

SECTION 5: PERSONAL STATEMENTS



The application requires completion of three personal statements/questions:

- 1) What are your specific educational plans and career goals and why? What motivates you to achieve them?
- 2) What have you done for your family, school, or community that you care about the most and why?
- 3) Describe a personal accomplishment, impactful change, or experience that has occurred in your life. What skills and strengths were needed to respond, and what did you learn about yourself?
- 4) Is there any additional information you would like the selection committee members to know? This could include financial situations not reflected on the FAFSA or ORSAA or other information not covered in the application. This statement is not required and will not have any negative effect on the application if left blank.

Begin by clicking the “Edit” button.

We recommend you retain a copy of your personal statements and essays as well as starting, editing, and completing the statements in a Word doc, Notepad, Google Doc, etc. Copy and paste the statements into the application when you are ready to submit.

- **General Tips**
 - Use correct grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
 - Don’t repeat information already included in your application, such as your GPA.
- **Personal Statements**
 - Let your Personal Statements tell your story. Donors are looking for reasons why they should choose **you** for their scholarship award. Focus on something unique about yourself!
- **Character Limit:**
 - 1,900 character limit for each statement (including spaces). Statements exceeding this limit will display only the first 1900 characters.
- **Other Essays for Individual Scholarship Programs**
 - Do not include URLs when citing essay sources, as it may cause an error in the application.
 - Each scholarship essay has a length requirement that differs from essay to essay. Be sure to comply with this requirement.
- **Experience in Diverse Environments**
 - Some scholarships require an extra essay about living or working in diverse environments. Such factors may include:
 - Socioeconomic or educational disadvantage.

- Demonstrated experience with or commitment to serving or working with historically underserved or underprivileged populations, such as members of minority communities.
- Being the first in your family to attend college.
- Geographic diversity, including students from rural or inner-city areas that might be underrepresented on campus.

End by clicking the “Save” button.

Deadlines: Nov 1st – Mar 1st	
FAFSA/ORSAA	October: File your FAFSA or ORSAA as soon as possible after October 1. Doing so will ensure you are considered for all scholarships that consider financial need.
Scholarship Application Opens	November - February: Start your OSAC scholarship application and submit from November through March 1.
Create OSAC Student Portal	First-time applicants: create an OSAC account and start the OSAC Scholarship Application. Returning applicants: refresh and update your application from last year.
Test Applications	High school juniors may start a "test application" but cannot submit until their year of graduation.
Early Bird Deadline February 15, 5:00 pm PST	February 15: Early Bird deadline. Complete applications (including transcripts) submitted by this date will be entered into a drawing for one of ten \$1,000 Early Bird scholarship awards.
Final Deadline March 1, 5:00 pm PST	March 1: Final deadline for all materials to be submitted to OSAC. Including transcripts (NOTE: Transcripts received via mail after the March 1 st deadline are considered past due. Mail Postage is not considered for the time of delivery rather in office receipt)
After Submission	April - August: Track your application status and scholarship awards in the OSAC Student Portal.