

RULES and REGULATIONS for the ESTARL SCHOLARSHIP
Grand Chapter of Virginia, Order of the Eastern Star

1. Any undergraduate student preparing to receive a bachelor's degree in the field of religious studies, or a graduate student preparing to receive a Master's in religious studies, is eligible to apply for an ESTARL Scholarship.
 - (a) Applicants **must** be recommended by a legally constituted chapter of the Grand Chapter of Virginia, Order of the Eastern Star. The original request for the award **must** be initiated in the chapter **making the recommendation**.
 - (b) Applicants **must** be a graduate of an accredited high school, or have received the equivalent diploma, or college, with a record acceptable to the ESTARL Committee.
 - (c) Applicants **must** satisfy the ESTARL Committee, in writing a letter, of his/her sincerity of purpose in entering a field of religious leadership.
 - (d) Applications **must** be made on approved forms from the Grand Chapter of Virginia. These forms may be secured from the Eastern Star chapter that is recommending the student. Forms have the **chapter seal**.
 - (e) The applicant **must** be, or plan to be, a **FULL-TIME student** at an accredited institution. The name and address of the school the applicant will attend **must** be provided with the application and with each subsequent request for renewal.
 - (f) Applicant's academic standing (GPA) **must** be a "B"; an applicant that is in the "Internship Program" must maintain a "P" (passing) or above grade: an applicant that the school uses the grading system – P,F,W – **must** maintain a "P".
 - (g) Applicants **must have been a legal resident (pay taxes to the state) of Virginia for at least one year.**
 - (h) **A student must request an application to be considered for a scholarship and the completed forms must be returned to the Grand Chapter ESTARL Committee Chairman, Kimberly Sirman by March 31, 2026.**

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2. The Eastern Star Chapter making the recommendation shall appoint an investigating committee composed of at least three (3) Sisters or Brothers to investigate the sincerity and moral character of the applicant and to serve as a liaison between the applicant, the chapter, and the ESTARL Committee. The assistance of the chapter investigating committee to the Grand Chapter ESTARL Committee shall be to confer with the applicant and investigate fully the applicant's seriousness of purpose, character, and financial need. **The chapter shall:**
 - (a) Assemble and forward to the Grand Chapter ESTARL committee Co-Chair the complete package which **must** be received by the Grand Chapter ESTARL Chair, **Kimberly Sirman, P. O. Box 1084, West Point, VA 23181-1084** by **March 31**.
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 1. The Students' application form with the **seal** of the chapter.
 2. Three (3) character reference forms with the **seal** of the chapter and three (3) **letters** of recommendation from the references named by the applicant.
 3. **Letter** (with chapter seal) of **recommendation** from the chapter containing the findings from the investigation.
 4. Chapter Recommendation form with the **seal** of the chapter.
 5. Personal letter from the applicant.
 6. Recent small photograph or picture of the applicant. (Picture is not returned.)
 7. Official (not a copy) academic transcript from the applicant's most recent educational endeavors.
 8. List of extracurricular activities.
 - (b) **Keep in touch** with the student. The Grand Chapter ESTARL committee should be informed of any change in a recipient's course of study, plans for a career, and financial status while in college or seminary. The purpose of maintaining contact is to provide support for these students and to promote public awareness of the Eastern Star projects in the community

NO INCOMPLETE OR LATE APPLICATION WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE

GRAND CHAPTER ESTARL COMMITTEE

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3. Grand Chapter ESTARL Committee:

- (a) The Committee shall meet in April to select the recipients for the fall term. Only complete applications **received by March 31st** shall be considered for an award. Awards are limited to one per family.
- (b) The number of awards for each year shall be determined by the available funds In the Grand Chapter ESTARL account on March 31st. (When funds are available an award is/or will be given up to \$2,500.00 for one year.)
- (c) The applicant, the chapter, and the student's school shall be notified by May 30th of the decisions of the ESTARL Committee.
- (d) Awards will be made in **two equal payments**, one in **August** after **receipt of the current year's final transcript**, and one in **January** upon the successful completion of the fall semester's studies.
- (e) Once all required paperwork has been received, the ESTARL Chairman will notify the Grand Secretary in writing that the transcript has been received and the scholarship check is to be sent to the school.

4. Renewals:

- (a) Renewal is not automatic. The recipient of an ESTARL scholarship may apply for renewal for the next year by **submitting a request** in writing; completing the **renewal form**; maintaining a high **academic record** per regulations; contacting the **chapter that recommended them** and have chapter write a **letter of recommendation**; and have your last **official transcript** sent to the ESTARL Chairman. They must be **received by March 31st** by the Grand Chapter ESTARL Chair, Kimberly Sirman.
- (b) The maximum number of awards an individual student may receive shall be **four (4)**.
- (c) In the event that the student changes his/her course of study, **does not complete the year** for which the award was granted, or **decides not to enter the field of religious service**, the **FULL AMOUNT** of the scholarship received for the **current year** must be **repaid** by the recipient. A time frame and manner of repayment shall be developed by the committee and the recipient.
- (d) A **copy of these regulations** shall be sent to each subordinate chapter and kept by the Secretary for reference. A copy shall be given to the applicant with each application.