



SHELBY AREA ALUMNAE CHAPTER DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

Dear Applicant,

The Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is dedicated to promoting educational development through scholarships and academic support initiatives. In alignment with our commitment to fostering academic excellence and community service, we are proud to offer \$1,000 scholarships to one student from the University of Montevallo and high school seniors who have demonstrated exceptional achievements in these areas. Scholarships will be awarded to the most well-rounded candidate(s) based on academic accomplishments, community service, and a well-composed essay. Preference will be given to underserved populations.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a graduating senior from a high school in Shelby, Bibb, or Chilton counties or a current student at the University of Montevallo.
- Minimum GPA of 2.75 (weighted or unweighted).
- High school students must plan to enroll full-time in an accredited college, university, or junior college in Fall 2025.
- Must be actively involved in community service, civic, and/or church activities.
- Children of Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter members are not eligible for this scholarship.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

The following must be included:

- A completed application form
- A transcript
- Two (2) letters of recommendation: One must be completed by a teacher, counselor, or other school personnel. One must be completed by a community leader (Example: Pastor, Volunteer Organization, Employer/Supervisor, Girl/Boy Scout Leader, etc.). Both letters must be on letterhead, signed with the recommender's title and contact information. Letters from relatives are NOT acceptable.
- Proof of acceptance to an accredited college, university, or junior college for high school students
- Proof of current enrollment for students at the University of Montevallo
- A 500-word or less essay (AI-generated content will not be accepted)

Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. For questions regarding the application process, contact us at shelbyareaalumnae@saacdst.org or visit <https://www.saacdst.org/scholarship-1>.



**SHELBY AREA ALUMNAE CHAPTER
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Applicant Information			
First Name / Last Name			Gender
Street Address			
City	State	Zip	
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address	
Date of Birth (Month/Day/Year)		Parent/Guardian Name(s)	
High School Information			
High School Name		Grade Point Average (weighted or unweighted)	
Address	City	State	Zip
College/University/Junior College and Major Information			
Name of College/University/Junior College you plan to attend upon graduation		Location (City and State)	
Intended Major		Intended Minor (if applicable)	

Honors and Awards (academic, athletic, community, and/or school awards)

Attach additional sheets if necessary and/or résumé

Award	Reason(s) for Award

Extra-Curricular/ Community Service Activities (school, community, church, etc.)

Attach additional sheets if necessary and/or résumé

Name of Activity/Group	Grade (Check appropriate columns)				Leadership Positions Held
	9	10	11	12	

Volunteer Experience

Attach additional sheets if necessary and/or résumé

Organization	Position Held	Dates of Service

Essay

Please answer ONE of the following questions in 500 words or less.

- 1) Describe a time when you demonstrated leadership skills or took the initiative to make a difference in your community.
- 2) If awarded this scholarship, how would you give back to your community or pay it forward?
- 3) Describe how you plan to use your education to make a positive impact in the world.

All application materials including the Authorization to Verify Academic Transcript, Parent/Applicant Consent, and Media Release & Photography forms must be submitted to [\[Scholarship Submission Form\]](#)

by March 31, 2025, by 11:59 pm Central Time.

Incomplete submissions or late applications will disqualify candidates from consideration for this scholarship.

AUTHORIZATION TO VERIFY ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT

Dear **[Registrar/Counselor's Name]** _____ :

I, _____ **[Student's Full Name]**, _____ **[Student ID]**
at _____ **[Institution/School Name]** hereby authorize you as my registrar or
counselor to verify my academic transcript with the Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma
Theta Sorority, Incorporated to confirm the submission of my scholarship application. This
verification is intended to support my eligibility for the Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter's Scholarship
Award.

Please provide the Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter with my GPA, using either the weighted or
unweighted version, whichever is higher.

This authorization is valid until May 19, 2025.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Signature of Applicant

Date

Email Address of Applicant

Phone Contact

Signature of Applicant's Parent or Guardian

Date

PARENT/APPLICANT CONSENT FORM

We hereby certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and current and that the Applicant is not the child of a member of the Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. We understand this application packet will be kept confidential. All materials submitted become the final property of the Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

[Signature line for Applicant]

[Date line]

Signature of Applicant

Date

[Signature line for Parent or Guardian]

[Date line]

Signature of Applicant’s Parent or Guardian

Date

MEDIA RELEASE AND PHOTOGRAPHY

I understand that my child may be photographed in connection with his/her application for the scholarship awards offered by the Shelby Areas Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (the “Chapter”.) I give permission for the Chapter to publish on the Internet or media still photographs (“Images”) that may be taken of my child without payment or any consideration and without notifying me. I understand and agree that these Images will become the property of the Chapter, which shall have complete ownership of the Images. I hereby irrevocably authorize the Chapter to publish or distribute these Images for the purpose of publicizing the Chapter’s scholarship program or for any other lawful purpose. In addition, I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my child’s likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any rights to royalties or other compensation arising out of or related to the use of the Images.

I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge the Chapter and any of its officers and members; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; its officers; National Executive Board; employees; members; representatives; agents; and assigns from any and all claims, costs, suits, actions, judgments, and expenses which my child, his/her heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on his/her behalf have or may have by reason of the use of the Images. This release specifically includes, without limitation, a complete release and discharge of any liability by virtue of any editing, distortion, alteration, or optical illusion, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking of or editing of said images unless it can be shown that such was maliciously caused, produced and published solely for the purpose of subjecting my child to conspicuous ridicule, scandal, reproach, scorn, and indignity.

