

2017 National ASL Scholarship

Deadline: May 5, 2017

Eligibility Statement

High school seniors planning to major or minor in American Sign Language, Deaf Studies, Deaf Education, or Interpreter Preparation at a community college, college, or university may apply for this scholarship.

Applicants must belong to a chapter of the ASL Honor Society on their high school campus to be eligible.

Family members of ASLHS and ASLTA-affiliated individuals are barred from applying.

2017 National ASL Scholarship Application Checklist

To the applicant:

It is your responsibility to complete each of the following requirements by May 5, 2017. If any portion is omitted or postmarked after the deadline, your application will not be considered.

Scholarship Checklist:

- Part A: Confirm your campus has an active ASLHS chapter.....
- Part B: Complete the biography, education, and personal
accomplishment sections.....
- Part C: Have your official high school transcripts sent.....
- Part D: Complete the written essay.....
- Part E: Complete the ASL essay.....
- Part F: Have to instructors write letters of recommendation.....
- Part G: Sign the letter of agreement.....

Transcripts should be mailed separately by the registration office. All other materials in this application, including the USB drive, should be mailed in one packet to:

ASL Honor Society
Attn.: Jason E. Zinza
2801 Fait Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21224



Note: Do **NOT** send your packet via certified mail or signature required, as this may result in a significant delay.



2017 National ASL Scholarship, Part A

Before submitting your scholarship application, first verify that your institution's membership with the ASL Honor Society is current. Do this by:

Step 1: Visit the *Chapters* page of the ASLHS website (www.aslhonorsociety.org/Chapters.html).

Step 2: Scroll down and find your state and institution name.

Step 3: If there is an instructor's name and check mark for your school, send in your scholarship application.

Step 4: If there is no instructor name or check mark, your scholarship application will not be processed because your institution is not an active ASLHS member for 2016-2017. See Step 6 for more information.

Step 5: If your institution does not appear on the list at all, then your scholarship application will not be processed because your institution is not an active ASLHS member for 2016-2017. See Step 6 for more information.

Step 6: If your school is not an active member of the ASL Honor Society, discuss your interest in applying for the ASL Scholarship with one of the ASL instructors on your campus. Note that unless your institution joins the ASLHS, your scholarship cannot be processed. ASLHS membership needs to be taken care of prior to submitting your ASL scholarship application.



2017 National ASL Scholarship, Part B
Print All Information in Black or Blue Ink

1. Biographical Information

Applicant's Legal Name ***Birth Date (mm/dd/yyyy)***

Street Address ***Telephone***

City, State, Zip Code ***Email***

____ - ____ - ____
Social Security Number (required)

Are you a CODA? (yes or no)

2. ASLHS Participation

Describe your involvement with your campus chapter of the ASL Honor Society to date

Have you participated in the annual Deaf Art or ASL Literature competitions, hosted by the ASL Honor Society?

____ ***Yes. Indicate year/s:*** _____

____ ***No***

3. Education Note: ALL information must be included. Do not leave any blanks.

Name of High School Currently Attending

School Address

City, State, Zip

Dates Attended

Graduation Date

How Many Years of ASL Courses?

4. College Plans

Name of College / University You Will Attend in the Fall

College Address

City, State, Zip

Registrar / Enrollment Office Telephone Number

Financial Aid Office Fax Number

I Plan to Study:

_____ **ASL Major**

_____ **ASL Minor**

_____ **Deaf Studies Major**

_____ **Deaf Studies Minor**

_____ **Deaf Education Major**

_____ **Deaf Education Minor**

_____ **Interpreter Education**

Briefly describe your college plans. How do you see ASL being part of your college education and in your future career?

5. Personal Accomplishments

Please list any special recognition, honors, or awards you have received during your high school years. Academic, athletic, and extracurricular entries are acceptable. Examples: National Merit Scholar; being featured in a local news report, etc.

Please describe any community service or volunteer activities you've been involved with. For each, explain the type of service and its duration. Examples: Hospice care (2 years); library service (6 months), etc.

Please describe your involvement in school-related activities. Examples: School government; peer counseling, etc.

Please explain your work experience, including the number of hours worked per week. If you have not held a job during high school, please write "none."

Please describe your involvement in Deaf community events and / or organizations, and how you have used your ASL skills outside of class. Examples: Participating in the Deaf Art competition; coordinating an ASL film festival, etc.



2017 National ASL Scholarship, Part C

REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS

To the student: Your application for the national ASL scholarship will not be reviewed without your official high school transcripts. It is your responsibility to request transcripts be sent by the application deadline. Keep in mind your school may need 1-3 weeks to process a transcript. Give this sheet to your school's registrar or enrollment officer.

