

Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization Scholarship Rules and Regulations

The Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization will award scholarships only to MGHSO Titleholders under the following circumstances: (Please note, in some circumstances, a Local Organization's affiliated 501(c)3 foundation may not allow scholarship funds to be utilized for student loans or computer equipment.)

1) SCHOLARSHIP USAGE:

Scholarship funds may be applied to tuition, textbooks, and other appropriate mandatory educational expenses. All unusual or questionable items of expense must be referred to the Local Organization's Scholarship Committee with as much information as possible, and far enough in advance, for consideration of approval. Amounts received as scholarship payments are taxable income to the extent that they exceed "Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses." Qualified Tuition and Related Expenses are defined as tuition and fees required for a student's enrollment or attendance at an educational organization, including: tuition, fees, books, supplies, and equipment required of all students in the particular course of instruction.

Payments for on-campus room and board will be made directly to the educational institution (or for off campus housing if permitted by your Local-affiliated 501(c)3 foundation). All such requests must be accompanied by appropriate documentation from the educational institution (or fully-executed lease agreement) evidencing the charges for same. In order to qualify, candidates must maintain at least twelve (12) credit hours as a full-time student, nine (9) credit hours as a part-time student, or nine (9) credit hours as a graduate student. Payments do not cover key fees or deposits. Utilities (electric, gas, cable, phone, etc.) are also not covered.

Payment of all approved expenditures must be made directly to the college, university, or other accredited institution of higher learning as recognized by the US Department of Education upon receipt of a detailed current tuition Statement reflecting a balance due the school, unless extenuating circumstances exist (with the exception of computer or musical equipment expenses outlined in Paragraph 2 below). Payment to any non-domestic institution of higher learning must have a U.S. federal tax identification number. Personal reimbursements to scholarship recipients will not be honored. Please note, the amount requested may not exceed the amount due. When requesting an award, it is the student's responsibility to ensure proper planning and time allotment to process the scholarship request in order to meet all deadlines. The Local Organization suggests allowing a minimum of thirty (30) days to process a scholarship request.

Please note, it is each candidate's obligation to determine whether the scholarship, in whole or part, is includable in gross taxable income, regardless of whether a Form 1099 has been issued by either the Local Organization or the Local Organization's affiliated 501(c)3 foundation. Candidates are encouraged to consult a tax advisor regarding the taxability of the scholarship payments.

2) REQUESTING USAGE:

Requests for scholarships are initially submitted to the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization and are forwarded to the Local Scholarship Committee for its review and approval. Requests are processed upon written receipt of Statements from colleges and schools or from the candidate for other educational expenses. All Statements and invoices must be accompanied by a cover letter from the candidate.

Requests for computer or musical equipment will only be considered if the college or school mandates the item in writing that it is a mandatory requirement in order for the candidate to complete the coursework. The candidate may be reimbursed for this expense, provided the candidate submits either a letter from the school stating the mandatory requirements or a list of course requirements. However, there is a Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollar cap on computer equipment, and this type of expense will only be reimbursed once. Computer software may also be considered as a reimbursable expense. If a candidate still has local funds available to her, then a letter from the Local Executive Director stating that they do not reimburse or pay for computer is required. The original bill of sale must be submitted, as well as the original credit card receipt or a copy of the canceled check. All credit card accounts and banking accounts must be in the name of the candidate in order to be considered.

3) STUDENT LOANS:

Scholarships may be utilized to cover outstanding student loan obligations, provided the candidate has satisfactorily completed the coursework for which the loan was obtained. In all cases, requests must include a current bill from a bona fide third party lending institution as recognized by the US Department of Education, which must include: (1) a repayment address, (2) student account number and amount due, (3) a copy of the promissory note reflecting that the candidate is the primary responsible payer of the obligation, and (4) an official transcript reflecting completion of the coursework. Payment must be made directly to the lending institution and credited to the student's account.

4) USAGE FOR FUTURE EXPENSES AND FORFEITURES

The Award Date is the date upon which the scholarship was initially awarded. Scholarships may be utilized for current or future educational expenses; however, candidates must request their scholarship funds within one (1) year of the Award Date (the "Expiration Date"). If a candidate fails to submit a written request to the Local Organization to utilize her scholarship funds prior to the Expiration Date, then her scholarship funds will be forfeited. Reasonable attempts will be made by the Local Organization to notify the candidate of impending forfeiture.

5A) Please note, any scholarship balance remaining after the Expiration Date will automatically be forfeited.

5B) An exception to the time limits described above may be considered if the candidate, prior to the Expiration Date, submits a written appeal to the Local Organization citing compelling reasons why the time period should be extended. An extension will generally be permitted when the candidate has local awards remaining within the prescribed time limits above or if the candidate wins the Local title. However, the candidate must still submit a written request for extension. The Local Organization will review the request and determine whether an extension is warranted within thirty (30) days of receipt. Consistent with the rules and regulations, the decision of the Local Organization shall be final and binding.

5) REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR SCHOLARSHIP PROCESSING (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE):

Please include a cover letter indicating your name, title and scholarship utilization choice listed below:

- A. Your most recent monthly student loan statement with your full legal name, Date of Birth, Account number and Remittance Address.
- B. Your most recent room and board statement (bill) with a copy of your lease agreement and your current college class schedule indicating full time status
- C. Name, Address and Account number for 529 Educational Account.
- D. Additional Educational Expense (Must list specific information. May require additional documentation).
- E. Alternative form of Education (must list specific information. May require additional documentation).

I (Candidate Name) _____ have read and understood the Miss Greater Hazleton Scholarship Organization's Scholarship Rules and Regulations:

(Print Name)

(Signature)

(Date)

(Parent Signature if under age 18)

(Date)