



2017 Emerge Scholarships Application Criteria

Emerge is looking for special scholarship recipients who are Georgia residents and will use this opportunity and the education that they receive to better themselves and to help others around them.

Emerge Scholarships (www.emergescholarships.org) has awarded nearly a half of a million dollars in scholarships since its founding year, 2001. While each year hundreds of applicants apply for the scholarships, we are only able to recognize a small number of winners.

The selection committee is focused on identifying special women who are Georgia residents and non-traditional students whose education was delayed or interrupted, individuals with a vision to succeed regardless of any obstacles that life has put in their way. We are especially interested in recognizing women who give back to their communities and whose goals and desires for education align with their passions.

This may include women who are returning to school after a hiatus, changing careers, seeking advancement in their career or work life, and stay-at-home moms entering the work place and in need of additional education/training. This scholarship is not intended for recent high school graduates or women who are eligible for or who have already received other significant financial aid.

Scholarship Information

The money provided by the Emerge scholarship may only be used to pay for tuition and fees at the educational institution. The scholarship check will be made out directly to the institution with instructions to only apply the funds to the student's current account to pay for school tuition and fees. If awarded, your scholarship funds will be available as of August 2017 and may be paid towards tuition, books and fees from that time until the summer 2019, or until the full scholarship funds are used.

The exact amount of each scholarship and the total number of scholarships to be awarded will vary from year to year (7 scholarships were awarded in 2016). The approximate value of each award for 2017 will be \$2,000 - \$5,000 (amount is subject to change).

Eligibility Criteria

1. Scholarship applicants must currently be a resident of the state of Georgia. Proof of residency is required. Applicants must also be accepted into a program of study at an educational institution as evidenced by a proof of acceptance (either an acceptance letter OR a current school transcript).
2. Applicants must be at least 25 years of age as of the date of the postmark of the application. Applicants will be considered without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, and/or physical impairment.
3. Applicants must complete the application form and essay requirement and must mail all required materials to the address provided. All materials being submitted for an applicant (signed application,



proof of residence and program acceptance letter or current transcripts) must be submitted in **one** package. Recommendation letters may be submitted separately to the address provided. All material related to an applicant must note the applicant's name, phone number and email address. The application package must be received in office by April 21, 2017. No exceptions will be made.

4. The application package and recommendation letters must be received in office by April 21, 2017. No exceptions will be made.
5. Applicants are responsible for gathering and submitting all necessary information. Applications will be evaluated based on the information provided; therefore, all questions should be answered as thoroughly as possible. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
6. Scholarship recipients will be chosen based on a number of criteria, including financial need, other funding received, career/life goals, essay content, leadership and participation in community activities, and honors and awards received.
7. Only a select number of applicants will be chosen as recipients. Recipients will be announced the week of June 26, 2017. Please check www.emergescholarships.org after that date for a list of recipients.
8. Acceptance of a scholarship award constitutes permission for Emerge to use the recipient's name, biographical information, and photo for publicity purposes.
9. Recipients of scholarships will be responsible for any and all taxes that apply to receipt of a scholarship under the law of their state of residence. Applicants should check with the appropriate state agency or with an accountant or lawyer specializing in tax questions. Emerge cannot answer questions about taxes
10. All materials submitted become the property of Emerge and will not be returned to the applicant.

Additional Information

The primary selection criteria the committee will consider are:

- Financial Need (based upon employment, family contribution, other scholarship funding, other income, etc.)
- Personal Vision (alignment of goals with life journey)
- Personal Story of Your Journey
- Service to Community
- Future Plans, i.e., how the applicant plans to apply her education
- Other pertinent information