You must submit your Presidential Scholarship Application online. Paper copies will not be accepted. This document is made available for you to begin writing and gathering your materials.

Application Overview

Presidential Scholars were leaders in their high schools with superior academic achievement, a commitment to service, and inspiring personal qualities. Now at Georgia State, these scholars are taking campus by charge and making an impact in a wide variety of ways.

The Presidential Scholarship provides the following for eight semesters:

- Cost of tuition (through HOPE/ZELL for GA residents)
- Cost of mandatory student fees
- Cost of housing
- A yearly living expense stipend
- A one-time $2500 stipend for credit-bearing study abroad expenses
- Opportunity to compete for a paid University Assistantship where students work on special projects or research in an academic department

This award totals anywhere from $12,244 to $23,474 per year depending on in/out-of-state student status and University Assistantship participation.

To complete this application and be considered you must:

- Have applied to Georgia State University.
- Answer a variety of essay questions regarding your accomplishments, goals, and career pursuits. It is strongly recommended that you complete these questions in a separate Google Doc prior to submission to prevent loss of materials in case you experience technology issues.
- Submit the contact information of someone (teacher, counselor, coach, or mentor, etc.) who will write a Letter of Recommendation for you regarding how your qualifications align with the highly competitive Presidential Scholarship and the mission of the Honors College.
- Upload a professional photo of yourself.
- Submit your application by 11:59pm EST on November 15, 2019.
- Ask your recommender to submit their Letter of Recommendation by 11:59pm EST on November 30, 2019.
• If selected as a semi-finalist, attend Scholarship Day at Georgia State University on Friday, February 15, 2019.

For questions regarding the Presidential Scholarship, please contact jtate@gsu.edu.

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**Essay Questions**

Please complete the following questions. The Presidential Scholarship Selection Committee uses your answers to select scholarship finalists who will be invited to interview on campus February 15, 2019. Some questions have multiple parts. Be sure to answer all parts of the question.

It is strongly recommended that you complete these questions in a separate Google Doc prior to submission to prevent loss of materials in case you experience technology issues.

**Academic Awards (Limit: 300 words)**

1. List up to four of your most significant academic awards, including the year received. Indicate if the award was a school, local, regional, or national award.
2. Why were they meaningful to you?

**Academic Goals (Limit: 300 words)**

1. What academic area(s), including interdisciplinary programs, do you anticipate pursuing in college?
2. Describe experiences, courses, teachers, or other factors that have influenced or fostered your interests OR
3. If you are undecided on a major, what areas of study or questions attract you and why?

**Advanced Credits (Limit: 300 words)**

1. Name and describe the most challenging Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate/Joint- or Dual-enrollment course that you have taken.
2. Elaborate on how this course enhanced your education. OR
3. If you were homeschooled or did not have access to these types of courses, please describe how you enhanced your academic curriculum.

**Community Service (Limit: 300 words)**

1. Describe one community service activity that you have participated in.
2. Note how long you served.
3. Did this experience change your view on a particular issue? Why or how?

**Independent Research (Limit: 300 words)**

1. Please describe an independent research project you have conducted or the best research paper/project you have completed.
2. What was your overall research question or your hypothesis?
3. What did you learn about research during the process?
4. If you have not conducted an independent research project, what is an area of research you would like to explore and why?
Leadership (Limit: 300 words)

1. Define leadership in your own words.
2. Describe a leadership experience that exemplifies your definition.
3. How long did you hold this leadership position?
4. Did your leadership impacted others? If so, how?

Study Abroad (Limit: 300 words)

If you could study abroad in any country outside of the United States of America which country would you choose and why?

National Scholarships (Limit: 300 words)

The Georgia State Presidential Scholarship provides an opportunity for tremendous undergraduate achievement. National scholarships, such as the Truman, Goldwater and Udall Scholarships, offer a path to even greater achievement with a potential for broader professional and societal impact. Do you see yourself competing for a national scholarship in the future? If so, which scholarship(s) interest you and why? If not, what path do you plan to pursue upon earning your degree?

An explanation of what makes a strong national scholarship candidate is available here: http://honors.gsu.edu/scholarships/strongcandidate/

Brief descriptions of top prestigious scholarships and links to their web pages are found here: http://honors.gsu.edu/scholarships/prestigiousawards/

Why GSU? (Limit: 300 words)

What will you gain from being a part of the Honors College experience at Georgia State University, and what will you contribute to the Honors College Community?

Letter of Recommendation

The Presidential Scholarship is the most prestigious academic award at Georgia State University, offered to seven to nine students every year. Recommendation letters will be read by the selection committee and will assist in selecting semi-finalists.

In the online application you will be asked to submit the name and contact information of one recommender who can speak primarily to your past and potential academic achievement, in addition to your experience and/or potential in leadership, community service, and independent research (i.e. teacher or high school counselor). Recommendations from family members will not be considered.

While the Presidential application is due on November 15, 2019, recommendation letters will be due by 11:59pm EST on November 30, 2019.

Recommendation Letter tips:

1. Always ask someone if they are willing to write your letter of recommendation prior to listing them on your application.
2. Provide them with any materials they may need to write you a quality letter (i.e. resume, application essays, list of accomplishments, etc.)
3. Be courteous of their time. If possible, give them at least 3-4 weeks to write your letter.
4. Afterwards, always write them a thank you note.

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**Professional Photo**

As a part of your application, you must submit a professional photo.

Some tips on taking or choosing a professional photo:

1. Choose a photo that is recent and looks like you.
2. Ensure that your face fills at least half of the frame. If you are pictured too far away, we won't be able to see your face.
3. Choose a photo that does not have a distracting background.
4. Do not use a photo where you must crop other people out.
5. Make sure the picture is not grainy or blurry. You may upload a photo that is up to 5MB in size. The larger the file size, the better.

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**Scholarship Day Acknowledgement**

Following the review of applications, Georgia State University's Honors College will issue invitations to semi-finalists to attend Scholarship Day and interview for the Presidential Scholarship by February 1, 2019. In-person attendance at Scholarship Day is mandatory for all semi-finalists; failure to attend Scholarship Day on February 15, 2019 as a semi-finalist will result in withdrawal of your Presidential Scholarship application. Accommodations and travel funding* (subject to limits) are available for invited semi-finalists traveling from out of state.

*International Students: International semi-finalists must secure appropriate exit/entry documents (visa, passports, etc.) to participate in person at Scholarship Day on February 15, 2019. Please plan appropriately. See [https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html) for more information.