

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

APPLICATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

PURPOSE Numerous scholarships are available that recognize and reward outstanding achievements by English majors, including English, Creative Writing, and Teaching of English. Several of our scholarships are specifically for future teachers of English. Scholarship awards vary in value; most of them range from \$300 to \$3000, with a few scholarships giving nearly full tuition for a semester or year. Scholarships are generally applied to a student's tuition and fees.

ELIGIBILITY Applicants for these scholarships must meet the following requirements:

- You must be an English department major and enrolled as a full-time student for at least one semester of the coming academic year. For example, in Spring 2020, scholarships will be given only to students enrolled full-time for at least one semester in AY 2020-21;
- At the time of application, you must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5/4.0 overall, and a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.75/4.00 in English courses at Illinois;
- By the end of spring semester, you must have **completed** at Illinois at least four English, Rhetoric or Creative Writing courses beyond Comp I;
- Throughout the application process, you must remain in good standing with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

APPLYING Students interested in applying for these scholarships should complete the Stage One application and return it **in electronic form** to Nancy Rahn: (nrahn@illinois.edu; 200 English Building (advising office). Questions about the application process may be directed to the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Professor Andrea Stevens (arstev@illinois.edu). Students will initially submit Stage One (see Instructions below); those deemed to meet the basic criteria of eligibility will be notified and asked to import the info from the Stage One application into the Stage Two application and include in that application an application essay and a writing sample.

JUDGING The English Undergraduate Scholarship Committee will review the applications and determine the finalists for each scholarship. Finalists will be notified in late March and asked to submit an application essay and a writing sample of 8-10 pages.

Final decisions will be made by the committee (who meet after final grades have been reported; spring semester grades will enter into these decisions) and

applicants will be notified *sometime during the summer*, this notification process can sometimes take a while since the department must verify that each award is given in accordance with donor restrictions. We will make every effort to notify applicants as soon as we can.

INSTRUCTIONS

For your ease we've created two separate word docs titled 'Stage One, Undergraduate Scholarship Application Form' and 'Stage Two, Undergraduate Scholarship Application Form'. For Stage One, students will submit the cover sheet, the transcripts, and indicate transfer credits, and list the names of two faculty referees (can be any professor, lecturer, or instructor, but not an academic advisor). At the second stage, students notified that their application will be going forward to the final round will include the application essay and the writing sample, **and will alert their faculty referees to the deadline for submission of their letters.**

1. **Cover sheet** of this application form. Make sure to verify with the advising office your class status as of Fall 2020, especially if you have transfer credits, and accurately report your GPA at the time of application. Read the list of scholarships carefully, taking note of any restrictions, especially to awards reserved for teaching of education majors only.
2. **An unofficial transcript.** Go to UI Integrate, Student and Faculty Self Service Login; Registration and Records; View Academic History; select transcript level and type and then click submit. You can cut and paste this information and include it with your application. Please note that final decisions also take into account grades from the spring semester.
3. One last consideration: if you have **transfer credits** from other institutions, submit the names of those institutions and the courses transferred from there.

STAGE TWO

4. **Application Essay.** Write an essay describing your specific intellectual interests and development. Limit this part of the application to two pages, double-spaced, in 12-pt type. All English majors like to read; focus on texts and questions that illuminate your recent, individual, life as a reader, writer, and scholar. Give examples of interests you've developed in your coursework, in English and beyond, and other activities. If you wish, explain how these interests point to a possible future career or graduate study.

Please note: If you are applying for awards that require special criteria or that carry restrictions (for instance, the Conrad, Hook, Seng, and Oberg scholarships), explicitly conclude by explaining why you are an appropriate candidate for this award AND make sure that your referees confirm your eligibility as well. If you are applying for the J.N. Hook

Scholarship, briefly explain your financial need. If you are applying to the Conrad and are from downstate and a rising junior & teaching of education major, say this explicitly in your application. If applying for the Seng and can provide proof of your high school class status along with your application, that is ideal. Note in particular the restrictions on the Oberg asking for candidates of good academic standing who also work part-time and participate in extracurricular activities—you have to address this in the application AND have your letter-writer verify this in their letter as well.

- 5. Writing Sample.** Please also cut and paste an 8- to 10-page writing sample of work from a past course that best exemplifies your strengths in writing and research; for CW majors, this essay can of course represent your best creative work.