

## Applying for Donor-Funded Scholarships at MSU

Supporters of Missouri State make nearly 1,200 scholarships available annually to students on the MSU Springfield Campus through private gifts. These can all be applied for using a single online application. Last year **1 in 4 applicants was selected to receive a scholarship**. Nearly **\$1.5 million** was awarded to over 1,300 students with an **average award value of \$1,100**.

You may have heard rumors that the application is long. While it looks somewhat lengthy, keep in mind many of the questions are quickly answered “Yes/No” or “Select from a List”. In addition, the application has been streamlined, with separate applications now for Graduate Students and Undergraduate Students (even for Incoming Freshmen). This makes it shorter.

To expedite your application process, here are some helpful tips!

### How To Apply:

Students fill out one online application – the **General and Departmental Scholarship Application** – to be considered for all donor-funded scholarships. ***One Application, Thousands of Opportunities.***

- **Application Opens:** November 1, 2020
- **Application Deadline:** March 1, 2021 (*includes Letters of Recommendation*)

### How Do I Access the Application:

1. Access the **My.Missouristate.edu** Portal using your **BearPass Login**.
2. Select the **Profile Tab** and find the **Financial Aid Channel**.
3. Select the **General and Departmental Scholarship Application Link**.
4. You will be automatically logged into Scholarship Manager and should select the application that describes your student type at the beginning of Academic Year 2021 – 2022.

### Working on the Application:

- **You don't have to complete the application in one sitting;** you can save your work as you go. The higher quality your application the greater your likelihood of being selected.
- **Thanksgiving Break is the perfect time to work on the application!**
- **Fill out as much of the application as is applicable to you.** The more you fill out the more scholarships you will be considered for. Skip over sections that don't apply to you.

### Application Sections

- **Page 1 -3:** Welcome, Instructions, Table of Contents
- **General Information Sections**
  - Contact Info, Academics, Volunteer, Organization, and Work Experience, etc.
    - **All Students (undergraduate and graduate):** pages 2-9
- **College and Departmental Sections**
  - Info needed by specific colleges and departments.
    - **Undergraduates:** Page 14
    - **Graduates:** Page 14

While all students are encouraged to fill out as much of the application as is applicable to be considered for the most possible scholarships campus-wide, some students might be solely interested in the donor-funded scholarships available exclusively in the Religious Studies Department.

### **Required Sections for Religious Studies Scholarships:**

- **Academic Information** (*within the Student Information Page*) : Pages 2-9
- **Religious Studies Departmental Section** (*within the College of Humanities and Public Affairs Page*)
  - *Students should answer or submit information for all questions within this section including essays and letters of recommendation.*
  - **Undergraduates:** Page 14
    - *You MUST complete the Personal Statement on the REL page, as well as submit at least two recommenders (be sure to include their correct email address) for your application to be considered for REL scholarships. Be sure to follow up with your recommenders, as their letters must be submitted by the March 1 deadline.*
  - **Graduates:** Page 14
    - *You MUST complete the Personal Statement and submit at least two recommenders (be sure to include their correct email address) for your application to be considered for REL scholarships or the Strong Family Grad scholarship (see below). Be sure to follow up with your recommenders, as their letters must be submitted by the March 1 deadline.*
- **Additional Pages**
  - Students Interested in the **Kathy J. Pulley Religious Studies Scholarship**, available to full-time sophomores or greater majoring in Religious Studies with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2, should also fill out the **Community Service Section on page 8**.
  - Students who are planning to participate in a Study Away program in the coming year, should complete the **Study Away section** of the application **on page 6**. The **Schyler Elizabeth Strong Award for International Study** may be awarded to Religious Studies majors or minors who are participating in an international Study Away (Education Abroad) program. This may be either a short term or longer term program.
  - Students interested in the **Strong Family Graduate Scholarship**, available to full-time graduate students within the College of Humanities and Public Affairs with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25, should also submit the names of two references at the top of the **College of Humanities and Public Affairs Page on page 14..**
    - *Please Note: You only need to submit letters of recommendation for **EITHER** the CHPA Strong Family Graduate Form OR the Religious Studies Departmental Section. When you submit letters of recommendations for one of these sections, it will populate the other recommendation section with the same information.*

### **A scholarship opportunity outside the Scholarship Manager system:**

The James P. Robinson Memorial Scholarship (usually \$850 - \$1,000) application is available through [the Community Foundation of the Ozarks scholarship portal](#). This application will be open from February 1, 2021 until March 14, 2021.

- Requirements for this scholarship include an overall GPA of 3.0, the completion of or current enrollment in REL 131 or REL 332, and completion of at least 12 hours of college level course work, including 3 hours in Religious Studies

*Updated 18 Nov 2020*