

# HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP AND LAPTOP AWARDS 2024

Application Deadline:

Friday, April 12, 2024 | 4:00 pm CST



Greater Milwaukee  
Urban League

Thank you for your interest in submitting an application for the Greater Milwaukee Urban League's **High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards 2024**. We congratulate you on your decision to continue your education by attending college or serving in the military. Our goal is to invest financial resources to help support your journey.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for consideration for this award, an applicant must:

1. Be a Milwaukee County college-bound high school senior or early graduating junior who will graduate in **May or June 2024**.
2. Show evidence [i.e., acceptance letter(s)] for plans for full-time enrollment in a two or four-year college program.]
3. Be able to attend a "Red Carpet" acceptance event on Wednesday, June 12 at 6:00 pm and sign a media release form
4. Meet the specific requirements of **ONE** of the following three categories:
  - **Category 1 - Academic Excellence:** Applicants in this category must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher, and show excellence in core curriculum subjects throughout your 3/4 years of high school. Applicants in this category will also be required to submit **two (2) letters of recommendation** that highlight and confirm intellectual curiosity and exemplary academic achievement, a **transcript**, and an **essay (minimum of 400 words - see Required Application Materials)**.
  - **Category 2 - Community Service/Leadership:** Applicants in this category must have a cumulative grade point average of **2.5 or higher** and demonstrate active participation in extra-curricular activities, especially community service activities and/or display leadership abilities in school activities or through work experience. Applicants in this category will also be required to submit **two (2) letters of recommendation** that highlight and confirm exemplary community service/leadership, a **transcript**, a **list** of involvement in community service/volunteer activity and/or leadership roles/positions and an **essay (minimum of 400 words - see Required Application Materials)**.
  - **Category 3 - Character/Academic Turnaround:** Applicants in this category must have a cumulative grade point average of **2.0 or higher** and have faced adversity and/or overcome challenging life circumstances. The nominee must have turned his/her school performance around or must have maintained high academic standards in the face of adversity. Applicants in this category will be required to submit **(2) two** letters of recommendation from their school administration, guidance counselor, minister/clergy or a community organization (i.e., Boys and Girls Club, Boy or Girl Scouts, YWCA, etc.), a **transcript**, and an **essay (minimum of 350 words - see Application Requirements)**.

***Please note:** Priority will be given to students in each category who demonstrate financial need through eligibility for Free or Reduced Lunch.*

## AWARD TIMELINE

The following are the key dates to adhere to:

- \* **Friday, April 12:** Application deadline – **4:00 pm** (this is a firm deadline; no exceptions).
- \* **Friday, May 24 :** Award notification via email/USPS (**Make sure your email/phone number is current!**)
- \* **Wednesday, June 12 :** Award presentation at the Milwaukee County Zoo, Peck Center

***Please note:** All awardees must be in attendance to receive their awards. Failure to attend the designated appointment time will result in forfeiture of the award.*

## SELECTION COMMITTEE AND PROCESS

The Greater Milwaukee Urban League has an outstanding group of community volunteers who sit on the High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards Selection Committee which reviews all applications. The committee is comprised of local professionals including educators, businessmen and women, and individuals who are considered experts in their field. All members share a passion for the post-secondary success of youth in the community. Additionally, each committee member commits to equality and fairness in the review of applications and selecting finalists who best fit the Award criteria.

Each member of the High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards Selection Committee will be assigned applications for reviewing and scoring. Applicants with the highest scores and percentage in each category will be awarded a laptop, and/or scholarship. Decisions of the Award Committee are FINAL.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA BY CATEGORY

Applicants for the High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards will be evaluated in **one of the three (3)** designated categories mentioned above, and reviewed again as follows:

- 1. Category 1 - Academic Excellence:** Applicants in this category will be evaluated on the quality of their high school transcript and grade point average in the specific areas of Mathematics, Science and English, and overall evidence of adequate preparation for college enrollment and future academic success, letters of recommendation, and essay.
- 2. Category 2 - Community Service/Leadership:** Applicants in this category will be evaluated on the scope of his/her active participation in extra-curricular activities, especially community service activities (i.e., volunteer work at school, church and/or community-based organization(s) and/or evidence of an applicant's involvement in particular activities as listed on the Community Involvement **Form**, that demonstrate a strong desire to positively impact others and contribute to society as a leader, recommendation letters and essay.
- 3. Category 3 - Character/Academic Turnaround:** Applicants in this category will be evaluated on their "turnaround" as a student in terms of their character and/or academic performance and overall significant growth as a student as evidenced on their transcript, letters of recommendation and essay.



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# APPLICATION INFORMATION

I am applying for:

- Scholarship Only
- Laptop Only
- Laptop and Scholarship

## STUDENT INFORMATION *Please type or print clearly.*

First: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle: \_\_\_\_\_ Last: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity/Race *(optional)*: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Current High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended 2 yr. or 4 yr. College(s) or University(ies)/ Military: \_\_\_\_\_

Intended Major or Field of Study: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you accepted enrollment to the above-named college(s) or university(ies)?  Yes  No

Will you be the first one in your family to attend college?  Yes  No

I attest that all statements and documents in **and** attached to this application are true and accurate. I understand that inaccurate and misrepresentation of any information, or the inability to show evidence of plans for full-time enrollment in a two-or four-year college program, will make me ineligible for the **High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards.**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION *Please type or print clearly.*

First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

First and Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Best phone number to reach you: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## APPLICANT RELEASE FORM

