and address of the college, university, or trade school in which you are enrolled or will soon enroll *

Website URL of the educational institution (copy and paste the URL from your browser) *

Your enrollment status (current or near future) *

- Full-time
- Part-time

Your employment status (check all that apply) *

- Currently full-time
- Currently part-time
- Not currently employed
- Planning full-time employment while attending school
- Planning part-time employment while attending school
- Not planning employment while attending school

What year will the 2023-2024 school year be for your post-secondary education?

Degree / certification being sought *

"Certification" covers a multitude of vocations: e.g. computers, health care, hospitality, legal, logistics, trade, etc.

- Associate
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Science
- Certification in vocational training

Identify your major or, if certification, the vocation and name of the certification. *

If 2023-2024 will be your 2nd year or later, what is your current GPA? (4.0 scale; if 1st year, enter 0) *

Anticipated graduation year *

What are your plans as they relate to your future educational goals and aspirations?

- Strengthen skills
- Earn degree and transfer to another school
- Graduate and enter workforce
- Graduate and seek higher degree

Financial Information

If you have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and received your Expected Family Contribution (EFC), enter that number here.

Please describe other scholarships you may have been awarded (1000 characters or less) *

If you did not enter your EFC above, briefly describe why this scholarship is a good fit for you considering financial assistance (1000 characters or less)

Your Essay

Below are the essay prompts for the 2022-2023 Common Application. If you have already written your essay for the Common App, copy-and-paste it below. If not, then write a brief essay in response to ONE of the following prompts. (maximum of 650 words, 5000 characters)

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

Copy-and-paste your essay *

IDENTIFY THE NUMBER OF THE PROMPT TO WHICH YOU ARE RESPONDING

Agreement to Terms of Application

I certify that the information provided in this application is, to the best of my knowledge, true and correct. I have not knowingly withheld any facts or circumstances that could otherwise jeopardize consideration of this application. If selected to receive a scholarship, I give permission to the UM Foundation for the release of my name, likeness, and educational / vocational plans for promotional purposes.