THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE
PHILADELPHIA ALUMNI CHAPTER

2027 Scholarship Application Packet

Scholarship Overview

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) Philadelphia Alumni Chapter (PAC) has established a scholarship to recognize academic accomplishments and assist students as they further their education at UMES. The PAC scholarship recognizes highly motivated graduating high school seniors with strong academic achievement, leadership potential, and involvement in school and community activities.

Important Dates

- Application opens: Monday, January 4, 2027, at 12:00 AM ET.
- Application deadline: Thursday, April 1, 2027, at 11:59 PM ET.
- Scholarship selections: By Thursday, April 15, 2027.
- UMES commitment deadline: Saturday, May 1, 2027.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a graduating high school senior planning to attend UMES.
- Minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Be accepted at UMES and enroll as a freshman for the Fall 2027 academic year.
- Commit to attending UMES by May 1, 2027.
- Reside in and have attended high school within the eligible service area listed below.
- Demonstrate academic achievement, an excellent record of conduct, leadership potential, and civic and community involvement.
- Demonstrate written or oral communication skills through the selected essay or video format.

Eligible Service Area

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties.

New Jersey: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties.

Delaware: New Castle and Kent Counties.

Award Amount: $500

Apply online: https://umesphillyalumni.org/scholarship
Questions: Tiffany Grimes | development@umesphillyalumni.org

Online Application Instructions

Complete and submit the online application at https://umesphillyalumni.org/scholarship. Upload the application materials when applying, except for the email alternatives and recipient follow-up documents described below. No paper application is required.

Materials to upload with the application

- Completed Authorization for Release of Educational Records and School Counselor Verification form. Use the form in this packet or the separate download. Obtain the required signatures and provide a copy to your school counselor. Upload only the completed and signed authorization and counselor verification form, not the entire application packet.
- Current official high school transcript showing cumulative unweighted GPA and the grading scale.
- Submit either a 500–600-word essay or a video of no more than 2 minutes. Both formats are accepted and evaluated using the same criteria and point values.
- Two typed letters of recommendation: one from a school counselor or teacher and one from a community or civic leader.
- Upload proof of acceptance at UMES with your application. If it is not available by the April 1, 2027 application deadline, email it to development@umesphillyalumni.org by May 1, 2027.
- Recent photograph, preferably a senior or graduation photograph. Upload with the application or email it to development@umesphillyalumni.org by the application deadline.

Essay or video topic

My Future, My Purpose, My HBCU

Describe your educational and career goals and how attending an HBCU will help you achieve them. What inspired your chosen path, and how do you plan to use your education and future career to make a positive impact in your community?

In your response, address the following:

- Educational goals: What do you plan to study, and why?
- Career aspirations: What career do you hope to pursue, and what inspired your interest?
- HBCU connection: How will attending UMES support your goals and personal growth?
- Community impact: How do you plan to use your education and future career to give back?

Recommendation Guidance

Each letter should identify the applicant, explain the recommender's relationship to the applicant, and provide examples of academic effort, conduct, leadership, or community involvement. Include the recommender's name and contact information. Upload both letters with the online application.

Email Submissions

Send acceptance documents and photographs submitted separately to development@umesphillyalumni.org. Include the applicant's full name and "2027 Scholarship" in the subject line so the documents can be matched to the application.

Recipient Requirements and Photo Use

UMES Acceptance Verification

Upload proof of acceptance at UMES with your application. If it is not available by the April 1, 2027 application deadline, email it to development@umesphillyalumni.org by May 1, 2027.

UMES Commitment

Selected recipients must commit to attending UMES by May 1, 2027, and enroll as freshmen for Fall 2027.

Final Official Transcript

Recipients must arrange for their high school counselor to email the final official transcript directly to development@umesphillyalumni.org from the counselor's school email account by June 30, 2027. The transcript must show graduation and the final cumulative unweighted GPA. It must be received before scholarship funds are disbursed. A final transcript uploaded or forwarded by the student does not satisfy this requirement.

Fall Class Schedule

Recipients must email their Fall 2027 UMES class schedule to development@umesphillyalumni.org by August 20, 2027. The schedule should identify the student and show the Fall 2027 term and enrolled classes.

Photograph Submission and Use

Upload a recent photograph with the application or email it to development@umesphillyalumni.org by the application deadline. A senior or graduation photograph is preferred.

Photographs of scholarship recipients may be used to announce and recognize winners on the chapter website, on chapter social media, and/or in chapter publications. If you do not want your photograph used, indicate that preference in the application or notify us at development@umesphillyalumni.org.

Photo Preference in the Online Application

Select one:

- My photograph may be used to recognize me as a scholarship recipient on the chapter website, social media, and/or in chapter publications.
- Please do not use my photograph on the chapter website, social media, or in chapter publications.

Educational Records Authorization and Counselor Verification

Complete both sections, obtain the required signatures, and provide a copy to the school counselor. Upload only the completed and signed authorization and counselor verification form, not the entire application packet.

Student name: _____
High school: _____

Authorization for Release of Educational Records

I authorize the high school identified above to release the student's current and final official transcripts, cumulative unweighted GPA and grading scale, graduation verification, and school-provided recommendation letters to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Philadelphia Alumni Chapter Scholarship Committee.

These records may be used to evaluate the student's application for the 2027 scholarship and verify eligibility before scholarship funds are disbursed.

For high school records, a parent or legal guardian generally authorizes release for a student under age 18. A student age 18 or older authorizes release of their own records under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). The school will confirm whose consent is required when records are released.

Name of Person Authorizing Release: _____
Relationship: □ Student age 18 or older □ Parent/legal guardian
Signature: _____ Date: _____

School Counselor Verification

I verify that the student identified above has a current cumulative unweighted GPA of _____ on a 4.0 scale, calculated through _____ (term or date).

□ The student meets the minimum cumulative unweighted GPA requirement of 2.50.
□ I have provided the student with a copy of the current official transcript for upload with the scholarship application.

I understand that, if the student is selected, the final official transcript showing graduation and final cumulative unweighted GPA must be emailed directly from my school email account to development@umesphillyalumni.org by June 30, 2027, and received before scholarship funds are disbursed.

Counselor name and title: _____
School email: _____
Phone: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

If the student turns 18 before the final transcript is released, the school may require a new student-signed authorization. Photo-use preferences are collected separately in the online application.