I certify that all information I have provided to the Greater Milwaukee Urban League is true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I **give permission for Greater Milwaukee Urban League staff and High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards 2024 Selection Committee to contact my high school and/or college officials for additional academic information, and any other information related to this application, if necessary.** If selected to receive the High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards, I give permission to share information contained in my application with appropriate award donors/sponsors, the Greater Milwaukee Urban League, and the National Urban League and its affiliates. I understand that I must be in attendance at the Greater Milwaukee Urban League's "Red Carpet" event scheduled for **Wednesday, June 12 – 6:00 pm** at the Milwaukee County Zoo, Peck Center. **I understand that failure to attend this event will result in possible forfeiture of my award.**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\* All award winners will be required to sign a Media Release Form.*

## REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS CHECKLIST **Must Submit this form and all boxes must be checked.**

### ALL APPLICANTS – CATEGORIES 1, 2 & 3

- Application Form:** All areas of the application form must be completed, signed and dated by applicant and their parent(s) or guardian(s).  
Check One Category:
  - Category 1: Academics \_\_\_\_\_
  - Category 2: Service/Leadership \_\_\_\_\_
  - Category 3: Character/Academic Turnaround \_\_\_\_\_
- Essay:** Please select one/two of the following major issues to answer in a minimum of:
  - 400 words – Category 1
  - 400 words – Category 2
  - 350 words – Category 3

I am applying for:

**Please check the appropriate box below:**

- Scholarship Only GMUL or Kohler\*
- Laptop Only
- Laptop and Scholarship
- I participated in a GMUL program.

Applicant's essay **must state essay question** as the title/ heading and be neatly typed in Arial or Times New Roman, 12 - point font, double-spaced, with applicant's name, contact information, high school, and word count in the top right corner of each page.

- Official Transcript:** All transcripts must include information on applicant's most recent available grade period. Please see individual categories for minimum grade point average requirements. **Only transcripts that are stamped or embossed with the high school's official seal will be accepted.**
- Recommendation Letters:** Two (2) signed letters of recommendation from a teacher or school staff person(s) or from community representatives (i.e., clergy, employer, youth group leader, etc.) who can attest to applicant's qualifications for the selected category (1, 2, or 3.) Letters written by family members or friends are not acceptable.

### CATEGORY 2 – COMMUNITY SERVICE/LEADERSHIP

- In addition to the requirements listed above, applicants in Category 2 – Community Service/Leadership must complete the Service/Volunteer/Leadership form included in this packet.

\*Kohler scholarships are for students who attend colleges or universities in Wisconsin, Alabama, or Mississippi only.

**To be eligible for consideration for the High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards 2024 applicants must complete and submit all required documents by 4:00 pm CST, Friday, April 12, 2024. Email as a Microsoft Word or PDF to: Events@tmul.org. OR mail to: GREATER MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE ATTN: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT 435 WEST NORTH AVENUE MILWAUKEE, WI 53212**

**For questions, email Events@tmul.org or call La' Amecia at 414.374.5341.**

**All materials submitted with this application become the property of the Greater Milwaukee Urban League and will not be returned to applicants.**



## High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards 2024 Question

The opportunity to be selected and participate in an institution of higher education is a privilege and honor that all students do not have, and allows you to:

- Promote a higher level of critical thinking skills
- Expand your national and global experiences
- Provide unique perspectives of people from various cultures and backgrounds
- Push your intellectual capabilities to impact or enrich not only your life, but others
- Broaden your perspective(s) on critical issues that will affect you in your future

Take a moment to reflect on the following issues facing your generation:

### Instructions:

**Note:** If you are applying for a **laptop or scholarship only**, select **1 (one) issue**, if you are applying for **both a scholarship and laptop**, you must complete a **minimum 400-word essay on two (2) issues listed below**.

Select **one major** issue that will affect you the most, **or two major issues**, and explain why, and what you would do to make an impact in your community or for the global good:

1. Global warming
2. Wars – Iraq/Israel, Russia/Ukraine
3. Loss of Diversity Programming in institutions of higher learning and employment
4. Women’s rights to abortion- Women’s rights to reproductive health care/abortion.
5. Restrictions on voting

**Answers must be a minimum of 400 words**, and be specific in your “why” and “how.” (i.e., “Why” this is important to you, and “How” you would address it.)

**\*If you have participated in any of the following youth programs with GMUL, such as Project Ready Mentor, Urban Youth Pathways, Graduate to Employment, Microsoft Certification, or Road Ready Youth Driver’s Education and you will automatically qualify for a laptop.**

**\*Students who have received a laptop from another organization will not be considered for an additional laptop.**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE/VOLUNTEER ACTIVITY COMPLETION FORM

This form is to be used to record your community service or volunteer activity(ies). Please make as many copies of this form as needed and be sure to **fill out one form for each organization/agency where you engaged in community service or volunteer activity(ies)**. It is preferred that information is neatly typed in Arial or Times New Roman, 12-point font. If information is handwritten, please ensure handwriting is legible.

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization/Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Supervisor/ Group Leader/Program Director or Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Agency Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Agency Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief and Accurate Description of Community Services or Volunteer Activity(ies) preformed:

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Number of Hours Served (within the last 6-12 months): \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Supervisor/ Group Leader/Program Director or Coordinator:** \_\_\_\_\_

## EVALUATION CRITERIA BY CATEGORY

Applicants for the **Greater Milwaukee Urban League High School Graduate Scholarship and Laptop Awards 2024** will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Submission of the full application with the checklist. – **10%**
2. **Recommendation Letters:** Two (2) signed letters of recommendation from a teacher or school staff person(s) or from community representatives – **20%**
3. **Official Transcript (if available) in a Sealed Envelope (if mailed):** All transcripts must include information on applicant's most recent available grade period and reflect a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale. – **20%**
4. **Essay question: Clarity, grammar, punctuation, organization, depth of content and compassion displayed in the essay question – will account for the bulk of the scoring. - 50%**
5. Category 2 Community Service/Leadership Verification Form- Additional- **5%**