



2026 DC PEARLS III FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CRITERIA

(Application submission deadline—Sunday, May 3, 2026)

DC Pearls III Foundation Scholarship Program Overview

The DC Pearls III Foundation, in partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®, Rho Mu Omega Chapter, is proud to offer college scholarships to graduating high school seniors in Washington, D.C. These scholarships are designed to support students who plan to attend Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as full-time freshmen.

Each year, the Foundation awards multiple scholarships—both one-time and renewable—to help ease the financial burden of higher education. Beyond financial assistance, the program is committed to developing future leaders who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, and a strong dedication to community service.

Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for a DC Pearls III Foundation scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen or permanent legal resident
- Be a resident of the District of Columbia and a graduating high school senior attending a public, private, or charter school in Washington, D.C., with an expected graduation date between May 2026 and August 2026. *(Note: This requirement does not apply to Legacy Award applicants.)*
- Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale
- Demonstrate academic achievement (submission of an official transcript is required)
- Demonstrate leadership and a commitment to community service
- Be accepted to and plan to attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) as a full-time, on-campus freshman in Fall 2026. *(Note: This requirement does not apply to Legacy Award applicants.)*
- Relatives of DC Pearls III Foundation Board Members are ineligible for scholarship consideration

Required Application Materials

All applicants must submit the following by **Sunday, May 3, 2026**. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

- Personal Statement - A 300–500-word statement introducing yourself to the Scholarship Committee and explaining your financial need
- Essay Responses - A 300–500-word essay for each scholarship application
- The following materials must be submitted through personalized links provided after the application is submitted:
 - Counselor Verification Form
 - Official Transcript - Must include the school's seal or be sent via National Student Clearinghouse Transcript Services. Clearinghouse transcripts may be sent to: scholarships@rhomuomega.org
 - Two (2) Letters of Recommendation - may include, but not limited to, letters from teachers, mentors, community leaders and religious leaders



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Art Scholarship	\$5,000	No	<p>The Art Scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student pursuing a college degree in the visual arts or performing arts. Examples are, but are not limited to: painting, architecture, sculpture, poetry, literature, music, performing video, filmmaking, cinema, calligraphy, dance, drawing, motion picture, photography, printmaking, and theatre. The student must matriculate at an HBCU and demonstrate achievement in their specific art field.</p> <p>A sample of your performing arts or visual arts is required and must be attached to the application.</p>	<p>Describe your artistic journey and how your talent in the arts has influenced your personal growth and educational experience.</p> <p>Who or what has inspired you to pursue your artistic path? Explain how attending an HBCU will help you develop your creative abilities and how you hope to use your artistic talent to inspire, educate, or positively impact others in the future.</p>
General Scholarship	\$5,000	Yes	<p>The General Scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student matriculating at an HBCU who demonstrates academic excellence or potential, leadership skills, and commitment to community service.</p> <p>Scholarship may be eligible for up to \$1,500 scholarship renewal for an additional three (3) years, based on the availability of funds and academic record.</p>	<p>Describe your most meaningful academic and personal achievements.</p> <p>How have these experiences shaped your character, leadership abilities, and commitment to serving others? Explain how attending an HBCU will help you achieve your educational and career goals and how you plan to use your education to contribute to your community.</p>



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Linda Latney Scholarship	\$5,000	Yes	<p>The Linda Latney Scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student matriculating at an HBCU who demonstrates academic excellence, leadership skills, and community service. The scholarship is only available to Eastern High School, Washington DC students.</p> <p>Scholarship may be eligible for up to \$1,500 scholarship renewal for an additional three (3) years, based on the availability of funds and academic record.</p>	<p>As a student of Eastern High School (Washington, DC), describe the academic accomplishments, leadership experiences, community service activities, or personal qualities that best represent who you are as a student and leader.</p> <p>How have these experiences prepared you for success in college? Explain how you plan to continue serving and uplifting your community during and after your college education.</p>
Presidential Scholarship	\$5,000	Yes	<p>The Presidential Scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student enrolling at an HBCU who demonstrates a significant leadership and volunteer service activities history.</p> <p>Scholarship may be eligible for up to \$1,500 scholarship renewal for an additional three (3) years, based on the availability of funds and academic record.</p>	<p>Leadership can take many forms. Describe what leadership means to you and share a specific example of when you made a meaningful impact as a leader in your school, community, or organization.</p> <p>What challenges did you face, how did you inspire or influence others, and what did you learn from the experience? Explain how you plan to continue using your leadership and service to positively impact your community while attending an HBCU.</p>



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Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Scholarship	\$5,000	Yes	<p>The STEM Scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student matriculating at an HBCU and who demonstrates achievement in STEM activities.</p> <p>Scholarship may be eligible for up to \$1,500 scholarship renewal for an additional three (3) years, based on the availability of funds and academic record.</p>	<p>Describe the experiences, coursework, programs, or mentors that sparked and strengthened your interest in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics.</p> <p>How have these experiences shaped your academic goals and career aspirations? Explain how you hope to use your STEM education to solve problems, improve communities, or contribute to innovation in the future.</p>
A Diamond, Pearl, and Golden Opportunity Scholarship	\$1,000	No	<p>A Diamond, Pearl, and Golden Opportunity Scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student matriculating at an HBCU who demonstrates an interest in mental health, social work fields, and/or geriatrics.</p>	<p>The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success.</p> <p>Recount the time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you? What did you learn from the experience?</p>
Angela Ducker Richardson Memorial Scholarship	\$1,000	No	<p>The Angela Ducker Richardson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student matriculating at an HBCU and majoring in Health and Science.</p>	<p>Describe the greatest challenge you have experienced in your academic life and how it motivated you to pursue a career in a health or science field.</p>
The Edward and Kizzie Hayes Educational Scholarship	\$1,000	No	<p>The Edward and Kizzie Hayes Educational Scholarship will be awarded to an eligible student matriculating at an HBCU and majoring in Education.</p>	<p>How will you make a difference in the lives of students that you will influence once you become a teacher?</p>



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Legacy Award	\$1,000	No	The Legacy Award will be awarded to an eligible student in the Washington, DC metropolitan area who has a clear vision for the impact they want to create in the world. This scholarship honors purpose, ambition, and the determination to leave a lasting mark. It celebrates students who are thinking beyond today and working toward meaningful change. The Legacy Award invests in future legacy builders.	<p>The Legacy Award recognizes students who have a vision for the impact they hope to create in the world.</p> <p>Describe the legacy you hope to build and why it matters to you. What experiences or values have shaped this vision, and how are you currently preparing to turn that vision into reality?</p>