



*Decatur Alumnae Chapter of
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated
Scholarship Application
2020 – 2021*

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Decatur Alumnae Chapter
P.O. Box 370673
Decatur, Georgia 30037-0673
scholarships@stdac.org

**Decatur Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.**

I. Purpose of Scholarship

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a service sorority that is committed to educational excellence. We believe in the importance of recognizing the accomplishments of high achieving students and fostering their potential. The Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is offering financial assistance to outstanding students to help defray the cost of pursuing higher education. These scholarships are designed to assist high school students who demonstrate ability, aptitude, community service, church involvement, and a promising scholastic future.

Students in their senior year attending a high school in Decatur Alumnae Chapter's service area, and plan to attend a four-year accredited institution are eligible to apply. A student is defined as a high school senior who is not the child of a financial member of the Decatur Alumnae Chapter. **Children of financial Decatur Alumnae Chapter members are not eligible to apply for this scholarship.**

II. List of Service Area High Schools

The following is a list of high schools located in the Decatur Alumnae Chapter service area. The Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. services most of DeKalb County including the cities of Avondale Estates, Chamblee, Clarkston, Decatur, Doraville, Dunwoody, East Atlanta-DeKalb, Ellenwood, Scottdale, and Tucker.

- Cedar Grove High School
- Chamblee Charter High School
- Charles R. Drew Charter School
- Clarkston High School
- Columbia High School
- Cross Keys High School
- Decatur High School
- DeKalb High School of Technology South
- DeKalb School of the Arts
- Druid Hills High School
- Dunwoody High School
- Lakeside High School
- Ronald E. McNair High School
- Southwest DeKalb High School
- Towers High School
- Tucker High School
- Private Schools within the Decatur Alumnae Chapter's Service Area
- Homeschooled students that are zoned for high schools listed above

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III. Scholarship Guidelines/Criteria

1. A student's eligibility for a scholarship is based on the student's intent to seek a degree at any four-year accredited institution.
2. Recipients are selected based on extracurricular school activities, community service, church involvement, and scholastic achievement.
3. Application forms will be distributed to all high school principals and counselors within the Decatur Alumnae Chapter service area on November 16, 2020. The application will also be available on the Chapter's website: www.dstdac.org. Completed application forms must be **signed** and **postmarked** no later than **February 1, 2021**. The completed application should be completed online with supporting documents mailed to: **Scholarship Committee, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Decatur Alumnae Chapter, P.O. Box 370673, Decatur, GA 30037-0673**.
4. Scholarships will be awarded to the top three (3) students of the competition. Funds will be distributed to those students in descending increments: for example, \$4,000, \$2,500 and \$1,500. The remaining funds will be allocated as book stipends and equally distributed to students ranking in 4th place and below.
5. Scholarships are distributed to first-year students who provide documentation of college registration and enter school before **December 31st** of the scholarship award year. Scholarship funds will be released once the recipient has provided the Decatur Alumnae Chapter's Scholarship Committee with a class schedule or proof of registration from their respective college or university. **Unclaimed funds will be forfeited.**
6. Only completed applications will be accepted. A completed application packet consists of the following information:
 - a. **Completed** and **signed** Scholarship Application
 - b. Essay not to exceed 600 words on one (1) of the following topics:
 - i. As minority cultures continue to struggle for respect and dignity in our racially motivated society, how do non-conservative dress code trends affect the way people are treated by potential employers? Discuss the implications of dress code and hairstyles in our society in terms of self-respect, cultural norms, and public expectations of those in power. Where should the lines be drawn in schools, and by those in authority positions, including schools and potential employers regarding school and workplace attire?
 - ii. During the pandemic, many people complained about wearing masks or mask mandates because they believed it to be an infringement on their rights as citizens. Do you believe that mask mandates are an infringement on rights? Are the rights of individuals more important than the safety of the community as a whole?

This essay should be typed. Please be sure to place your name & the title of your essay in the header of each page.

