

Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs

Arkansas * Louisiana * New Mexico * Oklahoma * Texas

2016 Scholarship Collegiate Application Guidelines (Deadline for Receipt: October 1, 2016)

The Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP) scholarship committee announces the 2016 SWASAP Scholarship Competition for **Student Support Services, McNair, Educational Opportunity Center and Veterans Upward Bound**. Each project may submit only **five (5) applications** and shall establish its own criteria for determining which five applications are forwarded to the Scholarship Committee. **Program Directors should submit each selected application in one PDF format to the SWASAP scholarship chair no later than 5pm on October 1, 2016.**

OBJECTIVES

To give financial support the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP) students who embrace postsecondary education.

To honor the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs (SWASAP) students who demonstrate leadership potential at school and in their communities.

ELIGIBILITY

To be considered, an applicant must be:

- 1) A current TRIO participant with a minimum of 1 year of TRIO participation;
- 2) In academic good standing with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on 4.0 unweighted scale.
- 3) Recommended by TRIO personnel who is a SWASAP member in good standing

SELECTION CRITERIA

Application materials must demonstrate:

- 1) Leadership Skills
- 2) Potential for Continued Success
- 3) Extracurricular/Community Involvement/Work History

APPLICATION PACKET

Applicants must submit electronically **in one (1) PDF attachment:**

- 1) Completed Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs Scholarship Application
- 2) A 350 word (minimum) to a 500 word (maximum) essay (completed as part of the electronic application) from the applicant to the Scholarship Committee that addresses the following:

“My TRIO Story?”

Please include information regarding your history with TRIO and how you plan to utilize the information and experience you’ve gained through TRIO to further your future educational endeavors.

Essay will be scored for both content and quality (grammar, mechanics, etc).

- 3) Two Letters of Recommendation—Both must be received by the Scholarship Chair by the October 1, 2016 deadline. Requirements for the letters are:
 - a. 1 letter of recommendation must be from a current TRIO employee (current SWASAP Membership required) outlining the applicant’s successful involvement in TRIO.
 - b. 1 letter of recommendation must be from a non-family member outlining the applicant’s successful leadership experience or extracurricular/community involvement.

*During the application process, applicant will be asked to submit the names/contact information of their desired references. Each reference will need to submit their recommendation letter to the TRIO Program Director electronically or by mail to be scanned by the TRIO Program. **It is the applicant’s responsibility to verify that they have a working email address for each reference selected. In addition, after completing this application the applicant must verify that references submitted the recommendation form.***

- 4) Verification Form – Must be received by the Scholarship Chair by the October 1, 2016 deadline.

During the application process, applicant will be asked to submit the name/contact information of their TRIO Program Director. The TRIO Director will need to send in verification with the application submitted electronically. It is the applicant’s responsibility to verify that they submit the correct name, telephone, and email address of their TRIO Program Director. In addition, after completing this application, the applicant must verify that the TRIO Director has submitted the verification form.

DEADLINE:

The SWASAP Scholarship Committee Chair **MUST RECEIVE** the completed application, all reference letters, and the verification information by end of day on **October 1, 2016**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. In addition, it is the applicant's responsibility to submit accurate information concerning names, contact information and email addresses. SWASAP is unable to contact individuals for references or verification and is not responsible for emailed links that get routed to inaccurate email addresses or junk/spam email folders.

AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The SWASAP Scholarship Committee will make recommendations to the SWASAP Board at the November 2016 Board Meeting. After final selection has been determined, each successful applicant will be contacted along with his/her Program Director. In order to receive funds, each recipient's Program Director will be required to submit **official college enrollment verification from the registrar's office** at the beginning of the Spring 2017 semester. Upon receipt of enrollment verification, scholarship checks will be sent to the Program Director for dispersal to student(s) for the Spring 2017 semester.

Questions may be directed to:
Brad Gifford, SWASAP Scholarship Chair
Phone: 903-510-2612

Email: scholarshipswasap@gmail.com Subject: SWASAP Scholarship