

Markowski-Leach Scholarships

2021-22 Academic Year

Application Instructions: Conditions and Requirements

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE:

- All applications for 2021-22 academic year awards must be received by the Markowski-Leach Scholarships Committee, via this web portal, no later than our **Application Deadline – 11:59 PM Wednesday, March 31, 2021.**
- Applications will be reviewed by the Committee and awardees will be selected in mid-April. Notification will be sent to all applicants about the status of their applications by the end of April.
- Status inquiries can be made by e-mail to info@mlscholarships.org.

PURPOSE:

The Markowski-Leach Scholarship Fund was established under the terms of a bequest from the estate of Mr. James Leach in memory of Mr. Leach and Mr. Thomas Markowski. The purpose of the fund is to provide scholarship awards to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) persons attending San Francisco State University, Stanford University, University of California at San Francisco, University of California at Berkeley, or University of California Hastings College of the Law as undergraduate or graduate students.

According to the terms of the bequest, award recipients will be determined by the Scholarship Committee to be:

"...likely to make a substantial contribution to society, thereby enhancing society's perception of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people as well as increasing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community's self-esteem."

Study in LGBTQ-related fields is not required. Successful candidates will demonstrate leadership and a commitment to excellence in their service, employment, or scholastic endeavors as out and visible LGBTQ persons.

APPLICATION REVIEW GUIDELINES:

The Markowski-leach Scholarship Selection Committee will consider the following criteria when they review applications. Each criterion is assigned a score from 1 to 10 and each is assigned a percentage multiplier to indicate their relative importance to our selection process. While the process is inherently subjective, each Committee member strives to be as objective as possible.

Each application is reviewed by at least 3 Committee members. Review results are discussed if there is significant variation amongst them and additional Committee members are assigned, if necessary, to achieve a consistent result.

Essay Quality (5%)

Did the applicant follow instructions? The essay should have good composition and present an understandable flow of the applicant's life story. Is there a minimum of spelling and grammatical errors?

It would be prudent to indicate in the essay whether or not English is the applicant's primary or native language.

Visibility (10%)

The purpose of the Scholarship is to identify and award applicants whom we believe demonstrate the potential to become role models for other LGBTQ persons and to enhance, through their character and actions, society's perception of LGBTQ people. Therefore, it is essential that applicants be out and visible. It is understood that there can be barriers to being out to family, friends, and colleagues, but successful applicants will demonstrate that their LGBTQ visibility could be an example to other LGBTQ struggling with their identity.

Not being out and visible would preclude an applicant from consideration.

Service (15%)

Successful applicants will demonstrate a significant amount of energy, relative to their school or work commitments, providing service to others. This can be work with an individual in need; acting as a peer counselor, mentor or tutor; or through work, community, or school organizations or committees.

Leadership (15%)

"Leadership" is not limited to holding a significant leadership position in a work group, organization, or club. Leadership is also meant to include things such as defining a situation in a revelatory manner, holding a position of guidance, forging consensus, coalition building, or being a dynamic force for change in your work, school, or community.

Endeavors cited need not be limited to LGBTQ-related activities.

Commitment to Excellence (25%)

Successful applicants will demonstrate a high level of commitment and persistence to achieving a significant positive goal in their academics, employment, committee work, or volunteerism, with a clear trajectory toward a positive result. This goal does not need to be LGBT-focused (for example, it can be a goal of success in study, research, or work in engineering).

Proof of GPA is not required, though it is outlined in the "Requirements" listed below. We ask each school to ensure that recipients are "students in good standing" before awards are released. We realize that a GPA is not the sole indication of success in academics. However, demonstrated persistence and previous success in academics is expected.

Impact (25%)

The successful applicant is proudly out and visible in employment, study, committee participation, or volunteerism and has a significant and influential impact on the betterment of others or progress toward reaching a common goal, thus increasing the likelihood of their becoming a positive role model and/or creating a positive image of LGBTQ people. The demonstrated ability to create a positive influence is key here.

