

UNDERWOOD-SMITH TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

College/University Student Application
2009-2010
(MARCH 1, 2009 DEADLINE)



West Virginia
Higher Education
Policy Commission

1018 Kanawha Boulevard, East, Suite 700
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

SECTION A: STUDENT INFORMATION - To be completed by student. Print in ink or type.

Social Security Number		Legal Name: Last		First	Middle Initial
Permanent Home Address			If Applicable, Indicate Maiden Name:		
Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____			If Applicable, Indicate Spouse Name:		
College/University you plan to attend:			Campus Address (If different than Permanent Address):		
Are you a permanent legal resident of West Virginia?			Telephone Number: _____		
Check One: New Applicant _____ Renewal Applicant _____	Academic Fields of Study: (Be specific)		Degree Being Pursued: ____ Bachelors ____ Masters	Year of high school graduation:	

All of the information in Section A on this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and is made in good faith. I have read, I understand, and I agree to the terms of the Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program. I also certify that proceeds of any scholarship made as a result of this application will be used for educational purposes during the approved academic period at the educational institution named on this form. I authorize disclosure of my name and information related to this application.

Signature of Applicant

Date

SECTION B: COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY INFORMATION - This section must be completed by the college/university Financial Aid Director for all undergraduate and graduate level applicants.

Scholarship application period: From _____ To _____	Student's academic field of study: (Be specific)	Student's 2009-2010 class level: ____ Freshman ____ Sophomore ____ Junior ____ Senior	MASTERS: ____ 1st year ____ 2nd year
Student's financial aid budget:	Applicant's overall college g.p.a.:	Is student making satisfactory academic progress?	

Student's expected graduate date:

Is applicant a legal West Virginia resident?

Type of undergraduate degree:

If applicant is a graduate student, indicate:

*Overall undergraduate grade point average: _____

*Type of undergraduate degree: _____

*Graduate grade point average: _____

I certify that the information provided on this form is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Financial Aid Director

Date

Print or type name and title

Institution

Telephone Number

Email Address

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATION

Statement of Purpose

APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

Last

First

Middle

SOCIAL SECURITY #: _____ **INSTITUTION ATTENDING:** _____

(Statement to be typed)

Please type a brief essay (300 word limit) describing why you wish to become a teacher. Think about and write your statement carefully. The selection committee will use your statement as one of the criteria in the selection of recipients. After you have completed the application return it to your college/university Teacher Education Chairperson for it to then be forwarded to the Higher Education Policy Commission.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

The Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program is a state funded program designed to enable and encourage outstanding students who demonstrate an interest in teaching to pursue teaching careers at the pre-school, elementary, middle or secondary school level. Scholarships, not to exceed \$5,000 per academic year, are to be awarded on the basis of academic qualifications, program of study and interest in teaching. The intention is to enable the recipient to obtain a teaching certificate and to commit that individual to the pursuit of a teaching career in West Virginia.

To qualify for the program, a student must meet the following basic selection criteria:

(1) Be a legal West Virginia resident:

(2) UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

- a) Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.25 after successfully completing two years of course work at an approved institution of higher education;

GRADUATE:

- a) Have or will be graduating in the top ten percent of his/her college/university undergraduate program;
- b) Have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 from the undergraduate institution;

- (3) Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at a West Virginia institution of higher education as a full-time student in a course of study leading to certification as a teacher at the pre-school, elementary or secondary level.
- (4) Be willing to teach in West Virginia's public pre-school, elementary, middle or secondary level schools for two years for each year of assistance received.
- (5) Be willing to repay the scholarship on a pro rata basis according to the fraction of the teaching obligation not completed, as well as accrued interest and any required collection fees if he/she fails to fulfill the teaching obligation. (The interest charge is adjusted annually from the time interest begins to accrue to the time the repayment period begins, and is set at a rate prescribed by the WV Higher Education Policy Commission.)

The West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, gender, veteran's status, age or disability, in the administration of any of its activities, services or with respect to any aspects of employment.

You should be aware that these scholarships become loans if the recipient fails to fulfill the teaching obligation. The scholarships must be repaid (monthly payments) on a pro rata basis, as well as accrued interest and any required collection fees. This teaching and/or repayment obligation must be fulfilled within ten years. Interest will accrue from the first date of disbursement if the scholar fails to complete a degree in education or does not fulfill the teaching obligation.

When the number of qualified applicants exceeds available funding, additional consideration may be given to such factors as each applicant's grade point average, statement on interest in teaching, and program of study.

Contingent upon available funding, the Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship may be renewed up to a maximum of two (2) academic years for undergraduate study and two (2) years for graduate study. To remain eligible for the Underwood-Smith, recipients must continue to meet all the requirements outlined for renewal by the Scholarship Selection Panel.

The application packet consists of this instruction/summary sheet describing the program and the following items.

- (1) **Application** – To be completed by the student and the college/university financial aid director.
- (2) **Statement of Purpose** – A typed statement (limit three hundred (300) words) on the student's intention and interest in being a certified pre-school, elementary, middle or secondary level teacher.

The completed application with the statement of purpose should be returned to the chairperson of the teacher education department/ chief academic officer and then be forward to the Higher Education Policy Commission by March 1, 2009