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- c. An official certified high school transcript, which **must include the cumulative GPA**.
 - i. A **signed** and **sealed** letter of recommendation, on **school letterhead**, from a school official at the school you currently attend.
 - ii. A **signed** and **sealed** community service verification letter indicating **duties performed** and **total volunteer hours**. The letter must be on **official letterhead** the organization you served.
- 7. Students must have a **cumulative GPA of 2.7** on a **4.0** scale. If the applicant's school does not have the cumulative GPA printed on the transcript as a numeric value, an official letter from the counselor or administrator must accompany the transcript stating the numeric cumulative GPA. Transcripts without the numeric cumulative GPA or official letter stating the numeric cumulative GPA will be disqualified.
- 8. Once the completed application has been reviewed, students are required to participate in the Scholarship Competition on **Saturday, March 27, 2021**. Please note that this will be the **only** interview date for the Scholarship Competition. The competition includes a **panel interview** that will assess the applicant's overall delivery, appearance, and composure, as well as, knowledge and response to questions regarding their written essay. **Professional business attire is mandatory for the panel interview**.
- 9. Scholarship and book stipend award letters will be presented to the students at the Scholarship Awards Breakfast on **Sunday, May 2, 2021**. **Students or their parents must be present during the event to receive the scholarship or book stipend**.
- 10. Because of the number of students applying for scholarships each year, the primary form of communication will be through e-mail. Please list a current e-mail address for the applicant and a parent on the scholarship application. Please notify us immediately if any of the e-mail addresses change.

IV. Scholarship Awards Decision Process/Scoring

The completed packet will be scored by members of the Decatur Alumnae Chapter Scholarship Committee. The interviews will be conducted by a panel of judges who are college graduates and represent various professions. The panel will **not** consist of any member of the Decatur Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

On a scale of 100 points, applicants will be scored on the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. GPA Score | 20 Points Maximum |
| 2. Written Essay | 25 Points Maximum |
| 3. Community Service Verification | 25 Points Maximum |
| 4. Personal Interview | 30 Points Maximum |

*****An applicant must receive a minimum of 75 points to be considered for a scholarship award or book stipend*****

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V. Scholarship Application Timeline

November 9, 2020	Application distributed to the area high schools
December 5, 2020	Interview Prep and Essay Session online via Zoom 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (optional)
February 1, 2021	Scholarship Applications are due and must be postmarked by February 1, 2021
March 5, 2021	Letter of Notification sent to competing applicants
March 27, 2021	Scholarship Competition mandatory interviews for applicants
May 2, 2021	Scholarship Awards Breakfast, Community Achievement Center

***The interview prep session is highly encouraged but not required.*

*The Interview prep session will take place, Saturday, December 5, 2020 online via Zoom,
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*

*Additional details will be available on the website (www.dstdac.org)***

Please RSVP to scholarships@dstdac.org by November 30, 2020

VI. Checklist

DID YOU REMEMBER TO:

- Complete all of the fields on the online application
- Upload your typed essay
- Upload your letter of recommendation on official letterhead or have it submitted on your behalf
- Upload your community service verification or have it submitted on your behalf
- Sign your application
- Have your parent/guardian sign your application
- Request and send an official letter stating numeric cumulative GPA
- Request and send an official transcript no later than **February 1, 2021**
- All mailed items (i.e. transcript, letters) are postmarked by **February 1, 2021**

*****KEEP A COPY OF THE APPLICATION AND ALL ATTACHMENTS FOR YOUR RECORDS*****

MAIL THE APPLICATION SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

Scholarship Committee
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
Decatur Alumnae Chapter
P.O. Box 370673
Decatur, GA 30037-0673

Essay Tips

Main Parts of an Academic Essay

The following information should be used as you write this essay. Please keep this information for future college writings as it will be beneficial in your English 101 classes. *Note: use of this format is optional and not required. The title page and bibliography do not count toward the 600 words.*

Title Page: A title page should include the essay's title (capitalized and centered 2 inches from the top of the page), your name (not capitalized, 1 inch below the title), with the date below it.

