

2025-2026 EAST OHIO UMC MERIT SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

The **East Ohio Merit Scholarship** is administered by the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry which awards scholarships to students based upon merit. Merit is evaluated based upon academic performance, church involvement, and financial need. The Board may award scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. These are one-year scholarships, yet a student may apply each year of their schooling. Notification of scholarship awards will be made to all applicants no later than July 1, 2025. Questions concerning this or other United Methodist scholarships and loans should be directed to Pastor Christy Suffecool at (800) 831-3972 ext. 116 or csuffecool@eocumc.com

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IF SUBMITTED ONLINE, details can be found here: <https://www.eocumc.com/scholarships/index.html>

1. The student must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
2. The student must be an active member of a United Methodist Church in East Ohio. Preference will be given to students that are admitted to or attending a United Methodist affiliated college or university for the 2025-2026 college year.
3. The Student Application form **MUST** be completed by the student and not by a third party (such as a parent).
4. All materials should be submitted online through the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) website. The link to their website is posted here <https://www.eocumc.com/scholarships/index.html>. Hard copy submissions will not be accepted. **The deadline for submission is March 31, 2025.** There are **NO** exceptions to this deadline, please do not ask.
5. The student **MUST** submit **ALL** materials for the application to be considered. A complete application will include:
 - _____ Student Application Form – with all sections completed. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
 - _____ A current Transcript.
 - _____ A personal letter of recommendation from a pastor or lay person (who is not a relative) who knows you well which states:
 - a) The length of time you've known the applicant
 - b) How you have worked/related with the applicant
 - c) Why you feel the applicant is deserving of a scholarship.

It is the **APPLICANT'S** responsibility to make sure recommendations and forms are submitted on time.

Essay Guidelines

Submit completed essay through application website.

Please tell us how your faith journey has helped you and impacted your personal faith – be specific. This essay should reflect upon your personal journey of faith through the following experiences of spiritual formation (as well as others that you feel have been important); prayer and study of scripture; worship with your local church congregation; mission/service experiences through your church and the larger community (examples: work camps, Scouting, Red Cross volunteer, volunteer in local hospital/nursing homes; tutor for young children, VBS).

When writing your essay, use the suggestions above to tell us how and where you see God in your life and what God's presence means to you. Attention and care should be given to spelling, punctuation, correct grammar, and coherent content. It is recommended that the applicant request conversation and mentoring with their pastor or church lay leader as they create their essay.