[Signature line for Parent or Guardian]

[Date line]

Signature of Applicant’s Parent or Guardian

Date

Total Application Packet Point Value

- **GPA- (4.0), 25 points,**
 - (3.9 - 3.5), 20 points**
 - (3.4 - 3.0), 15 points**
 - (2.9 - 2.75), 10 points**
- **Academic Letter of Recommendation = 20 points**
- **Letter Verifying Community Service = 20 points**
- **Official Transcript = 10 points**
- **Essay = 30 points**

Grand Total of Scoring = 105 points

Essay Rubric

The essay is an important part of the selection process. The essay should be typed and double-spaced in Times New Roman, 12-point font. The essay MAY NOT contain any AI-generated content.

Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter Essay (500 Words or Less) Criteria for Evaluation

Criteria	Excellent (5 points)	Good (4 points)	Needs Improvement (3 points)	Score
Adherence to Prompt	Fully addresses all aspects of the prompt; stays focused and on-topic.	Addresses most aspects of the prompt; may slightly deviate from the topic or miss minor details.	Does not address the prompt or misses significant aspects of the question.	
Clarity & Organization	Clear, logical structure with an engaging introduction, well-developed body, and strong conclusion.	Adequate structure with minor lapses in clarity or organization.	Poor organization; lacks clarity or flow; difficult to follow.	
Creativity & Originality	Demonstrates fresh ideas, unique perspective, or creative approach to the topic.	Some originality, but lacks significant creativity or uniqueness.	Lacks originality; ideas are generic or repetitive.	
Grammar & Mechanics	Error-free or nearly error-free; polished writing.	Contains minor grammatical or mechanical errors that do not hinder understanding.	Contains frequent errors in grammar, punctuation, or spelling, impacting readability.	
Impact & Persuasiveness	Compelling and emotionally impactful; effectively conveys the importance of the topic and the writer's passion.	Moderately impactful; shows some passion but lacks full emotional or persuasive depth.	Fails to make an impact; lacks emotional connection or persuasive elements.	
Word Count Compliance	Meets the required word count (if specified) while maintaining quality and depth of content.	Slightly over or under the word count, but the content is still substantial.	Significantly over or under the word count; lacks depth or appears padded.	

Scoring Guidelines

Total points: ____ / 30

Rating Scale:

- **26-30 points: Outstanding essay; a top contender.**
- **21-25 points: Strong essay; very competitive.**
- **16-20 points: Average essay; may need refinement.**
- **15 points or less: Needs improvement; does not meet criteria.**

Community Service Letter Rubric

Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter Community Service Letter Criteria for Evaluation

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Proficient (3)	Developing (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Header Information	Includes full name, organization name, address, contact information, and date.	Missing one minor piece of header information.	Missing two or more pieces of header information.	Header information is incomplete or missing.
Introduction	Clearly states the purpose of the letter and confirms the individual's service.	States purpose but lacks clarity or specificity.	Introduction is unclear or missing key details.	No clear introduction of purpose or service.
Details of Service	Provides specific dates, hours, tasks, and the impact of the service.	Provides details but is missing one component (e.g., impact).	Provides minimal or vague details about the service.	Service details are missing or inaccurate.
Verification Statement	Explicitly verifies the individual's participation, highlighting credibility.	Verifies participation but lacks emphasis on credibility.	Verification statement is vague or poorly phrased.	No explicit verification statement included.
Closing and Signature	Includes an appropriate closing, printed name, title, and handwritten signature.	Includes closing and printed name but no handwritten signature.	Missing title or closing details.	Closing and signature are missing or unclear.

Scoring Guidelines

Total points: ____ / 20

Rating Scale:

- **16-20 points: Outstanding letter that fulfills all requirements with professionalism and clarity.**
- **11-15 points: Competent letter with minor gaps or errors that do not detract significantly.**
- **6-10 points: Needs improvement; contains several errors or missing critical elements.**
- **5 points or less: Poorly written letter that does not meet basic standards for verification.**

Academic Letter of Recommendation Rubric

Shelby Area Alumnae Chapter Academic Letter of Recommendation Criteria for Evaluation

Criteria	Excellent (4 points)	Good (3 points)	Fair (2 points)	Needs Improvement (1 point)
Specificity of Content	Provides detailed, specific examples of the candidate's skills, achievements, and character traits.	Includes specific examples, but they are not fully detailed or varied.	Offers only general statements with few specific examples.	Lacks specific examples; content is overly vague or generic.
Relevance to Purpose	Strong alignment with the purpose of the letter (e.g., scholarship, job, program) and highlights qualities relevant to the opportunity.	Good alignment, with relevant qualities mentioned but not strongly emphasized.	Somewhat aligned with the purpose but lacks focus on key qualities.	Weak alignment with the purpose; irrelevant or off-topic information included.
Strength of Endorsement	Clearly conveys strong and enthusiastic support for the candidate, leaving no doubt about their recommendation.	Conveys support for the candidate but lacks a strong or enthusiastic tone.	Provides lukewarm support without a compelling endorsement.	Shows little enthusiasm or commitment to recommending the candidate.
Depth of Knowledge	Demonstrates deep, personal knowledge of the candidate, including diverse strengths and experiences.	Demonstrates good knowledge of the candidate but lacks depth or variety in examples.	Shows limited knowledge of the candidate, with minimal insight into their strengths.	Demonstrates little to no knowledge of the candidate; overly generic.
Overall Impact	The letter leaves a strong, memorable impression about the candidate's suitability for the opportunity.	The letter leaves a positive impression but lacks memorability.	The letter leaves a neutral impression and does not stand out.	The letter fails to make a positive or lasting impression.

Scoring Guidelines

Total points: ____ / 20

Rating Scale:

- **16–20 points: Exceptional recommendation; strongly supports the candidate's application.**
- **11-15 points: Good recommendation; provides solid support but with room for improvement.**
- **6-10 points: Average recommendation; meets basic expectations but lacks impact or detail.**
- **5 points or less: Weak recommendation; may harm the candidate's chances.**