

BLANEY SOUTHERN BAPTIST SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CRITERIA

2.16.2023



MISSION STATEMENT

This award has been established to generationally demonstrate the sustaining love and providence of our Lord Jesus Christ through educational scholarships for Christian members of Southern Baptist churches in Elgin, SC.

QUALIFYING EDUCATION LEVEL

All incoming college freshmen may be considered. Previous year awardees may be considered for an additional award provided they meet the criteria outlined in the Recurring Scholarships section below.

- All applicants should have a high school diploma or GED and provide reasonable assurance of anticipated acceptance

QUALIFYING INSTITUTIONS

All colleges, universities, technical training institutes and trade schools, both private and public are allowed.*

- Traditional and online college degree programs are acceptable

QUALIFYING GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF RESIDENCE

Students currently residing in Kershaw or Richland County, South Carolina

- Applicant may be asked to provide proof of residency such as a driver's license or other government issued identification.

QUALIFYING AREA OF STUDY

No limitation on area of study.

- Extra consideration may be given to students preparing to enter a Christian ministry such as seminary

QUALIFYING GRADES

Minimum GPA: 2.5

- To convert a GED to a GPA, divide the total score by the number of sections in the GED test. Most GED tests have five sections

QUALIFYING CHURCH ATTENDANCE

The student needs to have faithfully attended a Southern Baptist Church within Elgin, SC for at least the previous twelve months**

- Extra consideration will be given to students that have faithfully attended Blaney Baptist Church

AGE RESTRICTIONS OF AWARDEES

There are no age restrictions associated with this scholarship.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

All items listed below are required.

- Valid contact information including phone and email address
- FAFSA or income tax returns of person responsible for paying tuition. Please encrypt pdf documentation if sent electronically or hand deliver in a sealed envelope. If encrypted and sent electronically, please request a confirmation email from the church, acknowledging delivery.
- Disclosure of any South Carolina 529 College Savings Plans must be provided at time of application
- Estimated tuition fees (per year)
- List of other loans / grants awarded prior to April 1

- If applicant receives notification of an award after application has been submitted but before April 1, please call the Blaney Baptist Church office at (803) 438-3161 to make the addendum.
- Family demographics of responsible person paying tuition
 - Number of dependents in family
 - Ages of children
 - Number of children currently in institute of higher learning or trade school
- One brief letter (one-page maximum length) describing your conversion story and God's grace in your life
- Three letters of recommendation
 - One from pastor of attending church
 - One from member in good standing of a Southern Baptist church in Kershaw or Richland County
 - One from a former instructor (*i.e.*, high school teacher, coach) or current / former employer
- First year awardee must attend one, two-hour financial counseling sessions with Blaney Baptist Church appointed instructors. Failure to attend the financial counseling may result in loss of scholarship.

AWARD MAXIMUM / MINIMUM AMOUNTS

Award amount shall be \$1,000 - \$1,500 per academic year dependent on available funding and recognized financial need of awardees.

- No more than \$1,500 will be given per student per academic year.

RECURRING SCHOLARSHIPS

Awardees may apply for additional funding the next academic year as awards will not automatically be awarded.

- Subsequent awards of \$1,000-\$1,500 are not guaranteed but may be given based on academic performance and available funding.
- GPA must be equal to or above 2.5.
- Transcript showing awardee's most current GPA (or equivalent documentation) must be received by April 1.
- Documentation may be mailed (PO Box 305, Elgin, SC 29045), sent via encrypted email (scholarship@blaneybaptist.com) and/or hand delivered to Blaney Baptist Church (1400 Blaney Rd, Elgin, SC 29045). Contact Blaney Baptist church office at (803) 438-3161 for office hours.
- Student must maintain faithful church attendance or active membership in a campus Christian social group.
- No student may receive an award for more than 4 years.
- Student must have enrolled for 24 credit hours (6-8 classes) or equivalent full-time status for their chosen school, within the past 12 months.
- Student should have plans to maintain a full-time student status for the next academic year.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION

Online application should be submitted before April 1. Likewise, all required documentation should be sealed and delivered to Blaney Baptist Church Office before April 1.

- Applicants are responsible for confirming Blaney Baptist Church's receipt of all necessary documents prior to April 1. There will be no exceptions to this deadline.

APPLICATION METHOD

Application may be downloaded at: <https://www.blaneybaptist.com/BSBS>

- **Application should be downloaded and emailed to scholarship@blaneybaptist.com.** Additional documentation required for application may be mailed to PO Box 305, Elgin, SC 29045; sent via email to scholarship@blaneybaptist.com; and/or hand delivered to Blaney Baptist Church located at 1400 Blaney Rd, Elgin, SC 29045. Contact Blaney Baptist Church office at (803) 438-3161 for office hours. If documentation is sent via email, please make sure this information is encrypted and has the text "BSBS Applicant Documentation" in the email subject line. If sent via hand delivery or the postal service, the documentation should be doubly sealed as follows. Place documents in a tightly sealed envelope with "BSBS Applicant Documentation" clearly written on the exterior. Place within an addition envelope for mailing.

NOTIFICATION

Awardees will be determined by Blaney Baptist Church's senior leadership upon reviewing the recommendations of the Blaney Southern Baptist Scholarship Award Committee and notified before May 1.

* The Blaney Baptist Church Scholarship Committee maintains the right to modify this scholarship criteria including all required documents, deadlines, and monetary awards except for Qualifying Education Level and Qualifying Institutions. These two criteria may only be modified by the original endowment donors.

** Churches affiliated and in good standing with the Columbia Metro Baptist Association and located within Elgin, SC (having a 29045 zip-code). These churches include but are not limited to:

Blaney Baptist Church
Fort Clark Baptist Church
Harmony Baptist Church
Hillcrest Baptist Church
Spears Creek Baptist Church
Union Baptist Church

AWARD COMMITTEE

The Blaney Southern Baptist Scholarship Award Committee will evaluate all applications and make award recommendations to the church scholarship committee. No member of Blaney Baptist Church may serve on the Blaney Southern Baptist Scholarship Award Committee.

- The Blaney Baptist Church Scholarship Committee will be responsible for finding suitable members to serve on the awards committee. All members of the award committee must have established trustworthy characters within their local communities and be members in good standing with a local Christian church outside of the Elgin, SC (29045) area.
- The award committee will receive all applicant documentation from the church scholarship committee no later than April 7. During evaluation, all applicant documentation must be stored in sealed envelopes, in secure locations. All documentation must be returned to the church committee before May 5.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF AWARDEES

A maximum of one scholarship per year will be awarded to one incoming freshman student. There will be no more than four awards per year. The maximum number of awards given per year will include one freshman and three recurring scholarships.

- The number of awardees per year may be reconsidered and adjusted by the Blaney Baptist Church Scholarship Committee upon the benchmark balance of \$48,000 in the Blaney Southern Baptist Scholarship Endowment Fund.

METHOD OF AWARD PAYMENT

All awards will be made payable and mailed directly to the educational institution. No check shall be made payable to an awardee.

- Awards will be divided by the institution's calendar system and paid as follows:
 - Yearly Calendar: 100% of the award amount will be paid in one check
 - Semester Calendar: 50% of award amount paid for 1st semester, 50% of award amount paid for the 2nd semester
 - Quarterly Calendar: 33% of award amount to be distributed over the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd quarter