

# Senior Scholarship Newsletter

## January 2025

This newsletter is updated the first week of each month and posted on the GHS website under the "For Students" tab.

### January FAFSA Fun Fact

Did you know that the FAFSA is a free application that the federal government, the state of Mississippi, colleges, and private scholarships all use to determine financial aid? Some aid is based on income and some is not... but completing the FAFSA early will help you plan for next year!

### How do you complete the FAFSA?

- 1. Create a student FSA ID on studentaid.gov
- 2. Create a contributor ID on studentaid.gov
- 3. Log in to complete the student & contributor application!

**GHS FAFSA Days are here!!!!** If you need help completing this free online application, please call GHS Guidance at 228-897-6040. Call for an appointment on January 14 or 16!

### Take the ACT again

[www.myact.org](http://www.myact.org)

Registration deadlines are usually about a month before the test date. Fee waivers are available for students who qualify for free/reduced lunch.

**February 8**  
**April 5**

**Mississippi Financial Aid application is open! (state aid)**  
**(HELP Grant, MESG, MTAG)**  
**<https://www.msfinancialaid.org>**  
**apply for the 25-26 aid year**

**Many students can get money from the state of Mississippi for attending college in Mississippi. Here are 3 grants you could qualify for... students could be awarded ONE of these 3 grants if they qualify...**

**MTAG:** 15 on the ACT and a C overall GPA (no income requirement) \$3,000 grant given as \$500 first two years and \$1,000 junior and senior year

**MESG:** 29 on the ACT and a 3.5 GPA (no income requirement) \$10,000 grant given as \$2,500 per year

**HELP Grant:** FULL TUITION (see requirements next page)

## **HELP GRANT: FREE TUITION IN MISSISSIPPI**

Students who have a 20 or higher on the ACT and a minimum C average *may* be eligible for the **HELP scholarship** based on the income levels below. Talk to your counselor if you think you may qualify!!!

If you make this amount or less (for the past 2 years) you could qualify!!!

Students who are the only child.....	\$39,500
Students with one sibling under 21.....	\$44,500
Students with two siblings under 21.....	\$49,500
Students with three siblings under 21.....	\$54,500
Students with four siblings under 21.....	\$59,500
Students with five siblings under 21.....	\$64,500

# College recruiters... get to know them!!!

University of Southern Mississippi- Desiree Rodriguez [Desiree.R.Rodriguez@usm.edu](mailto:Desiree.R.Rodriguez@usm.edu)  
Mississippi State University- Allie Houston [ah3035@msstate.edu](mailto:ah3035@msstate.edu)  
Ole Miss- Annie Watts- [annie2@olemiss.edu](mailto:annie2@olemiss.edu)  
MGCCC- Gina Lansford [gina.lansford@mgccc.edu](mailto:gina.lansford@mgccc.edu)  
University of South Alabama- Noah Ethridge [nethridge@southalabama.edu](mailto:nethridge@southalabama.edu)  
Jackson State University- Janieth Wilson-Adams [janieth.w.adams@jsums.edu](mailto:janieth.w.adams@jsums.edu)  
Alcorn State University- De'Martinez Simmons- [drsimmons@alcorn.edu](mailto:drsimmons@alcorn.edu)  
University of Alabama- Sharon Nowicki- [sharonn.bama@ua.edu](mailto:sharonn.bama@ua.edu)  
UAB (Univ. of Alabama at Birmingham)- Raven Dials- [rdials@uab.edu](mailto:rdials@uab.edu)  
LSU (Louisiana State University)- Jordan Iverstine- [jivers@lsu.edu](mailto:jivers@lsu.edu)

## Scholarships with January deadlines

**Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship: Deadline January 9 by 4 pm.** This is a very competitive national scholarship for minority students who demonstrate exceptional leadership, community service, and financial need. Students must also demonstrate a record of high academic excellence. Scholarship amounts range but may be up to \$30,000 over 4 years. Apply online at [www.jackierobinson.org](http://www.jackierobinson.org)

**2025 Oratorical Contest sponsored by the Gulfport Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, City of Gulfport, & The 2 Marys Foundation. Deadline: January 13 by 5 pm.**

Applications will be accepted from the first ten students and two alternates (12 students total) to apply. Contestants will be competing for scholarship monies in the following amounts: \$2500 for 1<sup>st</sup> Place, \$1500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, \$500 for 3<sup>rd</sup> Place, \$250 for 4<sup>th</sup> Place, and \$250 for 5<sup>th</sup> Place. All non-placing participants will be recognized with an honorarium. Contest Regulations: A prepared, memorized oration must be the original effort of each contestant and must be no less than four (4) and no more than six (6) minutes in duration at the time of the delivery. The speech must be constructed in a grammatically correct and logically constructed format. The content must be relevant and address the selected subject. There is no word limit, but the above-specified time constraints must be followed. All orations/ speeches must be presented with only the use of one 3X5 Notecard. This scholarship was sent to all senior emails and is also available in the guidance office.

