



Ruth Abernathy Presidential Scholarship

Frequently Asked Questions

1. ***What is the process for application review?***

Applications will be accepted electronically or by U. S. mail until October 15. Applications will be sent to the appropriate SHAPE America district for the initial round of reviews. Each district selects up to two undergraduate and two graduate candidates to forward to the SHAPE America President's Scholarship Committee. The scholarship committee will review the applications submitted by the districts and select award recipients in early January. Scholarships will be presented each year during the Recognition Awards Ceremony at the SHAPE America National Convention & Exposition.

2. ***Which district will be reviewing my application?***

Your reviewing district is determined by the location of your university. Canadian applicants will initially be reviewed by the President's Scholarship Committee.

3. ***Does my major qualify?***

You must be majoring in a field related to one or more of the disciplines represented by SHAPE (i.e., health education, physical education, physical activity, dance, sport). You will be asked to describe the field of study/degree area and its relationship to the HPERDS-related fields.

Note: Individuals enrolled in the following medical programs are not eligible: Doctor of Medicine (MD), Nursing, Pharmacology, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine.

4. ***Am I eligible to apply if I am currently enrolled in a full-time MD/MPH or MD/PhD program?***

Yes. However, only the MPH and PhD sections, not the medical degree sections, of the application will be considered by the committee.

5. ***Am I eligible to apply if I graduate in December just prior to the selection of the scholarship recipients?***

No. Applicants must be enrolled in a full-time program at the time that the scholarship recipients are selected. Recipients are determined in January of each year.



Ruth Abernathy Presidential Scholarship

6. Are post-baccalaureate students eligible to apply?

You are eligible for the undergraduate scholarship if you are currently enrolled in a full-time program and pursuing a degree. Your program, as defined by your institution, must lead to a second Bachelors degree.

Students pursuing teaching licensure, national board certification, or completing prerequisite coursework in preparation for admission to a master's degree program are not eligible to apply.

7. Can I round my GPA to meet the 3.5 minimum requirement?

No

8. Am I eligible if my institution uses an Honors/Pass/Fail grading system?

Yes. Documentation from your Dean or Registrar explaining the grading system and how your grades equate to a 3.5 GPA must accompany your application.

9. Is the scholarship based on the cumulative GPA?

Yes. GPA scores from all institutions attended in pursuit of your current degree must be factored into your overall GPA.

10. Am I eligible for the undergraduate scholarship if less than 60 semester/90 quarter units of my college courses are from a four-year college/university?

Yes. However, only credits accepted by the four-year institution will be counted towards the requirement and must be factored into your overall GPA.

11. If submitting my application electronically, must my recommendation letters be a scan of the original hard copies or will electronic files with electronic signatures be accepted?

Recommendation letters in a Microsoft Word format and containing electronic signatures will be accepted. However, all letters must be on letterhead or include the professional association/institution and contact information of the person writing the recommendation.



Ruth Abernathy Presidential Scholarship

12. Can I submit my materials by fax?

All materials must be submitted electronically or by U.S. mail. Fax copies will not be accepted.

13. Can I submit a partial application if all materials are not available by the October 15 deadline?

No. All materials must be submitted by the October 15 deadline. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

14. Will my photo and bio sketch be included with the materials being submitted for review?

Your photo and bio sketch will not be submitted to the reviewing committee(s). This information will be kept with the staff liaison in the event that it is needed for use in the national convention program and Recognition Awards Ceremony presentation.

15. What is the criteria for selection?

Criteria for Selection

1. Scholastic proficiency
2. Evidence of leadership
3. School, community, professional activity/service
4. Character attributes

16. Who is eligible to apply?

- Applicant must be a current member of SHAPE America. Students may join at the time of application.
- Applicant must be majoring in the field of health, physical education, recreation or dance.
- Undergraduate applicant must have college junior or senior class standing at a baccalaureate-granting college/university (completed a minimum of 60 semester/90 quarter units of college courses).
- Graduate applicant must be enrolled in a matriculated full-time masters or doctoral program. **Doctoral candidates working on their dissertation must be no more than one year beyond coursework completion.*
- Applicant must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 overall on a 4.0 grade point scale. GPA scores from all institutions attended in pursuit of applicant's current degree must be factored into the overall GPA. The following guidelines should be used when reporting the GPA for a graduate student:
 - a. First semester Master's and Doctoral candidates: GPA based on most recent degree obtained. GPA scores from all institutions attended in pursuit of applicant's most recent degree must be factored into the overall GPA.
 - b. Master's/Doctoral candidates beyond first semester: GPA based on applicant's current program. GPA scores from all institutions attended in pursuit of applicant's current degree must be



Ruth Abernathy Presidential Scholarship

factored into the overall GPA.

- Applicant must be a first time Ruth Abernathy Presidential Scholarship recipient