To the registrar: The student identified below is applying for a scholarship offered by the ASL Honor Society. Please send one official copy of the applicant's complete high school transcript to the address below. Seal the envelope and sign across the flap.

Note: Unofficial transcripts are not acceptable.

Send transcripts to:

ASL Honor Society
Attn.: Jason E. Zinza
2801 Fait Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21224

Name of student requesting transcript: _____

Today's date: _____

Transcripts needed by May 5, 2017



2017 National ASL Scholarship, Part D

Written Essay

Instructions: Please attach your essay as a separate document. You may print a copy and include it with your application, or submit a digital copy on the same USB thumbnail drive used for your ASL essay. Save the digital file in a .doc, .txt, or .pdf file format.

Essay Guidelines:

- a. **Minimum one page, single spaced;** maximum two pages.
- b. Essay content should be original and written by you without any outside assistance.
- c. The essay will be judged for content, organization, and clarity.
- d. Give the essay a title.
- e. Make sure your name appears below the essay title.

Essay Topic:

You likely have had the opportunity to study other languages, such as Spanish or French. Describe the moment you realized choosing to study ASL was a good decision for you. What led you to choose ASL?



2017 National ASL Scholarship, Part E

ASL Essay

Instructions: Please attach your ASL essay on a **USB thumbnail drive**. Essays on DVD will not be accepted. Acceptable digital formats are .mov, .avi, .wmv, DV, RM, DivX, and MPEG 1, 2, or 3. The USB thumbnail drive must be mailed with the application packet and will not be returned.

Essay Guidelines:

- a. **The ASL essay should be at least 2 minutes long, but no longer than 4-5 minutes.**
- b. Essay content should be original and signed by you without any outside assistance.
- c. The essay will be judged for content, organization, and clarity.
- d. Ensure the recording is as clear as possible, paying attention to background distractions, selection of attire, and film quality. Beware of submitting blurry videos or being too close or too far from the recording equipment.
- e. Please state your full name at the beginning of the video essay.

Essay Topic:

Everyone has overcome adversity or beaten the odds at one time or another. What has been one of your personal triumphs?



2017 National ASL Scholarship, Part F

Letters of Recommendation

To the Student: Give this form to two professors who have had you as a student in an academic subject. One professor must be a current or former ASL instructor. Please have the instructor put this form and the letter of recommendation in a sealed envelope with his / her name over the seal. Include the letters of recommendation in your scholarship application packet. Be sure to give both professors adequate time to write the letters of recommendation before the application deadline of May 5, 2017.

To the Instructor: The ASL Honor Society considers an applicant's current academic achievement, aspirations, and personal qualities in evaluating scholarship applications. We appreciate candid comments to help the ASLHS select the most qualified candidate.

Please return this form along with an additional letter of recommendation to the applicant in a sealed envelope. Sign your name across the seal.

Teacher's name _____ Teacher's phone _____

Teacher's email _____ Subject taught _____

How long have you known the applicant, and in what context? _____

What are three words that come to mind to describe the student?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

In your letter of recommendation, please write whatever you feel is important regarding this student. What makes him / her exceptional? We are interested in your perspective about this student's academic and personal characteristics, in addition to your impressions and personal knowledge about the applicant. Feel free to share any relevant information you feel the scholarship committee should know.



2017 National ASL Scholarship, Part G

Letter of Agreement

By signing your name and submitting this scholarship application, you agree to the following stipulations:

- a. You intend to major or minor in American Sign Language, Deaf Studies, Deaf Education, or Interpreter Education.
- b. You attend a school that is an active member of the ASL Honor Society.
- c. You understand the amount of the ASL scholarship will vary between \$1,000.00 - \$2,500.00.
- d. If awarded a scholarship, you agree that the funds will be used solely for tuition and applied evenly to each term.
- e. If awarded a scholarship, you understand that the scholarship check will be made payable to the college you attend and applied to your student account only.
- f. You must enroll for courses each term or the balance of the scholarship will be returned to the ASL Honor Society.
- g. It is your responsibility to inform the ASL Honor Society if you transfer schools mid-year.
- h. You understand your application and USB thumbnail drive become the property of the ASL Honor Society.
- i. I understand that the ASL Honor Society does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, age, ancestry, religion, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, generic information, hearing status, or any other characteristic protected under federal law.

I, _____, agree to the terms of the ASL scholarship offered
please print
by the ASL Honor Society. I understand the competitive nature of national scholarships and that I am not guaranteed a scholarship simply by submitting this application. I affirm that both essays are my own work and I assume full responsibility for their content.

Applicant's Signature

Date