

MISS MISSISSIPPI COMPETITION

SCHOLARSHIP RULES

Scholarships for the Miss Mississippi Competition (MMC) are provided by the Mississippi Scholarship Fund Inc. (MSF), an independent tax-exempt organization

Approval JAN 9, 2023

- 1. Eligibility Period.** Candidates have up to four (4) years following the date on which they were declared eligible by the MMC to apply for scholarship money from the MSF. For the 2023 Miss Mississippi Candidates, this period begins on July 1, 2023 and ends on June 30, 2027. Unclaimed scholarship funds revert to the MSF general fund and will be used at the discretion of the MSF Board of Directors.

If a candidate at the MMC receives a scholarship awarded by the Miss America Organization (MAO), that candidate has 1 year to use that MAO scholarship money. Recipients of the MAO scholarships who are unable to use their scholarship within the year deadline may request an extension of up to one additional year from MSF. The request for an extension of the MAO scholarship deadline must be made in writing, addressed to the MSF, Scholarship Chairman (who is the secretary of MSF), and postmarked no later than May 1, 2024.

Candidates are encouraged to begin use of their scholarship within six (6) months of the date of award. If the candidate anticipates not using the funds within 6 months, they should notify the MSF Scholarship Chairman.

- 2. Miss Mississippi Exception.** Because Miss Mississippi must withdraw from school during her year of service, her Eligibility Period will begin on July 1, 2024 and ends June 30, 2028.
- 3. Use of Scholarship Funds.** Scholarship Funds may be used for: (i) Educational expenses that are billed through an accredited university, college, technical or trade school; (ii) Apartment rent LIMITED to \$450.00 per month; (iii) Books and school supplies that are required for the educational program of study; (iv) Reimbursement up to \$1,200 for the one-time purchase of a laptop computer; and (v) repayment of educational debt. Resolution of any question regarding use of scholarship funds shall be in the sole discretion of the MSF Board of Directors.
- 4. Payment of Educational Expenses.** Educational expense payments that are billed through a university, college, technical or trade school will be paid directly to the institution for the benefit of the scholarship recipient. The recipient must provide the MSF Scholarship Chair an itemized statement of charges for the current term that includes the sum due, student identification number, and mailing address for the payment. These itemized statements must include current and actual educational expenses (not estimates) and the invoice or bill is not older than 30 days when the request is made. Candidates may submit invoices for payment directly from the provider of the educational service or may submit a receipted bill plus proof of payment and request reimbursement. Candidates may not request payment or reimbursement for expenses which are or have been covered through any other financial aid source.
- 5. Payment of Apartment Rent.** Apartment rent is LIMITED to \$450.00 per month. The recipient must provide a copy of the apartment lease with the scholarship request. Apartment rent is paid directly to the landlord. Requests for rent payment can only be for one semester and must be requested again for following semesters.

6. **Reimbursement for Books and Supplies.** Requests for books and school supplies must include a course synopsis that indicates the book or items are required for the course. The name and address for the reimbursement check is required. If possible, these transactions should be with the university bookstore and would be the preferred recipient of the reimbursement check.
7. **Reimbursement for Laptop Computer.** Requests for a computer will be granted as long as the scholarship recipient is enrolled full time in a university or college. Up to \$1,200.00 will be allowed on a one-time computer purchase using your scholarship money. Computer software or accessories are not reimbursable items. A detailed description of the computer equipment and a copy of the original bill of sale must be submitted, as well as a *copy of the* credit card receipt or a copy of the cancelled check, for reimbursement.
8. **Payment of Educational Debt.** Scholarship funds may be used to reduce student loan obligations provided (i) the loan is not in default; (ii) the student has satisfactorily completed the course work for which the loan was obtained by providing a copy of their transcript showing successful completion of the courses; (iii) the loan is from an established loan institution or school (not a family member); and (iv) the request for payment includes a current loan statement with the balance due, the account number, and mailing address for the payment.
9. **In-Kind Tuition Waiver Scholarships.** Candidates who are declared eligible for university or college scholarships in-kind tuition waiver scholarships will abide by all standards, qualifications, rules and regulations as required by the university, college or school. The MSF will notify the schools of the candidates awarded the respective scholarships. Awards will be for undergraduate study unless otherwise noted. Tuition waiver awards are not to be construed as cash scholarships, but must be used only as tuition waiver at the institution providing the award.
10. **Scholarship Processing.** Requests for scholarships are processed upon receipt of the completed scholarship request form and scholarship fund application form along with the supporting documentation required for how the scholarship money will be used. Current and actual expense statements (not estimated) from universities, colleges and schools (or other educational expenses are required. Requests for payment of other educational expenses (e.g. private instructors, workshops, seminars, etc.) must be pre-approved by the MSF Scholarship Chairman and MSF Board of Directors.
11. **Receipt of Funds Earned.** A scholarship recipient will receive only the amount of scholarship funds for which she was declared eligible to apply by the MMC. Should a runner-up succeed to the title of Miss Mississippi or succeed to any place higher than where she originally finished in the competition, the candidate may receive only the initial amount of scholarship money she was declared eligible for by the MMC.

SUMMARY OF THE PAYMENT PROCESS FOR THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

The following information must be provided to the Mississippi Scholarship Fund, Inc. for payment of scholarship funds:

- **Submission of the completed scholarship request form and scholarship fund application.**
- **Submission for educational expenses:**
 - A current itemized statement of charges from the institution including the sum due, student identification number, and mailing address.
- **Submission for apartment rent:**
 - A copy of the apartment lease that includes the landlord mailing address.
- **Submission for books and supplies:**
 - A course synopsis that includes the book or supplies that are required.
 - The parent name and address where the check should be sent.
- **Submission for Laptop computer:**
 - A detailed description of the computer and bill of sale.
 - The parent name and address where the check should be sent.
- **Submission for educational debt:**
 - A current loan statement with balance due, the account number, and mailing address for the payment.

ANY DOCUMENTS OR CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING SCHOLARSHIPS MAY BE SENT BY U.S. MAIL, OR EMAIL AS FOLLOWS:

Mississippi Scholarship Fund, Inc.
Attn: Earl Edris, Scholarship Chair
901 Belmont St
Vicksburg, MS 39180

e-mail: msscholarshipfund@gmail.com