**John F. Kennedy Library Foundation Scholarship: Deadline January 17.**

**Scholarships range from \$100- \$10,000.** In this essay contest, students will compete for a chance at winning \$10,000. Your essay must be 700-1,000 words. Contest details are on the website. This year's essay prompt is as follows: Describe and analyze an act of political courage by a U.S. elected official who served during or after 1917, the year John F. Kennedy was born. Include an analysis of the obstacles, risks, and consequences

associated with the act. The essay may concern an issue at the local, state, national, or international level. [www.jfklibrary.org/essaycontest](http://www.jfklibrary.org/essaycontest)

**Dream US Opportunity Scholarship: Deadline January 31.** Scholarships award up to \$33,000 to undocumented students attending specific partner colleges. Applicants must meet immigration eligibility listed on the website as well as have a minimum C overall GPA. <https://thedream.us/scholarships/opportunity-scholarship/>

## **Scholarships with February deadline**

**Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS) County Employee Scholarship Program: Deadline February 1.** Applicants must have an immediate family member (parent, stepparent, grandparent, step-grandparent, or legal guardian) currently working for or retired from a Mississippi county. A county employee does not include school district, county hospital, or other separate entity. Students can download an application packet at [www.mssupervisors.org/scholarship-program](http://www.mssupervisors.org/scholarship-program)

**Gulf Coast Legal Professionals Scholarship: Deadline February 10. Amount \$500.** Seniors interested in a legal-related career pathway, who have a B overall GPA and who have participated in school or community leadership should apply. Applications are available in guidance. Completed applications and required attachments should be emailed to the scholarship co-chair Mrs. Billie Ruddick at [brudbud@aol.com](mailto:brudbud@aol.com).

**Junior Auxiliary of Gulfport College Bound Scholarship opens January 13 and closes Feb 14.** FIVE \$3,000 scholarships will be awarded!! Applications will be available in the guidance office beginning January 13. All applications and application parts (2 recommendation letters in sealed envelopes and a copy of your transcript) need to be turned in by the February 14<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mrs. Reid will have a large envelope outside her door for complete applications. Please complete the application neatly with pen or you may type it. Please paperclip everything together before adding to the folder. Representatives from the JA Scholarship committee will pick these up from GHS for review and selection.

**Gulf Coast Community Foundation Scholarships: Deadline February 28. All Applications are found at [www.mgccf.org](http://www.mgccf.org)**

### **Mary & Gene Levens Scholarship Fund**

The Mary & Gene Levens Scholarship Fund was established in January 2000 to recognize the importance the Levens placed on a college education for their nine children. It is their desire to award scholarships to individuals interested in pursuing degrees in areas similar to their careers and those of their children, namely accounting, engineering, health care, insurance and other business related fields.

### **Lawrence and Lucimarian Roberts Scholarship Fund**

The Lawrence & Lucimarian Roberts Helpline Scholarship Fund was established in July 2002 to help individuals further their education in human service professions such as psychology, counseling, social work, or other majors in the behavioral health and science field. Applicant must be currently enrolled in a two or four-year College or university in the State of MS or a high school senior who is planning on attending a two or four-year College or university in the State of MS. The applicant should have an overall grade point of at least 2.5 (based on a 4.0 scale) from a state or private college or university or from a public or private high school. The individual must have family residence in Harrison, Hancock, Pearl River or Stone County.

### **Harold and Mary W. Perlman Scholarship Fund**

The Harold & Mary Perlman Scholarship Fund was established in November 2006, in memory of Harold and Mary Perlman. Mr. and Mrs. Perlman were both educators along the MS Gulf Coast. The purpose of the award is to assist College, Junior College, or Graduate school students who plan to attend or are currently attending William Carey College, the University of Southern Mississippi, or any campus of the MS Gulf Coast Community College. She/he should have an overall grade point average of at least 3.0 (based on a 4.0 scale). The individual must have family residency in Harrison, Hancock, Jackson or Stone County and provide evidence of financial need. The applicant must participate in extracurricular and/or community activities. Three references are required.

## **Scholarships with March deadlines**

### **Keesler African American Heritage Scholarship (Col. Ret. Lawrence E. Roberts):**

**Deadline March 31.** Graduating seniors residing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast are eligible to apply. The scholarship committee will consider the student's academic record, a recommendation letter from a school official, and an essay entitled "Black Health and Wellness). Students must submit their official transcript, ACT scores, a copy of a college acceptance letter where they plan to attend, and their essay. Applications and details regarding the essay are available in the guidance office.

## **Scholarships with April deadlines**

**Women's Club of Gulfport "Chris Smith Scholarship": Deadline April 15.** The recipient of this scholarship will be awarded \$1,000. Seniors who reside in Harrison County and plan to major in Education or Library Science are eligible to apply. Applications are available in the guidance office. Completed applications must be submitted via email or the mailing address included on the application.

# Great Resources for Seniors

Other great ways to search for scholarships:

- [Big Future](#)
- [SallieMae](#)
- [College Scholarships](#)
- [Fastweb](#)
- [Scholarships by UNCF](#)
- [Unigo](#)
- [Student Scholarships](#)

Get2College is a FREE resource for college planning. Check out their website full of helpful information, including their college guidebook.

[www.get2college.org](http://www.get2college.org)