



Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA) Student Member Scholarship Guidelines and Procedures

As part of its mission in developing, strengthening, and advancing the paralegal profession, the Los Angeles Paralegal Association (LAPA) recognizes a student's academic achievement in a paralegal program with the Student Member Scholarship Award.

LAPA encourages student members to apply for this \$500 scholarship which will be awarded at LAPA's October Conference.

I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The eligibility criterion for the LAPA Student Member Scholarship Award is as follows:

1. The applicant must be a "student member" in good standing of LAPA.
2. The applicant must attend a paralegal program in the State of California. For purposes of this Award "paralegal program" is defined as one of the following institutions as stated in California Business and Professions Code 6450: (1) a program approved by the American Bar Association; (2) a Post-baccalaureate certificate program in paralegal studies; (3) a baccalaureate degree program in paralegal studies; or (4) a paralegal program at, or a degree from a non-ABA accredited school that requires the successful completion of a minimum of 24 semester, or equivalent, units in law-related courses.
3. The applicant must be a current part-time or full-time student who has successfully completed at least 15 semester hours of substantive paralegal coursework.
4. The applicant must have maintained a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 for the immediate previous semester and submit an official transcript with their application.

5. The applicant must have either (1) demonstrated a dedication to community service by volunteering and/or assisting in pro bono organizations; or (2) demonstrated leadership by participation in campus and/or paralegal program leadership activities.

II. SELECTION PROCESS

Selection will be based upon:

1. Eligibility;
2. Scholastic excellence;
3. Community service pro bono activity;
4. Leadership activity; and
5. A review of the applicant's writing sample (see below).

III. HOW TO APPLY

Submit a completed application along with the following:

1. A 2-3 page essay entitled "Why I Decided to Become a Paralegal." The essay must be typed, double-spaced;
2. A letter of recommendation from a faculty member of the applicant's paralegal program; and
3. A current resume including the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of at least two references (can be professional, academic, or character reference).

Applications and supporting documentation are to be submitted either via email to: **Scholarship Committee Chair**, via scholarship@lapa.org, or by mail to:

**Scholarship Committee Chair
Los Angeles Paralegal Association
Post Office Box 71708
Los Angeles, California 90071**

One scholarship in the amount of \$500 is to be granted annually. The LAPA Scholarship is to be used for the sole purpose of pursuing a paralegal education. Checks will be made payable to the scholarship recipient's paralegal education institution.