Life Story (5%)

This is the most difficult and subjective review criterion. We did feel, though, that it is important to recognize both the difficulties and advantages each applicant has faced. An applicant who has faced crushing discrimination, rejection, health issues, financial hardship, or other obstacles and overcome them deserves recognition for this. We are looking for how the applicant perceived an obstacle, how it affected their life, and both their work to overcome it and the level of success they've achieved.

Likewise, an applicant may be lucky enough to have a supportive environment, been given many opportunities, and may have already achieved notable successes. Here, we are looking for an applicant who has recognized their opportunities and has not only taken advantage of them but has gone on to further opportunities based on their previous successes and has used their position or success to reach a personal goal or uplift others.

AWARD:

The award for the 2021-22 academic year will be \$2,000. This amount will be divided by the number of terms (2 or 3) in the recipient's school year. Award checks will be sent to recipients' Financial Aid Offices and will be credited to recipients at the beginning of each term. Awardees are automatically eligible for a second year of award if they continue to meet the requirements and conditions of the Scholarship.

ELIGIBILITY:

The eligibility rules governing the competition for The Markowski-Leach Scholarships include the following:

- Applicants shall self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer persons.
- Applicants shall, by their completion of and submission of the scholarship application, certify that they are LGBTQ.
- Recipients must be enrolled as undergraduate or graduate students at San Francisco State University, Stanford University, University of California at San Francisco, University of California Hastings College of the Law, or University of California at Berkeley during the academic year in which the award will be disbursed. Applicants need not be enrolled at the time of application, however, which will occur in the spring preceding the award year. The scholarship application may be submitted by students whose acceptance into a program at one of these schools is pending, though the scholarship can only be awarded if the student actually matriculates.
- Recipients must be enrolled in a program that leads to an undergraduate degree, a graduate degree, or to a state teaching credential during the academic year in which they receive the scholarship.
- Undergraduate recipients must be enrolled full-time as defined by their institution for each term in which they receive an award. Graduate recipients must be deemed by their schools to be enrolled and must demonstrate progress toward their degree during the award period.
- Academic performance:
 - All undergraduate recipients must have earned a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 in all prior college-level coursework.

- High school students applying for admission will be considered eligible upon admission to an affiliated University.
- Graduate recipients must be eligible to enroll in a graduate program as defined by their school.
- Recipients must meet all satisfactory academic progress requirements normally applied by the institution for its federal, state, and institutional financial aid programs.
- Note: Academic transcripts need not be provided. The Financial Aid Office at the student's campus will verify eligibility.

COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION:

Applicants must meet all material submission requirements and deadlines that are included in the annual announcement of the competition. It is expected that an applicant must provide the following documents to be considered for the award:

- Completed and digitally signed Application with general demographic information.
- Written Personal Statement describing how the student meets the requirements of the scholarship program as described in the Application Form.
- Names and contact information of two references to support assertions made in the candidate's statement. **Actual letters of reference are not required with the application.**
- Any other documents subsequently requested by the Scholarship Committee.
- Applications are to be submitted through this web portal.
- Applicants must inform the Scholarship Committee of changes of address or enrollment status. Failure to notify the Committee of any changes may affect Scholarship disbursement. Notification can be made via e-mail to info@mlscholarships.org
- By their signature on the acceptance letter, award recipients agree to the use of their names and general information in news releases and promotional information about The Markowski-Leach Scholarships.
- The Scholarship Committee shall have responsibility for interpreting these policies, making decisions regarding the competition, and for candidate selection.

Questions may be sent via e-mail to: info@mlscholarships.org or directed to the campus contact person as indicated below:

San Francisco State University
Dennis Santos, Student Financial Aid <dsantos@sfsu.edu>

Stanford University
Jeff Shelby, Financial Aid <shelby@stanford.edu>

University of California, Berkeley
Bill Brockett and Lar Bryer <info@mlscholarships.org>

University of California Hastings College of the Law
<FinancialAid@uchastings.edu>

University of California, San Francisco
Jerry Lopez, Student Financial Aid <Jerry.Lopez@ucsf.edu>