

Suryoyo Educational & Cultural Organization 2022 Scholarship & Grant Application

Syriac Orthodox students may submit applications if they will be enrolled as full-time students for the entire 2022 academic year at an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor or graduate degree in the United States. The SECO “grants” are intended for students and families who need financial assistance. The SECO “scholarships” are intended for students who demonstrate outstanding academics. See attached detailed requirements.

Application Guidelines and Deadlines

- **July 15 2022** - all completed application package* and support materials must be postmarked by this date. *Any application postmarked after August 20, 2022, will be considered **ineligible**.*
- **August 15, 2022** - Notification of finalists for interviews with EC
- **September 20, 2022**-Announcement of Scholarship and Grant recipients

IN ORDER TO QUALIFY AS AN APPLICANT,

All applicants must include the following in their completed application package

- a completed application forms
- Official high school or college transcripts
- copy of SAT/ACT (if applicable)
- 2 letters of recommendation
- 2 page double spaced **typed** personal essay

The applicant may include any additional information that would support their application material.

Completed application packages and support materials for the **Education Committee** programs should be mailed to:

**Education Committee C/O S. Samuel
842 Darlington Avenue
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430**

Note: To ensure satisfactory delivery of your application package, please request a “return receipt” from your local post office.

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Applicant's Information

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Complete Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Telephone Numbers:
Home: (_____) _____ Cellular: (_____) _____

Date of Birth: _____ Parish member of: _____

Social Security Number: _____

You are applying for: Grant / Scholarship (circle one)

Currently Attending: High School Senior / College (circle one)

High School Information:

School Name: _____ City, State: _____

School Phone Number: (_____) _____ Expected date of graduation: _____

SAT: _____ Verbal _____ Math _____ ACT: _____

Overall Grade Point Average: _____

College information:

School Name: _____ City, State: _____

School Phone Number: (_____) _____ Anticipated graduation date: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____ (based on max 4.0) Anticipated Major: _____

College Bursar or Cashier Address and Phone Number:

Yearly Tuition (\$ amount): _____ Comments: _____

Yearly Room and Board (\$ amount): _____ Comments: _____

List amounts of other sources of financial aid below and indicate how much you will receive every semester or quarter)

Other sources (\$ amount): _____

How often (per year/ semester, etc.): _____

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SECO Guidelines

SECO Education Committee

It is the goal of the SECO Educational Committee to offer grants and scholarships to Syriac Orthodox students who are interested in higher education. These funds are distributed annually by the EC to qualified applicants. Scholarships and Grants are awarded on the basis of merit and financial need.

Mission

The EC is a charitable body whose purpose is to encourage educational pursuits by Syriac Orthodox people within the Archdiocese. Goals of the EC are to:

- Raise intellectual standards
- Provide financial assistance in the form of scholarships and grants to deserving Syriac Orthodox students
- Develop fellowship among students through a lifelong bond
- Cultivate their personal, religious, and social development

Eligibility Requirements **for Scholarships and Grants**

The SECO *Grants* are intended for students and families who are in need of financial assistance.

The SECO *Scholarships* are intended for students who demonstrate outstanding academic standings.

The following sections will describe the overall requirements of the SECO for application consideration.

1. Geographical Requirements

- a. Archdiocese of the Syriac Orthodox Church for Eastern United States Church parishioners can apply for the grants and or scholarships.

2. Criteria of Eligibility (General and Specific)

- a. Applicants must be enrolled or accepted into an accredited college or university in the United States as a full-time student for the entire academic year in a program leading to a bachelor or a graduate degree.
- b. Applicants must be Syriac Orthodox and a parishioner of an Eastern Archdiocese parish.
- c. Applicants must submit 2 letters of recommendation
- d. **Scholarship applicants** must have a minimum 3.0 (B) overall grade point average (GPA) from high school and/or 3.0 cumulative (or its equivalent) from college. **Grant applicants** who are currently high school seniors must have a minimum 2.0 (C) overall GPA. **Grant applicants** who are currently in college must have a minimum 2.5 (C+) cumulative GPA.
- e. Applicants who have been turned down are eligible to reapply for scholarships and grants every year thereafter.

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- f. Qualified applicants who were awarded **scholarships or grants** can reapply in subsequent years upon submittal of complete application materials

3. Submittal requirements

- a completed application form
- official high school or college transcripts
- latest copy of SAT/ACT
- 2 letters of recommendation
- Maximum 3 page double spaced typed personal essay.

***In order for the applicant to be considered, all material related to the application process must be submitted in full by the set deadline indicated earlier in this handbook.

4. Conditions for scholarship or grants continuation

- a. **Scholarship or grant** recipients must maintain the minimum GPA in college during the year in which the scholarship or grant is being distributed.
- b. **Scholarship or grant** recipients must submit copies of their grade report(s) at the end of each semester/quarter of study to allow the SECO committee to track the recipient's academic performance.
- c. **Scholarship or grant** recipient must meet attended school rules and regulations. Any disciplinary action against the student by the school may be grounds for **scholarship or grant** revocation.
- d. **Scholarship or grant** shall be terminated immediately upon violation of any of the rules and regulations

5. Financial Arrangements

- a. Payments will be made directly to the School Bursar prior to the first semester.
- b. Applicants must disclose all other types of financial support that they are or will be receiving.
- c. Under circumstances where the student withdraws from the school and is refunded money, the **scholarship or grant** must be returned to the SECO.

6. Selection Procedure

- a. Scholarships and Grants will be awarded to winners once a year. Students may reapply yearly.
- b. Selection criteria will include academic achievements, and extracurricular activities in and out of church.
- c. Financial need is a factor for grants but not for **scholarships**. All financial information will be kept strictly confidential.
- d. Selection of applicants, administration of scholarship and disbursement of funds will be performed by the SECO.

8. Scoring Criteria

The Evaluation Committee closely evaluates each application, and all information is kept strictly Confidential. Members of the committee evaluate applications based on several different criteria.

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Category	Scholarship	Grant
Academic Information - GPA, SAT, ACT	30%	10%
Letters of Recommendation	20%	15%
Extracurricular activities	20%	5%
Essay	20%	15%
Overall package present ability	10%	5%
Financial Need	0%	50%
Total	100%	100%

Guidelines for Recommendation Letters

The EC asks those who are writing a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant to incorporate as many elements as possible from the following items in their letters:

- Length of time you have known the candidate
- Intellectual Ability
- Interests
- Initiative / Leadership
- Personality / Friendliness
- Emotional Maturity / Judgment
- Sense of Responsibility
- Experiences (community or church services)
- Dedication
- Challenges Overcome
- Overall Opinion of the Candidate

Note: Don't forget to contact your local or State Education Department for additional information—phone numbers are available through your school.