Introduction: The introduction has three goals: a) to introduce the topic of the essay; b) to present your thesis (which is to say the particular approach or argument the essay will make); and c) to tell the reader how the essay will be structured. Suggestions: a) You may choose to introduce the topic by providing some brief background information or context, a brief story, or a surprising fact or statistic that engages the reader's attention and suggests the significance of the topic. b) Once you have focused the reader's attention, present the thesis or argument of the essay. Depending on the complexity of your thesis this may consist of one or more sentences. Remember: a thesis statement is not the same as your topic (i.e. something you want to talk about). A thesis, in contrast, is an argument, generally reduced to one or more sentences. c) You should end your introduction by giving your readers a preview of the main points you will make to substantiate the claims made in your thesis.

Body: In the body of the essay you will present the evidence and analysis that will substantiate your thesis. It is essential that the body of the essay be developed in a logical and orderly fashion following the preview that you presented in the introduction. The overall goal of this section is to develop your analysis and defend your argument – it is the main part of the essay.

This logically ordered body of the essay will consist of a series of paragraphs. Each paragraph should develop one central theme that helps you further your argument. Introduce this theme in a topic sentence; expand on the theme through the use of evidence or examples; and analyze the evidence to show how it contributes to the specific point you are making in the paragraph and to the thesis as a whole. Paragraphs should consist of several sentences rather than one, long run-on sentence.

Conclusion: The conclusion is designed to bring together your essay's main points and to reassert or emphasize the strength of the thesis or argument. A conclusion is more than a summary, in that it is important to indicate why there is merit to your thesis or argument – what has been shown as a result of your investigation or exploration of the topic.

Bibliography: Academic essays require a bibliography at the end of the paper that includes all sources (written or otherwise) used in the composition of your essay. (Information about how to format the bibliography is included in the "Bibliography" section below.)

Formatting

Paper and binding: Use only 8.5" by 11" paper. Staple the paper in the upper left corner. Do not use binders or plastic covers.

Fonts and printing: All essays must be typed with print on only one side of the page. Black is the standard color for printed ink and generally Times New Roman or Arial 12-point font should be used. A single typed page, regardless of font size, should contain approximately 250 words.

Margins, line spacing, and paragraphs: Use margins of one inch on all sides. The essay should be double-spaced (but not the bibliography which are usually single-spaced), with no extra blank lines between paragraphs. The first word of each paragraph should be indented one-half an inch.

Direct Quotations: Brief direct quotations (i.e. less than three lines) should appear in quotation marks (“ ”) but otherwise should follow the format used in all other paragraphs in the paper. Where you need to alter a direct quotation to make it fit grammatically within a given paper, you may include new or altered words (that do not alter the meaning of the quotation) in square brackets. Where you need to leave out a words from the direct quotation indicate with a series of three periods where words have been removed. Where direct quotations contain grammatical or spelling errors include the word “sic” in parentheses next to the error.

Long direct quotations (i.e. longer than three lines) should appear as “block quotes.” All text of block quotes is to be indented one inch from the left margin (with no extra indentation for the first word). Block quotes do not appear in quotation marks.

Pagination: All pages, with the exception of the title page and bibliography, should be numbered sequentially in the upper right-hand corner of the paper, flush with the right margin.

Emphasis: For emphasis and titles of books, use either italics or underlining. Choose one and be consistent.

Style and Mechanics

Spelling and grammar: You should spell-check and proofread your essay before submitting it. It is also generally a good idea to have a friend or family member read the essay as well to check for spelling and grammar mistakes and to ensure that your essay is clearly written.

Language: Writing well does not mean that you should adopt an exaggerated reverence for formality. Learning to write a college level essay means learning to write plainly and clearly. However, as a general rule you should avoid overly colloquial terms as well as overly sensational or inflammatory terms. Your essay should also be free of language that reflects gender or racial bias. Contractions should be avoided (e.g. can’t, shouldn’t) in academic writing.

Intended audience: Write the paper as if it were directed to a general, reasonably well-educated audience. Accordingly, you should be sure to define key terms. If a term has several accepted meanings (e.g. democracy, socialism), you should specify the meaning you intend.

Make a copy: Keep a copy of your essay on a thumb drive or photocopied.

Bibliography

Bibliography: The word Bibliography should be centered on the first line (subsequent pages of the bibliography do not have a title). Sources are listed alphabetically by author’s name or by corporate/ government name and are single-spaced. We request that MLA format be used in this essay.